



WATKINS MILL HIGH SCHOOL

Montgomery County Public Schools

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September 29, 2009

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

I will continue to provide you with ongoing information regarding school activities and athletic events for Watkins Mill High School. Again this year, and twice each month, I will be sending calendar information via individual emails that are obtained through Edline accounts. In addition, this information will also be posted on the WMHS homepage. This year, please look for this information to be posted on the 27th and 13th of each month.

Monday, October 12 (Columbus Day) is designated as "Open House" day for all MCPS schools. We welcome you to visit our school at any time during the day. You may visit your student's classes, the guidance office, career center, cafeteria, or any other facet of your child's academic life. All schools in MCPS will hold an Open House on October 12.

Finally, the 5th Annual Mike Tyler Run/Walk will be held on October 17, at 9:00 a.m. This 5K run/walk was established to honor a Watkins Mill High School student who tragically passed away in 2006 as a result of an injury during a wrestling match. All proceeds from the event go to the Mike Tyler Scholarship Fund, which awards scholarships to four seniors each year. Registration forms are available in the main office and on the WMHS home page.

I hope this information proves helpful to you in planning your family activities around school events.

National Merit Scholarship Corporation Commended Student – I am pleased to announce that (Senior) Kyle Lyons-Burke has been named a Commended Student in the 2010 National Merit Scholarship Program. About 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic progress, having placed among the top five percent of more than 1.5 million students who entered the 2010 competition by taking the 2008 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Congratulations on this commendation, Kyle!

Photography Exhibition and Acknowledgement – Toney Pearson (Junior) exhibited art work at the County Executive Office Building in an exhibition entitled "Nature in our Own Backyards." He was recognized at a reception in late September. The exhibit will run from September 21 through October 21, 2009 at the Executive Office Building Lobby, Art Gallery Hallway, 101 Monroe Street, Rockville, Maryland 20850. This exhibition is offered free of charge.

Booster Club News – On Monday, October 5 the Monthly Booster Club will hold its monthly meeting in the Skybridge Conference Room. Please join us to make your ideas and suggestions known and discuss how we can all work together (as a team) to ensure the success of our students! After all, it's all about the STUDENTS!! See you there. All are welcomed.

Picture Make-Up Day for Underclass Students – will be held on Wednesday, October 7 during the lunch periods. There will be two photographers present.

From the College/Career Center - Seniors who are behind on their college search should plan to attend the Montgomery County College Expo. The College Expo will be on Tuesday, October 20, 2009 at the Discovery Sports Center in Germantown. The Fair will be in the morning and many colleges and universities will be present. We will leave school at 9:30 a.m. and return at approximately 11:30 a.m. There is no cost to attend. **Interested students need to have a signed permission slip to attend. The deadline to return the signed form to Mrs. Prochnow in the College/Career Center is October 15.** In addition, there will be evening seminars from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. for parents and students. Various speakers will discuss athletic recruiting, financial aid and scholarship information.

College visits are well underway in the College/Career Center. Every year, over 60 college representatives come to Watkins Mill to speak with juniors and seniors about their programs. Interested juniors and seniors can view the complete list and sign up for visits on Family Connection, www.connection.naviance.com/wmhs. Once students sign up, they need to come to the College/Career Center on the morning of the visit to pick up a pass for teacher approval. If students have forgotten their usernames and/or passwords, they should see their counselor or Mrs. Prochnow in the College/Career Center.

Mark your calendars for Watkins Mill's annual Financial Aid Night to be held on November 19 at 7 pm in the Media Center. Information will be presented on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, the FAFSA, as well as Maryland state aid. Although the FAFSA cannot be submitted until January 1, 2010, seniors and one parent can and should apply now for their PIN, Personal Identification Number, at www.pin.ed.gov For questions about financial aid, go to www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov Click on the Student and Parent section to see a link to the FAFSA4caster which gives an estimate of what a family's Expected Family Contribution (EFC) will be.

Check out the Career Center webpage for the monthly College/Career Center Newsletter which contains information about college testing and FREE test prep, college fairs, enrichment opportunities and upcoming events:

http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/watkinsmillhs/cc/career_center_new.shtm

On the webpage, you will also find Information about Scholarships, Financial Aid and much, much more.

Watkins Mill Received the “OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER AWARD”

Make your hours Count !!!!

During the 2008-2009 school year, Watkins Mill HS was awarded the Outstanding Volunteer Award with 12,770 hours total. **Thank you parents and faculty! Let's do it again!!!** Make sure you record your hours and submit them to Mike and Elizabeth King at wmhsvolunteers@gmail.com. You can submit hours as often as you want or submit your total at the end of the month. It can't happen without **YOU!** Hours can also be submitted at the school in the volunteer book located in the front office. Any little thing you do for the school counts. You can accumulate volunteer hours by picking up snacks for an event, making phone calls, working with your students' teams or clubs, PTSA and Booster Club meetings (including driving to and from locations), working concessions or any sporting event or practice, carpooling your kids to events, etc. **IT ALL COUNTS. SO ADD IT UP AND SUBMIT IT TODAY!!** **Let's continue to support the BEST students in Montgomery County.**

You may also submit any questions you may have to Mike and Elizabeth King at the volunteer email address above.

Cluster-Wide Latino Parent Outreach Fiesta – Will be held on Saturday, October 3. This is an introduction to the George B. Thomas Learning Center, Saturday Success program, and parenting strategies for our Latino parents. The program starts at 8:30 a.m. Please join us!

MCT Credit Union and Banking Opportunities for Students!

Too often, students graduate from high school with knowledge in advanced courses, but an underdeveloped understanding of basic financial principles. In fact, according to the Children's Financial Network, 68% of 4,000 students failed a recent personal finance survey. This astounding statistic underscores the importance of providing financial education to young people so they are prepared to manage their money when they go to college or live on their own.

In an effort to provide relevant financial learning to Watkins Mill High School students, we have partnered with MCT Federal Credit Union (MCT) to provide an In-School, student run MCT branch. The Rines Credit Union is located in the Business Studies Office, Room C023, and is open every Monday, Wednesday and Thursdays during STEP. All students can open an account and make deposits and withdrawals (up to \$20.00) at The Rines Credit Union.

The In-School Branch program provides a valuable service that allows today's youth to gain a wealth of financial knowledge. Students can learn about business management and financial principles by working in the branch. If you or your child would like more information on working at The Rines Credit Union, please contact either Christine Gibson or Glenn Brooks in the Academy of Finance at 301-840-3958.

Students can also learn about financial literacy and gain sound money management skills that will last past graduation and into adulthood by opening one of MCT's student accounts. Some of MCT's student products include savings accounts and Visa[®] Check Cards. Students can manage their money through Online Banking (an easy way to view balances, transaction history, and ATM withdrawals), eAlerts (get notified if your account balance falls below a certain dollar amount, if you are approaching your credit limit, or receive a daily balance email) and Money Talk (telephone banking where you can check account balances, review transaction history, and more). To learn more MCT's Student Banking Accounts, visit MCT's website at mctfcu.org and click on “Check and Savings” and select “Student Account Package”.

As a parent or guardian of a Montgomery County Public School student, you and your family members are also eligible to join MCT. You will find competitive dividend rates and loan rates, as well as other services that can help you get more out of your finances.

Please visit MCT's website, mctfcu.org, to learn more about how MCT Federal Credit Union can help you and your child/children.

Student Service Learning Hours - Give a Little Time...Make a Big Difference

- All SSL activities must be documented on MCPS Form 560-51, *Student Service Learning Activity Verification* and turned in to the school SSL coordinator according to timelines.
- Students should keep copies of all SSL documents that they turn into the school or community representatives.
- Organizations and opportunities not listed at www.mcpsssl.org must be pre approved using MCPS Form 560-50, *Request for SSL Preapproval*.
- Students may address hunger and homelessness in Montgomery County by preparing bag lunches and dinners in their homes for delivery to homeless facilities. This is an exception to the guideline that all service must occur in a public place. Check out the details at the Questions and Answers section at www.mcpsssl.org.
- Stay aware of ways to become involved in the Montgomery County Community Service Day this month.

Edline - If you need help with Edline activation, please email Mr. Joy at: Mitchell_Joy@mcpsmd.org

Edline gives you the perfect opportunity to view your student's academic progress throughout the year.



Giant Bucks Program - Watkins Mill High School is participating in the GIANT BUCKS PROGRAM. Please make sure that when you shop at Giant Food, your purchases are recorded to benefit our school. Our Bonus Bucks Code is 00825.

Sincerely,

Kevin Hobbs,
Principal

Important Dates:

October 1

FH-Seneca Valley at Watkins Mill JV 3:30 pm/V 5 pm
SOC G-Watkins Mill at Quince Orchard V 5 pm/JV at WM 3:30 pm
TEN G-Paint Branch at Watkins Mill 3:30 pm
FB JV-Watkins Mill at Magruder 5:30 pm
SOC B-Watkins Mill at Quince Orchard V 7 pm/JV at WM 5:30 pm

October 2

Early Release Day – school dismisses at 11:40 a.m.
FB V-Watkins Mill at Magruder 6:30 pm

October 3

Cluster-wide Latino Parent Outreach Fiesta, 8:30 am

October 5

Biology H.S.A.
FH-Damascus at Watkins Mill V 3:30 pm/JV 5 pm
SOC G-Watkins Mill at Damascus V 5 pm/JV at WM 3:30 pm
SOC B-Watkins Mill at Damascus V 7 pm/JV at WM 5:30 pm

October 6

Algebra H.S.A.
TEN G-Poolesville at Watkins Mill 3:30 pm
VB G-Northwood at Watkins Mill JV 5:30 pm/V 6:30 pm

October 7

NSL Government H.S.A.
Underclass Picture Make-Up Day – photographs during STEP
CC-Seneca Valley, Wheaton and Kennedy at Watkins Mill 3:30 pm
FH-Watkins Mill at Quince Orchard V 3:30 pm/JV 5 pm

October 8

English H.S.A.
SOC G-Poolesville at Watkins Mill V 5 pm/JV at PO 3:30 pm
TEN G-Watkins Mill at Seneca Valley 3:30 pm
SOC B-Poolesville at Watkins Mill V 7 pm/JV at PO 5:30 pm
VB G-Watkins Mill at Poolesville JV 5:30 pm/V 6:30 pm

October 9

TEN G-Clarksburg at Watkins Mill 3:30 pm
FB V-Damascus at Watkins Mill 6:30 pm

October 10

FB JV-Damascus at Watkins Mill 10 am

October 12

MCPS Open House – for All schools
TEN G-Watkins Mill at Wootton 3:30 pm

October 13

FH-Watkins Mill at Kennedy V 3:30 pm/JV 5 pm

VB G-Quince Orchard at Watkins Mill JV 5:30 pm/V 6:30 pm

October 14

GO-Kohut Division at Little Bennett Golf Course - 3rd and 4th Place Teams (12 Players) 3 pm

GO-Kohut Division at Poolesville Golf Course - 5th and 6th Place Teams (12 Players) 3 pm

GO-Kohut Division at Sligo - 7th, 8th and 9th Place Teams (18 Players) 3 pm

GO-Kohut Division at Little Bennett Golf Course - 1st and 2nd Place Teams (12 Players) 3:30 pm

October 15

Deadline for application to College Expo (due to Career Center)

FH-Paint Branch at Watkins Mill V 3:30 pm/JV 5 pm

FB JV-Poolesville at Watkins Mill 5:30 pm