



# WATKINS MILL HIGH SCHOOL

Montgomery County Public Schools

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May 13, 2009

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

This will be the last Principal's Newsletter for this year. I have included calendar information through the last day of school. Please be sure to check out our website for information over the summer. Of course, the Back-to-School packet will be sent out in early August, giving details about the beginning of school for the 2009-2010 school year.

A gentle reminder that now that the weather has warmed up, it is essential that students dress appropriately for school. The specific dress code is included in this year's student planner for you to refer to. Some of the specific items I would like to highlight include:

- Shoes must be worn at all times.
- Shorts and skirts must be an appropriate length and not too revealing.
- Midriffs and cleavage must be covered; no spaghetti straps, halter tops or tanks as outer garments.

We basically ask that students be appropriately dressed. Thank you in advance for helping our students keep focused on the academics at school.

## **FINAL EXAM PROTOCOL**

Seniors – Seniors will have school through May 29. Final exams will be administered beginning May 26 during the school day and seniors are expected to attend all classes.

Underclass – The underclass exam schedule begins on Monday, June 8 (Review Day) and runs through Monday, June 15 (Period 7) exam. Tuesday, June 17 is designated as a make-up day. Your student should schedule any makeup exam with the specific teacher giving the exam.

The first exam on each day will take place from 7:25 am – 9:25 a.m. There will be a designated 20 minute break from 9:25-9:45. The second exam will be held from 9:50 a.m. to 11:50 a.m. Following exams, students have an opportunity to leave campus (provided they have no more exams scheduled) or report to the WMHS cafeteria for a supervised study hall. Regular bus transportation will be provided each day at the normal time: 2:10 p.m.

Specific exam information is given in the calendar section below.

**Please note: There will be NO SCHOOL on Friday, June 12 so that all staff may attend the graduation ceremony at DAR Constitution Hall for our Class of 2009.**

If you have any questions about the schedule, please do not hesitate to contact the main office.

## **NEWS FROM THE GUIDANCE OFFICE**

### **New Work Permit Procedures**

As we are approaching the busy summer employment season it is important for all students from the ages of 14 up to 18 years to know that there are new procedures for obtaining Maryland work permits. It is a combination of a paper application with all the student's and employer's information, proper signatures and an electronic "Minor Data Receipt" once the student enters all of the information online. Please read the directions below carefully so all permits can be issued in a timely fashion.

### **Instructions for Obtaining a Work Permit**

A Maryland work permit is required if a minor plans on working for an employer in the state of Maryland, regardless of where the minor personally resides.

**WORK PERMITS WILL NO LONGER BE ISSUED ON THE SPOT SINCE ALL THE INFORMATION ON THE APPLICATION MUST BE TRANSFERRED TO AN ELECTRONIC FORM BEFORE BEING ISSUED.**

**Work permits will be ready for pickup in the Counseling office at STEP and before or after school. It may take 24 hours, so students need to plan accordingly.**

**Teens cannot apply for a Work Permit until they have gotten a job offer.** In Maryland, any teen (14 up to 18 years of age), is required to have a Work Permit before they begin work. This is because the application for a Work Permit requires details from the employer, including the proposed occupation and work description. When the permit is issued it will allow the minor to perform certain and specific duties for a particular employer. If the minor changes jobs, a new work permit must be obtained. The work permit does not expire; however, it is not transferable to another employer or another job with the same employer. The validated work permit, with the Issuing Officer's signature, must be in the employer's possession before the minor is permitted to work.

**Directions: APPLICATION FOR WORK PERMIT FOR A MINOR.**

**Students can either stop by the Counseling Office to pick up a paper copy of the Application for Work Permit for a Minor or download the application at [www.dllr.state.md.us/labor/empm.shtml#minorinst](http://www.dllr.state.md.us/labor/empm.shtml#minorinst) by clicking on the "Teen" link in the first box and following the directions below.**

- The minor completes "To the Minor" section with their personal information.
- The minor's employer completes and signs the "**Directions for the Employer**" section.
- The minor's parent or guardian signs and dates the application in the "**Directions for the Parent or Guardian**" section after they review it.
- The minor must sign on the "Signature of Minor" line and the "Date" line at the bottom of the form under the section "**Directions for the Issuing Officer**".
- Go to the online application at [www.dllr.state.md.us/childworkpermit/WorkPermit.aspx](http://www.dllr.state.md.us/childworkpermit/WorkPermit.aspx) and fill in the requested information using data collected on the hard copy application. Hit the SAVE button.
- On the next screen, under Number 1, click on the link to download your receipt.

- WMHS students should bring the completed **APPLICATION FOR WORK PERMIT FOR A MINOR**, the **MINOR DATA RECEIPT**, and a **Photo ID** to the Counseling Office for processing.
- If you are not a WMHS student, please bring the completed **APPLICATION FOR WORK PERMIT FOR A MINOR**, the **MINOR DATA RECEIPT**, a **Photo ID**, and **Proof of Age** (Driver's Permit, Driver's License, Passport, Birth Certificate or any official government document that contains your date of birth) to WMHS's Counseling Office for processing.
- Once the minor's identification is verified he/she will leave the application and data receipt, returning during STEP or at the beginning/end of the school day to pick up their completed **Work Permit for Minors**. The approved Work Permit must be returned to the employer so that minor can begin their employment.

### **INFORMATION FROM THE CAREER CENTER**

- Class of 2010, please use the summer time to continue to gather information on your potential colleges to which you will apply. Beginning in August, some colleges have their applications available online; it is never too early to work on essays, your resume, or the application itself. Next fall you will be busy with courses, sports, drama productions, etc.
- In order to develop the list of colleges to which you will apply, you must take some action. Gather information and narrow your list of choices to a reasonable number. There is a software program available to you and your parents called Family Connection, [www.connection.naviance.com/wmhs](http://www.connection.naviance.com/wmhs) , which allows you to perform college searches and contains historical data on WMHS graduates from the classes of 2001 through the class of 2009. Information on each student is built into the database to include GPA and PSAT scores, as well as SAT scores if the scores are sent to the high school. Students will be able to produce scattergrams for various colleges and universities and determine schools that may be "safety" schools once application time begins in the fall. With the use of the Family Connection program, students may do their research on colleges and tech schools either at school or at home. Students were introduced to Family Connection in March. See Mrs. Prochnow in the College/Career Center to get the access code for this helpful program if you were absent or if you forgot your password.
- The Counseling team will be in English classes in September to review the college application process with the seniors and there will be a Senior Information Night in September for seniors and parents as well.
- **The College/Career Center will be open over the summer.** Please call and schedule an appointment with Mrs. Prochnow by calling (301) 840-3957.
- There is a FREE ACT/SAT Prep Program available for MCPS students, called TCA. Go to <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/hsi/testprep.shtm> Here you will find FREE online study guides and a FREE online prep course for both the SAT and the ACT. When you enter the site, click on "Watkins Mill" and then enter your Student ID as both the username and the password.
- You will be able to register for the fall ACT and SAT tests beginning in late July. Remember to register early! Register for the ACT at [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org) Register for the SAT at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)
- Make plans to visit colleges/universities over the summer. Campus visits are very important and help in the final college choice decisions.
- If you are considering any of the military academies or a Reserved Officer Training Corps (ROTC) Scholarship, you should begin the process now. Write to the academies for an admissions packet. Details on the application/nomination procedures are available on the academies' websites or by calling the academies. These applications require several recommendations as well as physical aptitude testing and a congressional appointment. You should also be contacting both senators from

Maryland and your congressional representative for their application packets. The more you can get done over the summer the less stress you will experience your senior year!

- Students interested in applying for **scholarships** may check the website [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com) over the summer. This online service has listings of over 600,000 scholarships and 4,000 colleges. Students register and will receive notification of scholarships to consider. FastWeb is a free service. Juniors should be registering now to automatically have scholarship information sent to their email account. Also, check out the Scholarships listed on the Career Center page of the Watkins Mill website at [http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/watkinsmillhs/cc/career\\_center\\_new.shtm](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/watkinsmillhs/cc/career_center_new.shtm) Beginning in the fall, you will want to check out the “Scholarships Received in the Career Center” weekly. **Word of caution: You should not have to pay a fee for scholarship searches. There are plenty of online free websites.**

**Watkins Mill High School Counseling Office** During the summer, we request that you make an appointment to see your counselor as well as obtain other information, i.e., address changes, withdrawals and other information.

Summer Enrollments:

Appointments with Counselors in the Counseling Office will be held on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 8 am until 1 p.m.

Please call Mrs. Van Gilder at 301-840-3970 for an appointment.

The following documents are needed for the appointment:

Parent photo ID (government-issued)

Lease or property tax bill

Student's birth certificate

Student's immunizations

Previous school records

Summer School information and sign-up:

Session one: June 25-July 15

Session two: July 20-August 6

Stop by to pick up summer school forms.

Summer school registration forms **MUST** be signed by a counselor and parent.

Then the parent/student can go to the summer school site to register and pay for their summer school classes.

Registration at Seneca Valley HS (the closest summer school center) will be:

Wednesday, May 20, 2009 4-8 p.m.

Saturday, June 6, 2009, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Tuesday, June 30, 2009, 4-8 p.m.

Monday, July 6, 2009, 4-8 p.m.

Please see website for registration at other regional centers.

[www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/extendedhours/summerschool](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/extendedhours/summerschool)

Absolute MCPS deadlines:

Session one: Thursday, June 18

Session two: Friday, July 10

## SCIENCE STUDENTS OF THE MONTH – APRIL

The following Students have received the Science Student of the Month Award for their efforts during the month of April:

Derek Brown	Olga Paz	Naomi Picket	Alejandra Jimenez
Amber Myren	Nmadi Njoku	Eric Prather	Michael Gillum
Katie Rivera	Sandy Reyes	Michelle Roque	Jazmine Thomas
Rene Garcia	Erick Yunda	Victoria Wolk	Ricardo Harris
Regine Salmon	David Stanback	Omar Coulibaly	Jessica Guzman-Vives
DeAnna Nakhala	Paul Castellano	Dennis Makmak	Brandon Addison
Karthik Komanduri	Utmitha Konda	Robbie Cressman	Oscar Reyes
Shery Sheikh	Harsha Tangirala	Saulius Mrozinskas	Elisabeth Abott
	Neha Basnet	Timothy McFadden	

**STUDENT FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS** - This is a reminder to our parents and students that all financial obligations of seniors must be paid before graduation. Avoid the rush!!! All students must have their obligations paid in order to participate in prom.

**BOOSTER CLUB INFORMATION** – Thanks to our outgoing President, Winn Gaynor, for all he’s done in support of the Boosters this year and welcome the following new officers for 2009 – 2010.

President, Elizabeth King

Vice President, Karen Kerr

Secretary, Rebecca Matthews (*pending*)

Treasurer, Jim Marsh

Director of Committees, Bobbi Parra

If you are interested in being a part of this team and working with our Boosters, please join us for one of the following two events:

Monday, June 1, Planning meeting, Skybridge Lounge @ 7pm

Thursday, June 4, Volunteer Recruitment Social @ Bailey’s Pub and Grill @ 6pm

Lastly, please **SAVE THE DATE** for our WMHS Boosters Golf Tournament at Montgomery Village Golf Course to be held on Monday, **October 19, 2009**. **Watch for additional details to follow this summer. If you are interested in participating or being a sponsor, please contact Karen Kerr at [kkerrWMHS@comcast.net](mailto:kkerrWMHS@comcast.net)**

Sincerely,



Kevin Hobbs, Principal

### **May 18**

PTSA Meeting, 7:00 pm (changed from May 19) – Media Center

### **May 19**

Academy of Finance Graduation

### **May 20**

Awards Night – Auditorium, 7:00 pm

**May 21**

Senior Banquet, 7:00 pm

**May 22**

Senior Exam Review Day  
International Night, 7:00 pm

**May 25**

Memorial Day Holiday – No School

**May 26**

Senior Exams – Period 6 & 7  
Spring Sports Awards, 7:00 pm

**May 27**

Senior Exams – Periods 4 & 5

**May 28**

Senior Exams – Periods 2 & 3

**May 29**

Senior Exams – Periods 1 & Makeups

**June 2**

Booster Club Meeting, 7:00 – Skybridge Conference Room

**June 5**

Middle School Visits to WMHS – a.m.

**June 8**

Review Day – Underclass Final Exams – Regular School Day

**June 9**

Final Exams – Periods 1 & 2  
Period 1 Exam: 7:25-9:25  
Break: 9:25-9:45  
Period 2 Exam: 9:50-11:50  
Supervised Study Hall in Cafeteria 9:45-2:10  
Normal Bus Transportation available at 2:10

**June 10**

Graduation Rehearsal – 8:30 a.m.  
Final Exams – Periods 3 & 4  
Period 3 Exam: 7:25-9:25  
Break: 9:25-9:45  
Period 4 Exam: 9:50-11:50  
Supervised Study Hall in Cafeteria 9:45-2:10  
Normal Bus Transportation available at 2:10

**June 11**

Final Exams – Periods 5 & 6

Period 5 Exam: 7:25-9:25

Break: 9:25-9:45

Period 6 Exam: 9:50-11:50

Supervised Study Hall in Cafeteria 9:45-2:10

Normal Bus Transportation available at 2:10

**June 12**

Graduation Day for Seniors – **No School for Grades 9-11**

**June 15**

Final Exams – Period 7 & Makeup

Period 7 Exam: 7:25-9:25

Break: 9:25-9:45

Makeup Exam: 9:50-11:50

Supervised Study Hall in Cafeteria 9:45-2:10

Normal Bus Transportation available at 2:10

**June 16**

Final Exams – Make-up – Please make appointment with your teacher

Last Day of School for Students - School Dismisses @ 11:40

PTSA Meeting, 7:00 – Media Center

**June 17**

Last Day for Teachers

**June 23**

Report Cards Mailed Home from Central Office