



NEWS FROM "THE MILL"

October 1-31, 2022

Watkins Mill High School

10301 Apple Ridge Road

Gaithersburg, Maryland 20879

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

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

IN THIS NEWSLETTER:

Message from Ms. Goddard

International Night

Important Dates

College and Career Center

Update

PTSA & Booster Club News

The Fall Play

Media Center News

Athletic News

MESSAGE FROM MS. GODDARD, PRINCIPAL

The first marking period is almost over! As we enter October, please remind students how important it is to continue working daily to finish the marking period strong. One of our primary goals this year is to improve student eligibility and cumulative grade point average (GPA), which compels us to work with our students to maintain strong performance during this first marking period. Please encourage your child to seek that support, as the staff and I are here to ensure our students' success.

Grading:

Please check student grades in Synergy through your ParentVue or StudentVue Synergy accounts (NOT myMCPS Classroom) for the most accurate grade assigned to students.

Thank you to all parents who attended our **Family Back-to-School Night** Thursday, Thursday, September 8. We had a very successful evening. Parents had various opportunities to learn about the college application process, meet teachers, and receive valuable information about parent involvement, policies & procedures, and school operations. We were thrilled to be able to share the great things that are happening at Watkins Mill HS with our parents.

We will have a non-Instructional day on Wednesday, October 5. No school for students and teachers. The **end of the first marking period** is on **November 4**. **November 5** is No School Day for students due to End of Quarter Grading/Planning. Teachers will be inputting first marking period grades for distribution. Please make sure our students **finish strong!**

Thank you for your support of your students and our school community. If we can ever be of assistance, please do not hesitate to email or call. A full staff directory can be found here [STAFF HOME](#).

Sincerely,

Carol Goddard, Principal

NEWS AND HAPPENINGS AROUND THE MILL:

INTERNATIONAL NIGHT

Watkins Mill will host its annual International Night on April 20th. We want as many countries as possible to be represented and we NEED YOUR HELP! We are seeking donations of new or used traditional costumes or dresses. If you have a traditional dress from any country that you want to donate, please send it with your student to the main office. If you would like to make a monetary donation to go towards the purchase of traditional dresses, please go to <https://gofund.me/62eafc55>; all contributions are appreciated!

If you have questions, please email Ms. Flores at reina_i_floressesnich@mcpsmd.org

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION!



SAVE THE DATES

NO School for Students and Teachers - October 5

Professional Day for Teachers: NO School for Students -October 24

Professional Day for Teachers: NO School for Students -November 7

Elections Day-Schools and Offices Closed- November 8

Report Card Distribution - November 15

Early Release Days for Students – November 21 and 22

Systemwide Closure- Schools and Offices Closed- November 23

No School (Thanksgiving) November 24, 25

Early Release Day for Students –December 7

Winter Break -NO School for Students and Teachers – December 23,27,28,29,30

Holiday-Schools and Offices Closed -December 26

New Year's Day (observed) – School and Offices Closed – January 2

COLLEGE AND CAREER CENTER NEWS

FINANCIAL AID/FAFSA SESSIONS

The 2023-2024 FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) opens on October 1st. Please take advantage of two upcoming workshops for assistance in completing this process.

> Thursday October 6 (6:00 PM English, 7:00 PM Spanish) - Gaithersburg High School *IN-PERSON*

Come learn about the FAFSA application and other financial aid options that are available to make college more affordable. Open to Watkins Mill HS families, it will be held in the Gaithersburg HS auditorium, 101 Education Blvd. Flier [HERE](#).

> Wednesday October 12 (6:00 PM) - Watkins Mill HS *IN-PERSON*

Experts will be on hand to guide you through the process of creating an FSA ID number and completing your FAFSA. In-person in the Watkins Mill HS cafeteria.

VIRTUAL LATINO CAREER PANEL - October 4 (6:30 PM)

Learn from Latina/o professionals in various career fields like Education, Law Enforcement, Government, Sports, Mental Health, Cybersecurity, Culinary Arts, Entrepreneurship, Healthcare and more. Students can earn two SSL hours for attending. Register [HERE](#)

COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

Early Action due dates for several colleges, including University of Maryland are November 1st! For more information and links to important documents, access the [Application Procedures](#) presentation. It is not too late to join CollegeTracks! Please use this link to join if you are not yet a member of CollegeTracks or ACES: <https://bit.ly/wmhsctreg>

Please remind your Senior to check their email, both MCPS and personal, on a daily basis! Information regarding the college admission process, including applications, college visits, scholarships, and financial aid is sent to them in the WM College & Career Bulletin each week. If Parents/Caregivers would like to be added to Naviance to receive this information as well, please email Ms. Kessler at Sarah_H_Kessler@mcpsmd.org

PTA NEWS AND UPCOMING MEETINGS

Watkins Mill High School



10301 Apple Ridge Road

Gaithersburg, Maryland 20879

301-840-3959 (P) / 301-840-3980(F)

www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/watkinsmillhs

Watkins Mill Community:

Your PTSA is off and running. It was so good, after so many months of masks and virtual meetings, to meet so many of you in person at the wonderful Back to School Picnic hosted by the school. Many of you became members of the PTSA. Many more of you signed up to volunteer in one of the many opportunities we had available: working concessions, taking a shift at the school store, helping with staff appreciation, with mulch sale, or serving on our scholarship committee. THANK YOU for showing up and volunteering!

We want to let you all know that staff member Ms. Kristina Smyrk, Community Relations and School Spirit Coordinator, has stepped up to get the Boosters Club up and running again. We are grateful for her leadership! Boosters will be taking over responsibility for all Concessions all athletic games, concerts, and all other events. The PTSA will continue to oversee the school store and the Mulch Sale.

Once again, our School Store is now open Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays during the lunch hour for students to purchase snacks and drinks to supplement their cafeteria meal. All proceeds go toward the PTSA.

It's not too late to sign-up to become a member! It's only \$5 for students, \$10 for parents & staff, or \$15 for the family. Go here: tinyurl.com/JOINWWMHSPTSA

Parents: if you have concerns about your child - security, academic, health or wellness - and you do not feel like you're getting heard through the normal channels, please bring them to your parent/student advocate - the PTSA. Email Norm Gordon at ngordon0522@gmail.com.

May you and your youth have a blessed year!

Norm Gordon, President
WMHS PTSA

Comunidad de Watkins Mill:

Su PTSA ya ha empezado a servirte. Fue tan bueno, después de tantos meses de máscaras y reuniones virtuales, conocer a tantos de ustedes en persona en el maravilloso picnic de regreso a la escuela organizado por la escuela el 8 de septiembre. Muchos de ustedes se hicieron miembros de la PTSA. Muchos más de ustedes se inscribieron para ser voluntarios en una de las muchas oportunidades que teníamos disponibles: trabajar en concesiones, tomar un turno en la

tienda de la escuela, ayudar con la apreciación del personal, con la venta de mantillo o servir en nuestro comité de becas. ¡GRACIAS por asistir y ser voluntario!

Queremos que todos sepan que la Sra. Kristina Smyrk, miembro del personal, Coordinadora de Relaciones Comunitarias y Espíritu Escolar, ha dado un paso al frente para que el Boosters Club vuelva a funcionar. ¡Estamos agradecidos por su liderazgo! Los Boosters asumirán la responsabilidad de todas las Concesiones, todos los juegos deportivos, conciertos y todos los demás eventos. La PTSA continuará supervisando la tienda de la escuela y la venta de mantillo.

Una vez más, nuestra Tienda Escolar ahora está abierta los lunes, miércoles y viernes durante la hora del almuerzo para que los estudiantes compren refrigerios y bebidas para complementar su comida en la cafetería. Todos los ingresos se destinan a la PTSA.

¡No es demasiado tarde para registrarse y convertirse en miembro! Son solo \$5 para los estudiantes, \$10 para los padres y el personal o \$15 para la familia. Vaya aquí: tinyurl.com/JOINWMHSPTSA

Padres: si tienen inquietudes sobre su hijo (seguridad, académica, salud o bienestar) y sienten que no los escuchan a través de los canales normales, llévenselas a su padre/defensor del estudiante: la PTSA. Envíe un correo electrónico a Norm Gordon a ngordon0522@gmail.com.

¡Que usted y su juventud tengan un año bendecido!

Norm Gordon, Presidente WMHS PTSA

WOLVERINE TIME

Wolverine Time is back!

Wolverine Time is an after-school program for ELD students. The program meets Monday-Thursday, 2:30-5:00pm, where we focus on academic support and social and emotional wellbeing. The program is free. We begin Monday, October 10th. We offer SSL and fun field trips.

For more questions come to room C101.

Wolverine Time ha regresado!

Wolverine Time es un programa extracurricular para estudiantes ELD. EL programa es de Lunes a Jueves, 2:30-5:00 en la tarde, donde recibirán apoyo académico, social y emocional. El programa es gratis. Empezamos Lunes, 10 de Octubre. Ofrecamos horas SSL y excursiones divertidas.

Para mas preguntas, venga a C101.

Wolverine Time est de retour!

Le programme parascolaire appele WOLVERINE est pour les eleves de l'ELD. Les eleves de ce programme se reunissent du Lundi au Jeudi, de 14h30 a 17h00. Nous nous concentrons sur le soutien scolaire, le bien-etre et sur l'aspect emotionnel. Le programme est gratuit. Nous debuterons le Lundi 10 Octobre. Nous proposons des sorties ludiques et vous pouvez aussi gagner les heures de services SSL.

Si vous etes interesses, veuillez passer au local C101 pour des informations.

COLLEGE TRACKS NEWS

Financial Aid

The FAFSA (**F**ree **A**pplication for **F**ederal **S**tudent **A**id) and MSFAA (**M**aryland **S**tate **F**inancial **A**id **A**pplication) opens Saturday, October 1! CollegeTracks will be hosting FAFSA & MSFAA Completion Nights virtually on **Thursday, October 6 from 6:30-8 pm** AND **Tuesday, October 11 from 6:30-8 pm**. CollegeTracks' students should check their email for the registration & Zoom link.

November 1 Deadlines

CollegeTracks is here to help you complete and submit your college applications by the November 1 deadline. You must submit the Golden Ticket by October 7 so your transcripts and recommendation letters arrive at your college on time. Remember, there are multiple tasks that need to be completed BEFORE you can submit your Golden Ticket.

Sign Up

Juniors and seniors can still [Join CollegeTracks](#). If you're wondering who should join CollegeTracks, please watch this short [video](#).



Dominic Chappell | Program Director

Watkins Mill High School

Mobile: 301.259.1853

THE FALL PLAY AND CAST-"NOTHING ON"

It is only hours before the opening of a British play, "Nothing On" and the touring company is running through a final dress rehearsal - without much success. Everything that can go wrong, is, but the director has more than just the play to worry about.

Ever wonder what happens behind the scenes before and during a play? Well, this is your chance. Join us at the O'Shea theater Thursday, Nov. 10, Friday, Nov. 11, and Saturday, Nov. 12th. Welcome to the life of an actor. There is a reason the craft is called "drama."

All shows begin at 7pm and are free to the public with donations gratefully accepted.

SENIOR YEARBOOK PICTURE

For Seniors:

It is time to make it official! Schedule your 2023 Formal Senior Yearbook picture NOW. Appointments are now available for your senior picture on Oct 17th or Oct 18th from 8:30am until 3:00pm.

CLICK THIS LINK <https://prestigeportraits.com>

For Underclass:

Underclass Picture Make-Up days are Oct. 25 and 26 during Science Classes.

MEDIA CENTER NEWS

Follow this link for the October Media Center Newsletter:

[October Media Center Newsletter](#)

WMHS ATHLETICS NEWS

Athletics are off and running at Watkins Mill. As a friendly reminder, please refer to [here](#) for our spectator guidelines for our home events. Also, no cash fans will happen at any of our Athletic events this year. We encourage you to purchase your tickets early and to purchase a season or all year passes. [Here](#) is a one pager to show what you get for the passes and their prices.

Winter sports registration will open at 12pm on October 10th and close on November 29th at 12pm. All registrations are done on parentvue. Here is more information in regard to registration ([English](#), [Spanish](#)). All student-athletes must register each season regardless of if they played in the Fall. Winter Sports include cheerleading, boys'/girls' basketball, indoor track, swim/dive, wrestling and bocce. All student-athletes will need an [SR-8 sports physical](#) (good for 1 calendar year. All first-time 9th graders are eligible all year. All repeating 9th graders through 12th graders need to have a 2.0 or higher GPA with no more than 1 E from the 1st marking period in order to be eligible to play. Winter sports begin on November 15th. All items are due by 5pm on November 13th in order to be processed and cleared for November 15th. Beginning on November 15th, all items are due by 12pm in order to be cleared and processed for the following day. It is important to register early, have all papers turned in and receive an approved email from Ms. Magness early so you do not jeopardize being able to play this season. Some of our teams will make cuts and this may hinder you from playing/trying out. Reminders will be sent throughout the registration process. A schedule will be posted by October 28th on our website as well for the tryouts and practices for the season.

If you have any questions, please email our [athletic specialist](#) at any time. Go 'Rines!

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE (ASL) HONOR SOCIETY

Applications for the American Sign Language (ASL) Honor Society
are available between October 3 and October 19!!



The following students are eligible to apply:

- *Now in ASL 2 and 3
- *Completed ASL 3
- *ASL used at home

*Those who interact with deaf people on a regular basis outside school

Come see Mrs. Crumrine to pick up an application in Room D101!

IMPORTANT LINKS

WMHS Website Home:

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/watkinsmillhs/> Athletics:
<https://watkinsmillathletics.com/>

Calendar: [Calendar](#)

Staff Directory:

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

PTSA Information:

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

Booster Club: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/watkinsmillhs/boosters/boostersClub.aspx>

Lunch Pre-Payments: <https://www.mylunchmoney.com/>

Student Service Learning:

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

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/forms/230-35.shtm>

Free SAT/ACT Prep: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/hsi/testprep.shtm>

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

News From "The Mill" will be published every month on the news pages of the school website; emailed to all active Connect-ed accounts; and is available by hard copy in the main office.