



OPENING AUGUST 2016

HALLIE WELLS MIDDLE SCHOOL

“Deep roots with a new beginning”

11701 Little Seneca Parkway
Clarksburg, Maryland 20871
301-284-4800

Dr. Barbara A. Woodward, Principal
Ms. Carol Petersen, Administrative Secretary
Telephone: 301-284-4800
Temporarily Located at Historic Schoolhouse at Clarksburg ES
13530 Redgrave Place, Clarksburg, MD 20871

NEW SCHOOL UPDATE -- April 1, 2016

We Have a Name!

The Board of Education voted unanimously to name our school “Hallie Wells Middle School.” Ms. Wells was a local Clarksburg resident who lived on a dairy farm with her husband. Both Ms. Wells and her husband were federal employees and after years of government service, Mr. Wells wished to retire to a farm in Clarksburg. Mr. Wells is reported to have said to his wife, Hallie, “I’m moving to the country. You can either come with me, or stay in bed. Either way, I’m moving.” Mr. Wells was also said to be a man with a great sense of humor and a dear love of his wife, but he liked to tell the story, nonetheless.

The Wells’ did not have children and wondered what to do with their land when they died. They decided to donate the 290 acres to the Montgomery County Parks. Today the land would be worth over 64 million dollars. The land houses a local park, Ovid Hazen Wells Park (named after Mr. Wells). On the land there is also a small farm where disabled adults work called Red Wiggler <https://redwiggler.org/>. Red Wiggler is hoping to partner with us to support our community service projects and help our students learn about farming.

Throughout her time in government service Ms. Wells noticed how much joy children got out of riding the carousel at the National Mall. She decided to purchase the carousel being replaced on the Mall and donate it to the Montgomery County Parks for it to be located on the park. At the time Clarksburg was a rural spot, so Montgomery County Parks decided to house the donated carousel at Wheaton Regional Park. A promise was made to move the carousel to Clarksburg once there were “children in Clarksburg.” It seems it is time to bring the carousel home!

School Mascot and Colors

Incoming students have been emailed a survey to decide the school’s mascot and colors. Once the survey is completed, the results will be announced. Watch our website!

School Website and Calendar

Our school website has launched and information will be added as soon as it is available. **Mark your calendar now for Thursday, May 5, 2015, 6:30-7:30 p.m. (location yet to be confirmed).** We are planning a parent night to provide an opportunity for parents to meet the staff and hear more about the new school and course offerings. Check back periodically to our website for future updates. Bookmark the website at this address:
<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/halliewellsms/>

MEET THE STAFF AS WE GROW:



Dr. Barbara Woodward, Principal – “I am the proud principal of Hallie Wells Middle School. Having worked at all school levels, elementary, middle and high school, I am thrilled to be appointed principal at my favorite age group. August is just around the corner, and I can’t wait to get our first school year underway. We are working hard to create the best middle school in the county!”



Ms. Beth Thomas, Assistant Principal – “I am the PROUD and EXCITED Assistant Principal of the new Hallie Wells Middle School. I look forward to working with Principal Dr. Woodward as we embark on this adventurous and important middle school journey of transitioning your child from elementary to high school. We are currently hiring truly dynamic and energetic staff members to join us in creating a wonderful learning environment and educational experience for your middle-schooler. I can’t wait to meet you and traverse this bridge together.”



Ms. Carol Petersen, Administrative Secretary – “As the administrative assistant, I am so happy to be a part of the dynamic staff that has been hired and to be involved at the earliest stages of a new school. So much planning and effort is put forth with the opening of a new school and I look forward to meeting all the parents and students and can’t wait for our opening in August.”



Ms. Katie Shah, Math Content Specialist – “I am so excited to be a part of the new Hallie Wells Middle School as the Math Content Specialist. Middle school is such an important time for our students academically and socially. I can’t wait to be a part of your child’s middle school journey, and I am looking forward to meeting you and working with you to make this journey a memorable one.”



Ms. Madeline Hanington, English Content Specialist – “I am so proud to be the English Content Specialist at the new Hallie Wells Middle School. I am excited to work with the students and families of the Hallie Wells community. Opening up a new school is definitely a dream come true!”



Mr. Michael McGough, Science Content Specialist - “As the Science Department Content Specialist here at Hallie Wells Middle School, I not only will facilitate the learning for our students as they grow and develop socially and academically, but I will also help build the capacities of our science and engineering staff. I am very excited to work with such an amazing and energized group of professional staff and students!”



Ms. Pam Lloyd, Staff Development Teacher – “I am thrilled to be a member of this leading learning team where we will work as a community to define who we are, what we want to be, and how we will get there. I am committed to a standard of excellence in opening a new school as a teacher leader. I look forward to the challenge and the excitement of this unique opportunity. “



Mr. Justin Owen, Arts, P.E., and World Languages Content Specialist -- “I am eager to be a part of the new Hallie Wells Middle School as the Arts, P.E. and World Languages Content Specialist. Professionally, this is the opportunity of a lifetime. I look forward to creating a new program and making an impact on the students that will be attending this amazing school and involving the community and families in this process. I believe in providing a learning environment that fosters growth and challenges each student to reach their full potential each and every day.”



Mr. Theus Cassel, School Counselor -- I have been a dedicated employee of Montgomery County Public Schools for eleven years. During this time I have had the opportunity to act as an advocate for students, teachers and parents. I am excited to take this opportunity to cultivate an exceptional counseling department at Hallie Wells Middle School. I am looking forward to building strong and lasting relationships with the Clarksburg/Damascus community and families.



Ms. Kyra Kreinbrook, Media Specialist – “I am honored and excited to be the media specialist and a member of the Hallie Wells Middle School community. I look forward to meeting our students and their parents. Our media center will be a vibrant place where students will come to learn, explore, socialize, and engage in a variety of activities to support lifelong learning.”



Ms. Marisa Stemple, Resource Teacher Special Education – “I am extremely excited to be a part of the Hallie Wells Middle School team and community! I believe it is important to focus on students’ strengths and interests and that learning should be a joyful, positive experience. As the RTSE, I look forward to working with staff and families to ensure that all students with learning differences are provided with the supports and services that they need to be successful and happy at our school.”



Ms. Tara Kelly, Social Studies Content Specialist – “Hello to the Hallie Wells Middle School Community! My 20+ years of teaching middle school has prepared me for this exciting new challenge, and I cannot wait to meet all of my students. I will have the privilege of guiding 6th and 7th graders through the past to discover how history was made while connecting all to the events to today. No passive learning here, please bring your open minds and curiosity on the first day of school.



Mr. Chris Thornett, TV Studio Teacher – “I am thrilled to be working at Hallie Wells MS! I can't wait to begin building a new community of learners.



Rob Dahlin, Instrumental Music Teacher – “I am looking forward to meeting and working with the awesome kids at Hallie Wells Middle. I have already heard about the great music happening at Rocky Hill Middle School and at the feeder elementary schools. I will be working closely with the teachers in the cluster to make sure that the transition to Hallie Wells Middle School goes as smoothly as possible. Get ready to work and make sure to practice all summer. I will be getting in touch very soon. The music program will be the best program in the county and state both in orchestra and band. We will be performing all over the area as well as our two concerts, MCPS festivals and spring trip/competition. Practice!



Amy Alban, World Languages Teacher – “¡Qué emocionante! I am thrilled to help open Haddie Wells Middle School! So excited to meet the new staff, students and parents...



Maureen Enstrom, Counselor – “Greetings Hallie Well’s MS Students and Families! My name is Maureen Enstrom and I am proud to serve as one of the counselors here at HWMS. I enjoy working with children and helping them to reach for their dreams through their academic and social-emotional growth. I believe that every child should be valued and treated with respect. An education should empower a child and help him or her make a positive contribution to the world. I am looking forward to getting to know all of you throughout this exciting time as we open what will become a great school where we work together to help all students thrive!



Michele McMahon, Physical Education Teacher – “I am beyond thrilled to be one of the PE/Health teachers at the new Hallie Wells Middle School. Our program will combine high standards and expectations to promote character development in a true learning community. I am looking forward to the building coming to life with the energy and excitement of the students on the first day of school.”



Isabel Sterling, World Languages – “I am delighted to teach both French and Spanish at Hallie Wells Middle School. I look forward to building a strong World Language program focused on the power of communication, the influence of culture, and the beauty of acceptance. I can't wait to take our students and families on new language adventures!"

«Je suis ravie d'enseigner le français et l'espagnol au Collège Hallie Wells!»

— ¡Estoy encantada de poder enseñar el francés y el español en la Secundaria Hallie Wells!



Ms. Marny McGee, Team Leader & World Studies Teacher – “I'm so excited to be joining the family at Hallie Wells Middle School. As the 6th grade team leader I'm dedicated to supporting our students both socially and academically as they transition from elementary school to middle school. It is a privilege to have the opportunity to be part of opening a new school and creating an inspiring atmosphere for teaching and learning. I can't wait!



Mr. David Heller, Team Leader & Technology Teacher – “As the 7th Grade Team Leader I look forward to working with the students and staff. Together we will build the foundation of excellence that Hallie Wells Middle School will be known for in the years to come.



Todd Sprites, Art Teacher – “I am really excited to be a part of building a foundation in a new school for many years to come. This is extremely thrilling and exciting to be opening Hallie Wells and teach digital art. I hope to build a challenging and exciting program for many years to come!”



Melanie Harper – “I am very excited to be joining the new Hallie Wells Middle School community! This is a wonderful opportunity and I am looking forward to working with you to share my love of history and learning. I love this age group and helping them grow and mature is a privilege and I am thankful for the opportunity.

More to come!