



NEWS FROM "THE MILL"

January 1 - 31, 2023

Watkins Mill High School

10301 Apple Ridge Road

Gaithersburg, Maryland 20879

(301) 284-4400 FAX (301) 840-3980

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/watkinsmillhs/>

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Happy New Year! I hope you and your families had a restful Holiday season and have entered 2023 with focus, renewed energy, and commitment to our student's success.

MCPS continues to work with the local health department to closely monitor local disease trends and provide support to schools and worksites. COVID-19 and influenza rates have increased in our region. We continue to reinforce good infection control and health behaviors that help reduce the spread of respiratory viruses. Check out fact sheets from the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), and MDH's resource pages for [influenza](#) and Respiratory Syncytial Virus ([RSV](#)).

Report cards will be available to students and parents through StudentVUE and ParentVUE on February 6. The third marking period begins on January 30 and ends on March 30, 2023.

College acceptances and scholarships are coming in at a rapid pace for the Class of 2023! So far, thousands of dollars in merit-based scholarships have already been reported to our Career Center. If you receive notice of any merit-based awards or scholarships—whether you intend to go to that college or not—please be sure to report it to **Sarah Kessler/College Career Coordinator**. We want to hear about

all the scholarships that are offered to you at any school that you apply to. We would like to have a total of the scholarship offers and have an accurate count. Keep those award letters coming in!

Sincerely,

Carol Goddard, Principal

NEWS AND HAPPENINGS AROUND THE MILL:

SY23-24 Student Course Registration: Course registration for the 2023-24 school year will begin when schools resume after Winter Break. Students will receive information via counselor presentations in their Science classes the week of January 9th. During these sessions, students will learn about graduation requirements and receive a registration card to review course offerings. During that week, please ask your child for their registration card to talk about courses for next school year, and to provide the parent signature. January 18th, we will hold an academic advisement/registration day where students will complete their registration cards with teacher support and fully register for classes in Synergy. Starting January 19th, students will meet with their counselor via Social Studies classes to finalize registration. Students and families in self-contained Special Ed programs will receive information separately on their completed schedules for next school year. For additional resources and information related to scheduling, please visit the [Watkins Mill HS Counseling page](#) . For questions, please contact your student's counselor.

WMHS PTSA & BOOSTER CLUB NEWS

GRANTS UP TO \$500 FOR YOUR GROUP!

The WMHS PTSA is giving grants of up to \$500 to any worthy individual or group who has a plan to benefit the Watkins Mill High School community. Here are the guidelines:

1. Any member of the WMHS community may apply - student, teacher, staff member, community member.
2. The funds must be used to benefit the WMHS community.
3. The maximum request amount is \$500.
4. Approval by the PTSA will be on an ongoing basis throughout the 2022-2023 school year.
5. To apply, applicant must fill out the online Grant Request Form
6. Applicants must show how the money will be used.
7. Applicants must be a PTSA member for the current year.
8. Volunteer help for concessions this year by members of the group represented by the applicant will be taken into consideration.

If you are interested in applying, email the PTSA President, Norm Gordon, at ngordon0522@gmail.com.

SAVE THE DATES

No school (Holiday) January 2, 2023
No School (Holiday) January 16, 2023
Semester 1 and Marking 2 Period End – January 26, 2023
No School (Professional Day) January 27, 2023
Semester 2 and Marking Period 3 Period Begins – January 30, 2023
Report Card Distribution – February 6, 2023
No school (Holiday), February 20, 2023.

AP EXAM INFORMATION

Payment and Fee Waiver Deadlines Reminder

If you have not paid for your AP exam, please do so as soon as possible to avoid a financial obligation. If you have any questions, please contact Amy Crumrine (Amy_A_Crumrine@mcpsmd.org) in Room D101.

To pay online, go online to our website
(<https://www2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/watkinsmillhs/to>)

Scroll down (on the left) to “School Cash On-line”

Register for “School Cash On-line”

You will get an email with detailed instructions. Follow the instructions and make the payment online.

If you have been approved of a reduced fee, then please only pay for the \$16 exam fee.

To pay by check, make checks/money orders payable **Watkins Mill High School** and include your student’s name and ID number in the subject line. Send your payment to Lisa Holderman in the Financial Office at 10301 Apple Ridge Rd, Gaithersburg, MD 20879.

Please make sure that you submit a separate payment (\$101.00) for EACH exam. If your family has been approved for the reduced fee, please pay \$16 for EACH exam. If you have any questions in regard to payment, please do not hesitate to contact Amy Crumrine (Amy_A_Crumrine@mcpsmd.org).

COLLEGE AND CAREER CENTER NEWS

National Hispanic Institute Summer Programs

Julio Cotto, the Senior Vice President of the National Hispanic Institute, will be visiting Watkins Mill on Thursday January 26 to present information about several Summer 2023 programs for current 9th - 11th graders.

Ninth graders may participate in a program called The Great Debate, in partnership with Saint Francis University in Loretto, PA. The Great Debate is a 6-day debate tournament where the

students are educated in public speaking and work with a variety of head coaches in an intensive but fun experience that both sets them up for success and develops their network with community leaders. Students are also exposed to life on a college campus.

Current 10th and 11th graders are eligible to apply for a unique leadership development experience. The American Lorenzo de Zavala Youth Legislative Session (LDZ) will take place at St. Mary's College of Maryland July 9 - 16, 2023. Attendees will have the opportunity to have a "DC Experience" where they tour historic sites and meet their respective members of Congress.

Finally, 11th graders are invited to apply for the Collegiate World Series (CWS) which focuses intensely on both the college application process and the future of leadership. In the CWS, students are placed on a team headed by a college admissions officer and every part of their college application is thoroughly reviewed and revised. After the college portion, students are given the opportunity to further develop their own way of thinking.

More information can be found on their website, <https://www.nationalhispanicinstitute.org/Programs>, scholarships are available. Students may register to attend the informational visit [HERE](#).

SENIORS

College acceptances and scholarships are coming in at a rapid pace for the Class of 2023! If you receive notice of any merit-based awards or scholarships—whether you intend to attend that college or not—please report it to Ms. Kessler in the Career Center. We want to tally all of the scholarships offers to have an accurate count. Keep those award letters coming in! Check out the Local/National Scholarships and the web-based Scholarships on the College/Career Center page. Don't forget to submit your FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)! The application is available at <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>. If you have questions, please email Mrs. Kessler.

The **Central Scholarship Bureau** is a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide access to post-secondary education to students from Maryland. The CSB offers interest-free loans and competitive scholarships and grants to students to help meet the costs of college, professional or vocational training. There are no applications or loan fees; loans are interest free for the life of the loan. Applicants must be full-time students in good academic standing, meet CSB income guidelines, and have completed the FAFSA. For more details go to <https://central-scholarship.org/>. The deadline to submit the online application is April 1. Many more scholarship opportunities will be coming in early 2023, be sure to read the College & Career Bulletin every Friday! Parents, be sure to opt for email communication on Naviance to receive this important information. Please email me at Sarah_H_Kessler@mcpsmd.org if you have any questions.

COLLEGE AND CAREER CENTER NEWS

ACES Program

Achieving Collegiate Excellence and Success (ACES) is a program that provides students with **FREE** college/career readiness support including college tours, SAT/ACT prep, FAFSA/scholarship application assistance, resume building and interview skills workshops, and much more! ACES is currently recruiting 10th grade students who identify with any of the following categories: historically underrepresented in higher education, first in their family to attend a college/university in the US, has a 504 plan or IEP, from a single parent household,

from a low-income household or English language learners. For more information or to apply to ACES, visit aces.montgomery.org. **The application deadline is January 13th, 2023!** If you have questions, please contact Ms. Maria Abasi, ACES Student Success Coordinator at Watkins Mill via phone: (240) 429-3072 or email: maria.i.abasi@mcpsmd.net

FAMILY FOOD MARKET:

The next family food market being held at Watkins Mill High School will be on:

Date: Saturday, January 21st.
Location: Watkins Mill High School
10301 Apple Ridge Road
Gaithersburg, MD 20879
Time: 10:00am – 12:00pm (or until supplies run out).
Contact: Mr. Wiggins at marcus_d_wiggins@mcpsmd.org

Future Dates:

February 18th
March 18th
April 22nd
May 20th
June 10th

YEARBOOK INFORMATION

YEARBOOKS ARE ON SALE: Order your copy of the Watkins Mill High School yearbook now to take advantage of possible savings opportunities. The cost of the yearbook is \$100 but there are a limited number of promotional codes available on Jostens.com. The codes are first come, first served. If you do not see a promotional code on Jostens.com for yearbooks, then the codes have been used. No additional codes can or will be offered. Order at Jostens.com or by [CLICKING HERE](#). 1/28/23 is the final deadline to add personalization to your yearbook. Payment plans are available at checkout.

SENIOR YEARBOOK ADS ARE ON SALE: Place your senior congratulatory ad by 1/28/23. This is the final deadline and opportunity to submit an ad for your senior! Create your ad at Jostens.com or by [CLICKING HERE](#). Payment plans are available at checkout.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS NEWS

Happy New Year from the health room staff and Wellness Center. I hope that everyone enjoyed their winter break. The cold weather is here and so are all of the cold weather illnesses that we are accustomed to and then some. This season seems to be a triple threat with **Covid 19**, **Flu**, and **RSV** (Respiratory Syncytial Virus) taking their tolls on the area. The flu right now in Maryland is at a HIGH activity level as well as cases of Covid 19 rising again with the colder weather and more people staying indoors. RSV is a cold-like virus that

doesn't typically affect teenagers as much as young infants or immunocompromised individuals. This season, however, it is wreaking havoc and making people pretty miserable. There is no vaccine to prevent RSV and like the common cold there is no treatment other than treating symptoms. There are measures that all of us can take to prevent getting all of these illnesses. These practices/habits hold true season after season:

1. Wash your hands OFTEN- with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
 2. Avoid touching your face with unwashed hands
 3. Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hand)
 4. Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces (think CELL PHONES and doorknobs)
 5. Consider wearing a mask (especially in crowded indoor areas)
 6. **GET YOUR FLU AND COVID SHOTS** <https://www.marylandvax.org> for **locations**
1. Contact your primary care provider, pharmacy, [local health department](#), or visit [MarylandVax](#) to find a flu clinic near you.

These vaccines are our best protection against severe illness and hospitalizations.

It is always important to get your flu shot, but along with Covid 19 the risk of overwhelming the healthcare system is much greater. The flu causes severe illness and even death every year. Please remember that the goal has always been to not overwhelm the hospitals and healthcare system. We all want everyone to be able to access healthcare when they need it.

Stay well, stay warm, and please do not forget to **STAY HOME WHEN YOU ARE SICK!**

Lisa Frost, RN/SCHN
Health Room and Wellness Center Staff

STUDENT SERVICE-LEARNING HOURS (SSL)

MCPS ***requires all students to meet their SSL hour requirements for graduation.*** This means, you need to have a total of **75** hours to graduate in June.

There are **virtual and in-person** opportunities available to students.

Students may find SSL opportunities at the following quick links: <https://bit.ly/SSLOpportunities> and <https://bit.ly/VirtualSSL2020>

Students may also access an overview of the current state of the SSL program at <https://bit.ly/SSLOverview2020> and step-by-step directions for viewing their SSL record on StudentVUE at <https://bit.ly/SSLonVUE>.

Do you know how many hours you or your student has earned towards graduation?

Please follow this link to view our WM SSL hour database. You will find upcoming opportunities and the December monthly opportunity newsletter.

[WM SSL Database](#)

We will still accept **all** SSL forms, even if they are turned in late. *Don't forget to turn in your forms and get credit for those service hours you did!*

*Krista Jiron
Resource Counselor (H-Kpz)
SSL Coordinator
[Opportunities to Earn Hours](#)
Watkins Mill High School
(301)284-4420
An International Baccalaureate World School*

HOSPITALITY NEWS

"The Hospitality and Tourism classes prepared a special holiday meal in December for our wonderful staff. The meal included appetizers, entrees, and desserts!! The students love serving staff because the staff all do such an awesome job of helping students on a daily basis."

MEDIA CENTER NEWS

For this month's Media Center Newsletter please click on the Google link below:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1LRO5rgI1Yd3htOpMS5iH9xS9MAjiHkvmFuIf6uPJrO4/edit?usp=sharing>

WMHS ATHLETICS NEWS



For this month's Athletics News, please click the links below.

The Athletic Department hopes everyone has had a safe and healthy Holiday season. We are looking forward to the start of 2023 and what it has in store for our 'Rines! Over the Holiday Break our Basketball teams competed in a Holiday tournament and many of our athletic programs practiced getting ahead of their competition.

On Wednesday November 30th, we held our first ever Fall Minds in Motion Ceremony where we honored 116 student-athletes who earned a 3.25 GPA or higher in the Fall season. We also honored our 15 student-athletes who earned a 4.0 GPA during the Fall season. Our coaching staff and athletic department staff are very proud of these student-athletes for striving to be students first and athletes second.

Parents of winter sport seniors, be sure to mark your calendars for the upcoming senior nights. More information can be found [here](#).

Spring sports will begin on March 1st. Registration will open on Monday January 23rd, and it will close on Monday March 13th. Registration is done through Parentvue. It is important to register early so you can be assured your student is cleared to go on March 1st. They will need a

sports physical and to be academically eligible (a 2.0 or higher no more than 1 E from the second marking period) for returning 9th graders through 12th graders. All first-time 9th graders are eligible all year. Look on the website after the Holiday season for more information regarding registration.

The Athletic Department has started a new award that will be given out each season annually. This award is called the Wolverine Pride Award. [Here](#) you can read about the award and the Fall winners. Congratulations to all the winners.

We have also hired a new Varsity Girls Soccer Coach, Ms. Lindsay Hendrighsman. [Here](#) is a press release where you can learn about our new coach.

Next time you are in the gym, be sure to check out our individual state championship banners that were recently purchased highlighting our state champions for indoor track, outdoor track, and wrestling. This is a totally new addition to our gym, and we are glad to highlight these achievements. Thank you to the Watkins Mill PTSA for helping with a donation to offset the cost of these banners.

As always, the Athletic Department is happy to answer any questions you may have, please email [Lisa Magness@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Lisa_Magness@mcpsmd.org). We appreciate your continued support. Go 'Rines!

WOLVERINE TIME

For this month's Wolverine Time information, please click the English and Spanish links below.

[..\My Pictures\Wolverine Time Info\21-22 WT Flyer - English.png](#)

[..\My Pictures\Wolverine Time Info\21-22 WT Flyer - Spanish.png](#)

Social Media

Make sure to follow all things Wolverine Athletics:

- Twitter: @WMRinesSports
- Instagram: @wmrinessports
- Facebook: Watkins Mill Athletics
- Website: www.watkinsmillathletics.com
- Athletic Teams Accounts: <https://watkinsmillathletics.com/athletic-social-media-accounts/>

IMPORTANT LINKS

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/watkinsmillhs/>

Athletics: <https://watkinsmillathletics.com/>

Calendar: <https://www2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/watkinsmillhs/calendar-index/>

Staff Directory:

<https://www2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/watkinsmillhs/staff/directory/>

PTSA Information: <https://sites.google.com/mcpsmd.net/watkins-mill-high-school-new-s/home?pli=1>

Lunch Pre-Payments:

<https://www.myschoolbucks.com/ver2/getmain?requestAction=home>

Student Service Learning:

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/ssl/>

Bullying:

<https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/bullying/>

Free & Reduced Lunches: <https://www.myschoolapps.com/Application>