

## Mrs. Worthington's Message

The Maryland School Assessments (MSAs) begin in just five short weeks. We are so proud of how hard our students and staff have worked to ensure that Baker meets the state's 2012 Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) targets as mandated by the national No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB).

The MSA dates are as follows:

- Grade 6 Reading MSAs: March 12 and 13
- Grade 6 Math MSAs: March 18 and 19
- Grades 7 & 8 Reading MSAs: March 14 and 15
- Grades 7 & 8 Math MSAs: March 20 and 21

Here are some thoughts you might want to share with your child to give him or her that extra boost of confidence:

- Think about what you've learned and do your best!
- Keep at it!
- You can do it!
- You worked hard. I know you can do it!

## About the Reading and Math MSAs

An excerpt from the *School Improvement in Maryland* website.

*The Maryland School Assessment (MSA) is a test of reading [and] math ... achievement. This test provides educators, parents, and the public valuable information about student, school, school system, and state performance.*

Some Facts about MSA:

- The test meets the requirements of the federal No Child Left Behind Act.
- The test assesses the Maryland content standards in mathematics [and] reading ... .
- The reading and mathematics tests are administered annually to students in grades 3 through 8.
- MSA scores will show how well Maryland children have learned the reading [and] mathematics ... skills specified in the State Curriculum.
- The test includes both selected response (multiple-choice) and brief constructed response items.

More information about MSAs can be found in the Parents' Guide at <http://mdk12.org/parents/index.html>



## February Parent Coffee

Tuesday, February 7, 9:30-10:30 am – Media Center

Topic: **The Challenge of Parenting: How to Make and Keep Boundaries**, Presenter: Eileen Bernstein, Author and Private Practice Therapist

## MSAs – March 12–21, 2012 MSA Words of the Week



**Label** – to use words and numbers for the purpose of identifying things on charts, graphs, and pictures.

**Locate** – to find and show the position of something.



## COMING EVENTS

**February 6-10 – SGA Valentine Dance tickets on sale only during lunches**

### Monday, February 6

Snowdate for Baker Parent Articulation Meetings, 7:00 pm at Baker

### Tuesday, February 7

Grade 6 Junior Achievement Program  
Parent Coffee 9:30 am Media Center  
6th Grade HW Club (Friedman)  
Basketball Practice – Boys 2:50-4:30;  
Girls 3:45-5:15

Boot Camp (Hughes)

Extended Day (Bozicevich)

Green Team (Welch)

NJHS Meeting (Claxton)

Spring Musical Rehearsal –full cast (Shockey)

PTA 8th Grade End-of-Year Committee Meeting 7:00 pm Media Center

### Wednesday, February 8

DHS Counselors pick up registration materials

6th Grade HW Club (Friedman)

Basketball Practice – Boys 3:45-5:15;  
Girls 2:50-4:30

Extended Day (Bozicevich)

Jazz Band (Kamuf)

### Thursday, February 9

6th Grade HW Club (Friedman)

Basketball vs. Rocky Hill 3:00 pm Boys Home/Girls Away

Homework Club (Davis)

SGA Meeting (Andersen)

Study Circles 6:30 pm (dinner 6:00 pm)

### Friday, February 10

SGA Dance 7:00-9:30 pm



## Looking Ahead

### Monday, February 13

DHS and Baker Band Concert 7:00 pm at DHS

### Tuesday, February 14

Grade 6 Junior Achievement Program

6th Grade HW Club (Friedman)

Basketball Practice – Boys 2:50-4:30;  
Girls 3:45-5:15

Boot Camp (Hughes)

Extended Day (Bozicevich)

Green Team (Welch)

## Bulldog Counseling News

Mrs. Lori Leister, Resource Counselor/  
8th Grade Counselor, Last Names J-Z

Ms. Robin Schmidt, 8th Grade Counselor, Last Names A-I

Mrs. Jennie Schwaderer, 7th Grade Counselor

Mrs. Corinne Whited, 6th Grade Counselor

### What to Do With the “Perfectionistic Child”

Do you notice your child erase and redo his/her work, or is never quite satisfied with it? Or maybe he is just reluctant to begin work? This may be due to your child being a perfectionist where unrealistic expectations are unrelenting. Perfectionists engage in hypercritical self-talk, affecting their self-esteem and school performance. Try changing their mindset by experimenting with some of the techniques suggested below:

1. Reward efficiency, not grades. Let's say your son brings home a 90% on a writing project. Rather than saying, “This is good, but you could have had a 100% if you had a stronger opening statement.” Consider “Way to go! You worked hard on this project.”
2. Make a homework plan. Sometimes perfectionists procrastinate because they fear their work won't be good enough. Encourage them to start with an easy task followed by a difficult one (easy, hard, easy). This helps them to feel more confident and in control.
3. Switch gears. If too much time is being spent on one homework assignment, he can quickly finish up, take a break, or switch to another subject and go back to that task with a fresh mindset.
4. Empathize, do not criticize. “Stop worrying” or “you don't always have to be perfect,” don't usually help. Instead, empathize with “I realize that you want to correct your paper, but your work has all the qualities the teacher expects according to the directions.”
5. Know when you need outside help. If your child's symptoms are getting in the way of work and homework completion on a regular basis, consider professional help. Make sure to communicate with your child's teachers about what they are seeing in the classroom.
6. Lastly, consult with his counselor about the “all-or-nothing” and “worst case scenario” thinking that hampers your child.

### PTA News

#### February PTA Meeting

Please note that the PTA meeting for February will be held on **Thursday at 9:30 a.m.** at Baker. The topic for discussion will be bullying.

#### 8th Grade Celebration Meeting

The 8th grade will hold a planning meeting on Tuesday, February 7, at 7:00 p.m. in the Media Center. If you are interested in helping at any of the 8th grade celebrations, please join us.

### Damascus Cluster Concerts

MS and HS Bands – February 13, 2012  
Grades 5-12 Strings – February 15, 2012  
Both concerts at 7:00 pm at DHS



### Looking Ahead (Continued from page 1)

#### Wednesday, February 15

Blanton Q2 All A's and Group/Team Photos  
6th Grade HW Club (Friedman)  
Basketball Practice – Boys 3:45-5:15; Girls 2:50-4:30  
Extended Day (Bozicevich)  
FCA Meeting  
Jazz Band (Kamuf)  
DHS Cluster 5-12 Strings Concert 7:00 pm at DHS

#### Thursday, February 16

PTA Meeting 9:30 am Conference Room  
6th Grade HW Club (Friedman)  
Basketball vs. Neelsville 3:00 pm Boys Away/Girls Home  
Homework Club (Davis)  
SGA Meeting (Andersen)  
Study Circles 6:30 pm (dinner 6:00 pm)

#### Friday, February 17

Snowdate for PTA Family Fun Night 5:30-8:00 pm

#### Saturday, February 18


Baker Jazz Band performs at Mid-Atlantic Jazz Festival, 6:00 pm  
Rockville Hilton — free admission

### Dr. Starr's Town Hall Meetings

Have a question you'd really like to ask MCPS Superintendent Joshua Starr? Now's your chance! Dr. Starr wants to hear from students about what's working well in MCPS and what the school system can do to improve. He'll be holding two Town Hall Meetings with students this semester—one at Thomas S. Wootton High School on February 7, and another at Wheaton High School on April 11. Students at our school may participate by going to [www.mcpsStudentTownHall.org](http://www.mcpsStudentTownHall.org) to submit questions or comments via email or Twitter, and Dr. Starr will choose some to answer at the Town Hall Meetings.

### Student Service Learning Notes Give a Little Time...Make a Big Difference

(A graduation cap icon  signifies SSL Approval at [www.mcpsssl.org](http://www.mcpsssl.org) “SSL Community Opportunities”.)

- Consider getting involved in service on President's Day February 20 and the “Early Release” day on March 2.
- Local, State, and National elections provide opportunities for students to be involved in the political process. Political organizations and opportunities identified with a graduation cap icon  on the website [www.mcpsssl.org](http://www.mcpsssl.org) are approved for SSL. Any service provided to an individual running for public office requires MCPS Form 560-50, *Request for SSL Preapproval* granted in advance.
- Remember: SSL is a graduation requirement. SSL along with all other requirements must be met for a high school diploma to be awarded.

### Visit Spain

**Madrid and Barcelona, Spain – June 2013!** Give your child an opportunity of a lifetime! Join Mrs. Hernandez on an eight day tour of Spain's capital and Barcelona in June, 2013. A \$95 Enrollment Fee will hold a spot for your child. Please email Mrs. Hernandez at: [Maria\\_S\\_Hernandez@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Maria_S_Hernandez@mcpsmd.org) for information and the date of an upcoming informational meeting!

\*Note: This is not a Baker Middle School/MCPS sponsored event.



Baker Middle School

# SGA Valentine Dance

Friday, February 10, 2012

7:00–9:30 pm in the Gym • \$5.00 per ticket

Tickets sold at lunch each day during the week of the dance.

All sales are final — refunds will not be given.

Tickets will not be sold at the door!

Students must have their own transportation home after the dance at 9:30 pm.  
Students picked up more than 15 minutes after the end of the dance will not be permitted to participate in any dances for the remainder of the school year.

Pizza, Soda, and Candy will be sold at the dance for \$1 each.

All school rules apply, including dress code.

As with all Baker dances, this dance is open to Baker students only.

If you would like to chaperone, please contact Ms. Nichols at Baker, 301-253-7010.

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## SGA VALENTINE DANCE PERMISSION SLIP

Students: You must present this completed and signed form in order to purchase your ticket.

Name of Student: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Parent: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number where parent can be reached during the dance: \_\_\_\_\_

My child has permission to attend the Baker Middle School Dance on Friday, February 10, 2012 from 7:00-9:30pm.

My child and I agree to the following expectations:

1. Each student will purchase only his/her own dance ticket with his/her own money during ticket sale dates and times listed above.
2. All ticket sales are final — no refunds will be given.
3. Each student will use only his/her own ticket to enter the dance.
4. Each student will abide by all school rules, including dress code.
5. Each student will have a ride home at 9:30 pm. Students picked up more than 15 minutes after the end of the dance will not be permitted to participate in any dances for the remainder of the school year.

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Baker Middle School Dance Chaperone Guidelines

## BEFORE THE DANCE

Call Ms. Nichols at 301-253-7010 if you are the parent of a Baker student and wish to chaperone at the dance. Please leave a phone number where you may be reached. Ms. Nichols will call you back to confirm your attendance at the dance.

Please remember that Baker dances are for Baker students only. It is not appropriate to bring along siblings that do not attend Baker Middle School

Prior to arriving at the dance, please review the school student discipline policy and behavior expectations as posted in the student planner and parent handbook.

## ARRIVAL AT THE DANCE

Arrive 15 minutes before the dance is scheduled to begin.

If the dance is held after school, enter the school through the main front doors and report to the Main Office to receive your name badge. Proceed to the gym where you will be given directions by an administrator.

If the dance is held at night, enter the building through the lower level doors and report to the administrator in the lobby to receive your name badge and directions for the dance.

## DURING THE DANCE

Monitor students in your assigned area.

Once tickets are collected, students may exit the gym only through the main gym doors.

Students may not go outside during the dance. A student may leave only if a parent arrives and escorts his/her child out of the dance.

All school rules (*see the Student Planner and/or Parent Handbook*) apply to students at the dances. If you observe behavior that is contrary to school policies, report it to an administrator or teacher.

If you observe behavior that is rude, threatening, offensive, harmful, or otherwise inappropriate, report it to an administrator or teacher. This applies to adults as well as students.

## AFTER THE DANCE

Stay 15 minutes after the dance.

Usher students out of the dance once the gym lights have been turned on.

Usher students out of the building and assist students in finding their rides home.

If any student has not been picked up within 15 minutes after the end of the dance, escort the student to an administrator in front of the building.

**Thank you for chaperoning the dance  
and supporting our students!**

