



TPMS October Events

- ▶ OCTOBER 2—WALK TO SCHOOL DAY
- ▶ OCTOBER 4 —EARLY RELEASE DAY (INTERIM OF MARKING PERIOD 1)
- ▶ OCTOBER 9 —NO SCHOOL— STUDENTS AND TEACHERS
- ▶ OCTOBER 14 —OPEN HOUSE: PARENT VISITATION DAY PERIOD 1-8 SCHEDULE
- ▶ OCTOBER 15 —MAP-R TESTING
- ▶ OCTOBER 17– 25 —MAP-M TESTING IN MATH CLASSES
- ▶ OCTOBER 29 —OUTDOOR EDUCATION INFORMATION SESSION, 6:00 P.M. (CAFETERIA)
- ▶ OCTOBER 29 —PTA MEETING: PANEL DISCUSSIONS ON GRADE LEVEL TOPICS, 7:00 P.M.(CAFETERIA)



October 2019

- ▶ OCTOBER 28—NOVEMBER 1 — TPMS SPIRIT WEEK
- ▶ NOVEMBER 11 — ARENA STYLE PARENT CONFERENCES

TAKOMA PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL Principal's

Newsletter

“Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower.” — Albert Camus

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Students and staff have had a busy and exciting start to the school year! I have enjoyed the opportunity to meet students in all grades and have been impressed by their energy and enthusiasm. In classes, students are engaged in their learning and teachers are focused on making the content meaningful.

In addition to a great start of school, this year we have continued and added activities that support student wellness. We have continued the daily mindful minute and hip hop yoga on Thursday's at lunch. Students are enjoying time outside at lunch as long as we have good weather. We have a new partnership with Therapy Dogs International and have two therapy dogs visiting our school each week, Ray Ray and Pado. These two have been a huge hit among students and teachers!

You will notice that the foundation is now in place on the addition to our academic wing. Soon the steel beams will be installed. Occasionally, the construction can be noisy. We have appreciated the flexibility of our students and staff who have adjusted well to the distractions from the construction. Our administrative team communicates regularly with our contractors if there are any concerns. The addition is slated to be completed before the start of school in 2020. The second phase of construction will begin on the athletic and arts wing of the school after the academic wing is complete. To view the architectural plans you can visit the following link on our website: [TPMS Addition](#).

This year we have added another day of TAP on Thursdays. Students use the Takoma Academic Period (TAP) each Wednesday and Thursday to get help on homework, classwork or to retake assessments. I encourage all students to take advantage of this time. Teachers updated their grades on Friday, October 4 which is the mid-point of the first quarter. Please review your child's grades on the MyMCPS Parent Portal and contact their teacher or counselor if you have any questions or concerns.

TPMS celebrated Walk to School Day on October 2. This yearly event promotes pedestrian safety and is part of our partnership with Safe Routes to School. Thank you to the Takoma Park Police Department, Mayor Stewart, PTA parents and students who supported the event this year!

There are a number of events for parents and students in October. On October 14 parents are invited to attend our Open House: Parent Visitation Day. We will have an 8-period schedule on that day so that parents will have the opportunity to visit each of their child's classes. The PTA will host a hospitality suite in the Counseling Conference Room throughout the day. Our counselors will be available to answer questions in the Media Center. The Media Center will also be available for parents to stop by and ask questions about the MyMCPS Parent Portal.

Our first PTA Meeting of the year will be on October 29. The topic of the meeting is Middle School Transitions. The meeting will begin with the whole group. Parents will learn about how to connect to TPMS and the MyMCPS Parent Portal then break out into the following sessions:

- Grade 6: The Transition to Middle School
- Grade 7: Supporting Your Struggling Child
- Grade 8: The Transition to High School

The PTA is continuing to encourage new membership and participation in our school community. Membership this year is free of cost. However, donations are encouraged.

Prior to the PTA Meeting on October 29 our Outdoor Education Coordinators, Mr. Acevedo and Ms. Davis, will host an information session on Outdoor Ed from 6-7 p.m. Parents will receive information and parents who are interested in chaperoning can be fingerprinted by a mobile unit at the meeting. This year our 6th graders will be attending the week of December 2-6, 2019.

Looking ahead to November, parent conferences will be held on Monday, November 11. We will be having arena style conferences and invite ALL parents to visit TPMS that afternoon. I will share more detailed information about this event in the coming weeks.

The Principal's Monthly Newsletter provides parents and students with updates on upcoming classroom instruction as well as important grade level events. For daily information about TPMS events, you can view the school's television show, *Wake Up Takoma*, which features daily announcements and student produced shows.

Alicia Deeny
Principal

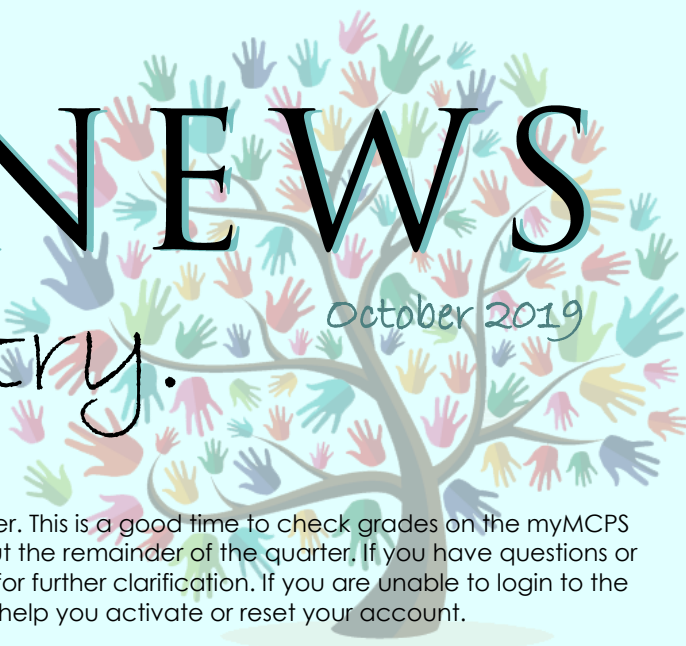
Takoma Park Middle School

COUNSELING DEPARTMENT NEWS

Every
Accomplishment

STARTS with the **DECISION** to *try*.

October 2019



Resources —

myMPCS Parent Portal:

On Friday, October 4th, we will be half-way through the 1st quarter. This is a good time to check grades on the myMCPS Parent Portal and continue to check on a weekly basis throughout the remainder of the quarter. If you have questions or concerns about a student's grade, please reach out to teachers for further clarification. If you are unable to login to the parent portal, please contact your student's counselor, who can help you activate or reset your account.

Homework Club:

Now that students are several weeks into the school year and larger tests, projects, and essays have been assigned, they may enjoy the extra support provided by teachers during Homework Club. This is also a good opportunity for students to organize binders, write in agenda books, and implement time management strategies (all skills that Ms. Lever shared with 6th graders during recent classroom lessons). The schedule is as follows:

6th Grade: Wednesdays / Mr. Cornfeld

8th Grade: Thursdays / Ms. Manchester

7th Grade: Wednesdays / Ms. Linsenber

All ESOL: Wednesdays / Ms. Lipman & Ms. K-J

George B. Thomas Saturday School:

Registration for the George B. Thomas, Sr. Learning Academy (Saturday School) is open. Saturday School provides academic tutoring and instruction with certified teachers in a nurturing and supportive environment. The program is in 12 school locations across Montgomery County and runs from 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. with breakfast provided at 8:00 a.m.

To Register:

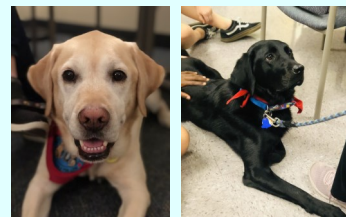
<https://www.saturdayschool.org/2019/09/19/register-for-saturday-school-2018-2019-3-2/>

More Information:

<https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/uploadedFiles/mainstory/published/2018/2018-08/Program%20Flyer%20English%2018-19%20Final.pdf>

Therapy Dogs at TPMS!

We are so excited to welcome two therapy dogs to our school: Pado (Yellow Lab) and Ray Ray (Black Lab)!!!! They will be in school two Tuesdays a month during lunch and every Thursday morning to work with our students in classrooms, counseling, and the hallway.



High School Choice Options —

It's already time for 8th graders and their parents/guardians to begin considering options for high school! Students are encouraged to visit as many high schools as possible, so mark your calendars with the dates below!

DCC Open Houses:

Thursday, October 3 – Blair High School Open House 7 PM

Thursday, October 10 – Wheaton High School Open House 7 PM

Thursday, October 17 Kennedy High School Open House 7 PM

Tuesday, October 22 Northwood High School Open House 7 PM

Thursday, October 24 Einstein High School Open House 7 PM

Please see DCC link for more information:

<https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/downcounty/>

- Ms. Litten (Resource Counselor), Ms. Lever (6th Grade), Ms. Salzman (7th Grade: A-G), & Ms. Martinez (7th Grade: H-Z / ESOL), Ms. Hankings (8th Grade)



6th Grade



October Newsletter



Science

6th grade science Students in 6th Grade Science are finishing up their review of the scientific method. We will then be transitioning to Basic Properties of Matter to begin our Chemistry unit. We will review mass and volume, and learn about density. In the process of investigating density, we will begin to learn about the use of various lab tools, such as graduated cylinders, triple beam balances, and electronic balances. From there we will be exploring how molecules move and what causes their movement to change.

6th Grade Magnet Science: In October, students will continue to work on planning and researching for their STEM projects. They should be completing the background research for their project. Students will be learning about citing previous studies and researching science background for their projects. We will also be investigating the Basic Properties of Matter to begin our Chemistry unit. We will review mass and weight, and learn about density. In the process of investigating density, we will begin to learn about the use of various lab tools, such as graduated cylinders, triple beam balances, and electronic balances.

6th Grade Magnet Computer Science: This October, Magnet Computer Science will explore Google Sites and Google Docs. Students will create connections to STEM by finding and evaluating current technology based articles. After a brief lesson on computer hardware and the components of a computer, students will begin an extensive problem solving unit. Problem solving is the foundation of all programming, and students will begin to develop the requisite building blocks for their future studies in computer science.

Imagineering Tech: Imagineering Tech students will work on their unit on bridge building throughout the month of October. They will begin by creating a paper bridge to span a small gap and hold a substantial load. Let's see who can hold the greatest loads in both our 6th grade classes! After this initial project students will learn how to make more detailed plan to communicate design ideas to others. They will put these new skills to the test and create a detailed plan for their next bridge project - a bridge made with balsa wood.





6th Grade



Math

Investigations in Mathematics (IM):

In October, IM students will analyze and solve problems involving scaling and percent. Students will build accuracy in using and comparing percentages, and will solve multi-step situations. Percent problems include tax, markups, markdowns, gratuities, commissions, fees, percent increase and decrease, and the percent error. Students will also be able to rewrite percent expressions in different forms to show relationships. Since this unit is extremely relatable, we ask that you engage with your child in any percent problems you may come across, such as shopping at a store or analyzing into profits!

Magnet Investigations in Mathematics: During the first part of October students will finish Unit 1 - Part 1: Real Numbers and Set Theory. These are new topics for most students so it's been a really fun way to start the school year! During the second part of October students will study Unit 1 - Part 2: Ratios and Proportional Reasoning. Please check MyMCPS Classroom for quiz dates and topics. Copies of homework assignments can also be found there after we have covered the topic in class. All dates posted for assessments are subject to change and is dependent on how quickly we move through the curriculum.

Math 6:

For the month of October, Math 6 will be working on Unit 1 with a focus on applying unit rates to solve problems. Students will practice representing unit rates and their equivalent ratios using tables, graphs, double number lines and tape diagrams. A solid understanding of unit rate and equivalent ratios is critical in understanding proportions, scale factor and slope in future math classes. Towards the end of the month, we will be working on finding percent and using them in real-world applications. As for testing, MAP-M testing will take place during the second week of October and the first Progress Check will take place during the second half of the month.





6th Grade



World Studies

World Studies:

During the month of October, students will begin the first step of the Model United Nations year long project, researching background information on assigned countries. We will finish up our novel study of [A Long Walk To Water](#) . Click the link to view the Common Sense Media that gives an overview of the novel .

Unit 1 continues with Patterns of Settlement in Ancient and Modern Worlds. We will focus on the lifestyles among hunting and gathering societies as compared to the later farming communities. The students will participate in a simulation highlighting the importance of irrigation and farming to early civilizations in Mesopotamia, a region along the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. We will also focus on farming communities today. There is so much to learn; it should make for interesting dinner conversations or the long car rides to and from school!!



English

Advanced English 6: This quarter we are focusing on Foundations as the theme of our first unit. Students started the year looking at characterization and understanding the difference between direct and indirect characterization. Students have selected one of four novels to read for the quarter: *El Deafo*, *Bridge to Terabithia*, *Maniac Magee*, or *Zen and the Art of Faking It*. As students are reading, they will be continuing to focus on looking at author's craft, particularly how the author develops characters indirectly through their speech, thoughts, effects on others, actions and looks. With this analysis, students will be expected to write their first well developed paragraph, including a claim and three supporting details. After focusing on analyzing their quarter novel's author's craft, students will work on showing their own ability to develop an original character through indirect characterization.





6th Grade



Outdoor Education

Please return all forms and fees to Ms. Davis in Room 140 or Mr. Acevedo in Portable 5.

If you are a parent interested in chaperoning, please complete the following [Outdoor Education Parent Questionnaire](#) survey and follow the links included in the form to complete the credentialing process. **A representative from [American Identity Solutions Fingerprinting](#) will be on site at the PTSA meeting held October 29th to do fingerprinting.** Please complete the forms prior to the meeting. There will be an invoice to do fingerprinting for \$20 that evening. If you would like to attend that evening, please email heather.d.davis@mcpsmd.net so that we can make sure we have enough staff to process those wishing to get fingerprinted that evening.





Takoma Park Middle School 7th Grade Newsletter

October 2019

Principal:

Alicia Deeny

**7th Grade Assistant
Principal:**

Aaron Barnett

**7th Grade Team
Leaders:**

Rachel Lunsford
Gary Einhorn

**7th Grade
Counselor:**

Kate Hankins

Important Dates:

October 4
Half Day/ Interims

October 14
Parent Visitation Day

A Note from the 7th Grade Team Leaders

We have had a great start to the new school year. As Team Leaders, we are here to coordinate efforts within the 7th grade team of teachers, the 7th grade administrator, counselor and other staff to support our seventh grade students in all aspects of the school experience. Please feel free to contact us at anytime.

Ms. Lunsford and Mr. Einhorn



What are Students Learning in the Classroom?

World Studies

Students are learning about the geography of Latin America and how it shaped two major pre-Columbian civilizations, the Aztecs and the Incas. 7th graders will write a multi-paragraph essay on the Incas and how they modified and adapted to their geography in South America. This month, students received a permission slip for a field trip to Finance Park in February 2020. Please consider joining us as a volunteer for our budget simulation! Details are posted on MyMCPS classroom.

English

Students are completing the reading and analysis of the novel The Outsiders. Teachers and students will be stressing the Elements of Fiction, characterization, and the changes a character experiences. Through our writing, we will analyze character and write a personal narrative. We will also review grammar rules and sentence structure as needed in the students' writing. All students will have an Independent Reading assignment this quarter.





Takoma Park Middle School 7th Grade Newsletter

October 2019

Math



In **Math 7 and IM**, students are currently studying Unit 1 Topic 1 where we are using unit rates to solve real life problems. Student are representing proportional relationships in a variety of ways, including graphs and tables. We will transition to topic 2 where we will continue our study of ratios and rates by exploring more real life topics such as scale drawings, tax and interest, and percent of change.

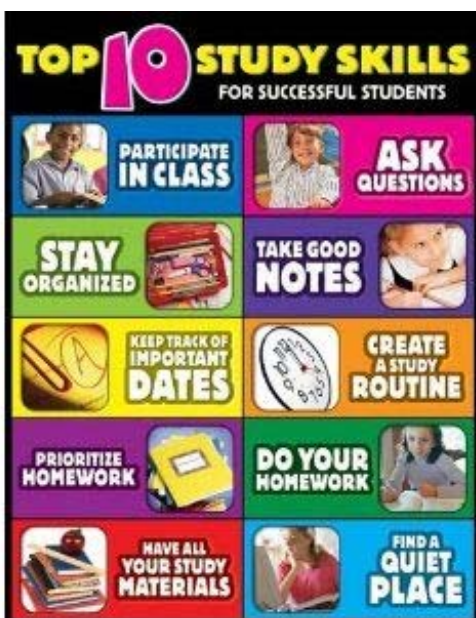
In Magnet Algebra, students will complete a unit on Relations and Functions with an emphasis on problem-solving/critical thinking. Relationships may be expressed numerically, algebraically, and/or geometrically. Function notation and properties learned in Unit 1 will be applied throughout the year as we explore many different types of functions. Later this month we will begin looking more specifically at exponential functions and patterns. Our first required county progress check will take place around the last week of October.

Science



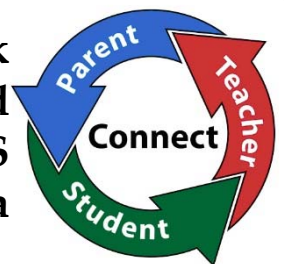
In **NGSS Science 7**, students are reading non-fiction text about “Cellular Structures and Processes.” We are gathering ideas by observing our community as to the characteristics of living, non-living and dead organisms. We will be viewing how different cells are made, their functions and using microscopes to observe and record plant, and animal cell structures. They will be introduced to the unit’s project on growing basil & oregano plants and constructing their own Hydroponics system.

In **Magnet science class** students are studying the chemistry of life by beginning the unit with a study of its characteristics. Students are now learning basic organic chemistry which will lead in to the four major bio-molecules. We will also study several major biochemical pathways to develop a better understanding on how cells use the materials we consume. At the end of the unit students will learn about the structure and function of cells. This unit culminates with students designing and constructing a hydroponics system with the premise that students will be able to describe the development of life from a single cell (the seed) to a multi-cellular organism (the plant).



Stay Connected:

Please regularly check your child’s grades and assignments on MyMCPS classroom, the agenda book, and binder.





English

In English classes, students will be wrapping up the writing of a personal narrative with a clear climax and message. Then, students are continuing their study of plot structure and theme as they study some dystopian short fiction and the novel, *The Giver* by Lois Lowry. To finish out the quarter, students will be writing their own fictional piece that conveys a strong theme. In addition to literature study, students are working on perfecting their writing structure with correct punctuation to avoid run-on sentences



U.S. History

In 8th grade U.S. History, we are analyzing the escalating tension between the colonists and the British government that will culminate in the Revolutionary War. We have examined the purposes of government and possible methods of change to evaluate the relationship between Britain and the Colonies. Furthermore, we have investigated the impacts of the slave trade and British territorial expansion through maps and accounts of those enslaved. We will continue to use primary and secondary sources to find corroboration on such events as the Boston Massacre and the tax acts (taxation without representation!).

Math 8

During the month of October, the students will continue to study Unit 1-Topic 2 (Rational and Irrational Numbers) where students will work with different types of integers and using fractions and decimals to solve equations. We will take our test in the middle of the month and then move to Topic 3 (Pythagorean Theorem) where students will identify categories of numbers as well as apply what we learned in topic 2 to solve for missing sides of triangles. The students need to come to class focused, willing to participate, ready to learn and ask questions with a positive attitude. We are available for extra help every lunch period. After-school help is available, but must be set up by his/her teacher. County progress checks are scheduled for November and will cover every topic we study. It is worth 10% of the grade.

Algebra

During September we worked on solving linear and literal equations in one variable, solving equations by using mathematical properties to justify and understand the reasoning behind the solving process, and interpreted the meaning of expressions by attending to the units associated with each variable of a literal equation. In October we will delve into solving inequalities in one variable, understanding the basic laws of exponents, and will work on articulating the differences and similarities in solving equations, inequalities and in solving linear equations and exponential equations.



Honors Geometry

In September, we learned how to perform geometric constructions and each type of rigid transformation. We ended September with an assessment on multiple transformations and combine our skills by constructing shapes and then performing transformations on our constructions this month. In the month of October we will study Topic 3 which involves Congruence of Triangles. In this unit students establish triangle congruence criteria, based on analyses of rigid motions and formal constructions. They begin by comparing examples of rigid and non-rigid transformations to establish that rigid transformations maintain congruency, but the congruency discussion quickly focuses to triangle congruence so that students have a familiar foundation for the development of formal proof (which we will learn later in the year). County progress checks are scheduled for the end of October and will cover every topic we study. It is worth 10% of the grade.

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Sep-
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Science

This month in 8th Grade Science we will be investigating both global and local weather patterns. Students will learn about the water cycle and the impacts it has on our world, as well as air masses and how they determine the daily weather. We will also explore the factors that impact the climate of a region.



Magnet Science

Magnet Science students are currently working on the Meteorology Unit. They will be investigating the properties of the atmosphere by collecting and analyzing meteorological data to forecast the weather. Students have decided their topic for their Capstone project and have begun background research. They are investigating recent research, technical challenges and various ideas to solve the world issue they are investigating.

Magnet Computer Science

8th grade Computer Science classes will continue to expand their knowledge in Python programming. The topics will be covered are tracing program, review basics, data types, string manipulation and functions. They will learn What Does This Program Do and Number System as a part of the fundamental computer design learning.

Computer Applications

Students in 8th grade Computer Application class will continue to use Turbo Typing to enhance their typing skills. Students will expand their knowledge of Google Docs functionalities by researching information of their favorite city online and writing a suggestion in a friendly-letter format.

8th Grade Homework Club

Study! Learn! Get Help!

Who? All 8th graders are invited

Where? Room 317 with Ms. Manchester

When? Every Thursday after school

World languages Department October Newsletter



Spanish

Spanish 1A (full year)—Sra. Carroll

In Spanish 1A Full Year, students begin the year with the basics of Spanish. Throughout the months of August and September we learn the ABCs and numbers to learn to tell time and talk about the calendar. These fundamentals allow us to move more smoothly into new units. Students have also studied and applied various greetings and farewells in the context of formal and informal conversations. In the coming month we use the calendar dates to talk about our birthdays and holidays. Days of the week and months of the year will be incorporated into our study of dates, weather and seasons. At the end of the unit students will complete a project that incorporates all the basics of the Welcome to Spanish unit. Homework completion is essential to success in this high school credit-bearing class. In the beginning of the year most homework is Oral Practice. As we learn to read and write more, written HW will become more consistent. Flashcards and walking around speaking out loud at home are good ways to practice. Any method that suits your student's learning style will work. Parents and students should monitor MyMCPS for grade reports and homework assignments. Students should also have HW written in agenda books. Please encourage students to talk with Ms. Carroll if they need help with specific concepts.

Spanish 1B (full year)—Señora Stanton-Brand and Sra. Guevara

Students are just finishing up a review of material from Spanish 1A and are beginning a brand new unit of study. The units this year are Pastimes, Family, Housing, Clothing/Shopping. We are currently studying leisure time activities; where we go and what we do when we are not in school. The verb "ir" with locations is our main grammar focus in this unit. Students will also talk about how often, with whom and at what time they participate in certain leisure activities. Students are encouraged to study current and previous vocabulary every night for at least 10 minutes, in addition to their normal homework. In addition to vocabulary study and grammar instruction, students will be practicing, and will be assessed on their ability to use the language in real-world, meaningful ways, to prepare them for application of the Spanish language in real life. Parents and students should check MyMCPS Classroom regularly for important dates and grades.

Spanish 1AB— Sra. Carroll and Sra. Vogel

Students are completing Unit 1 on the basics of Spanish. Students learned the ABCs, 123s, basic greetings, and how to talk about the calendar. In October students will study *¿Quién soy yo?* Who am I? Students will learn to describe their likes and dislikes and talk about activities. They will also describe their personalities and learn to talk about friends and family. Grammar concepts covered in this second unit include infinitive verbs, subject pronouns, and gender/number agreement. Students should be diligent about checking MyMCPS Classroom for homework and missing work. Parents are encouraged to use MyMCPS Classroom to monitor student progress and help students keep up with assignments. Students should also have HW written in their agenda books. Students are also expected to review their vocabulary words and class notes for 10-15 minutes every day, in addition to any assigned homework, to help build vocabulary usage and healthy study skills for this demanding high-school level class.

Spanish 2A- Señora Guevara and Señora Vogel

In 2A, students began the year reviewing material from Level 1. Students will dive into a new unit called La Vida Escolar that revolves around school life, both academic and extracurricular. The pace of the class moves quickly and students are encouraged to establish a routine of studying every week night for 10-15 minutes (in addition to assigned homework) in order to help build vocabulary and ease with structures. There are many resources on MyMCPS Classroom for them to practice such as Quizlet, an online flashcard website which allows students to make flashcards for vocabulary but also verb conjugations as well. Students and parents should also check MyMCPS Classroom regularly for important dates and to keep up with grades.

Spanish 3A—Señora Stanton-Brand

In 3A, students have a chance to review and expand on grammar structures (present, preterit, imperfect tenses) from 1AB and 2AB within the first three units of the semester while incorporating new vocabulary related to units such as recreational activities in the outdoors. They will continue to refine their mastery of the preterite and imperfect past tenses applied in context, as well as improving their mastery over their use of other prior grammar concepts applied in the context of these first 3 units. In October, students will begin describing different visual and performing art forms of the Spanish-speaking world. In addition to regular homework assignments, Spanish 3 students need to establish a routine of studying their individual feedback notes, and prior vocabulary, every week night for 10-15 minutes, as well as practicing on conjugemos.com for 5-10 minutes to continue to keep fresh the MANY conjugations they have learned at this point. These practices will help reinforce their vocabulary and continuous comfort with grammar structures, so that they can easily and fluidly be applied to more and more complex topics, in both writing and speaking. Students can also use online resources, such as Quizlet, online grammar videos and listening practice. Make sure to monitor MyMCPS to make up or re-assess any assignments.

french

French 1 (Mme Finklea)

Students will learn to describe their likes and dislikes (from ice cream to playing chess). Ask your child to tell you in French what s/he likes and doesn't like! Parents should check agenda books for HW and encourage students to study vocabulary at home. Parents may also check MyMCPS Classroom for daily homework announcements and weekly student progress reports.

French 1a Full Year (Mme Ribière)

Students will learn to count up to 39, name objects in the classroom and ask questions. Ask your child to tell you in French numbers you come across in real life such as prices at the supermarket! Parents should check agenda books for HW and encourage students to study vocabulary at home. Parents may also check MyMCPS Classroom for daily homework assignments and weekly student progress reports.

French 2 (Mme Finklea)

French 2 students will continue work in a unit on holidays and celebrations. We'll be getting into the meat of the *passé composé* and learning about direct and indirect object pronouns—a heavy grammar unit. Ask your child to tell you about how holidays are celebrated differently in France, and ask them to teach you about direct objects and how they work in French! Parents may check agenda books for HW and (please!) encourage students to study vocabulary at home. Parents may also check MyMCPS Classroom for daily homework announcements and weekly student progress reports.

French 3 (Mme Ribière)

In French 3, we will be finishing our unit on back to school. By the end of October, we will be discussing professions and the workplace in francophone countries and begin our study of the future. Ask your child to tell you how things are different in the French work place. Parents should check agenda books for HW and encourage students to study vocabulary at home. Parents may also check MyMCPS Classroom for daily homework assignments and weekly student progress reports.

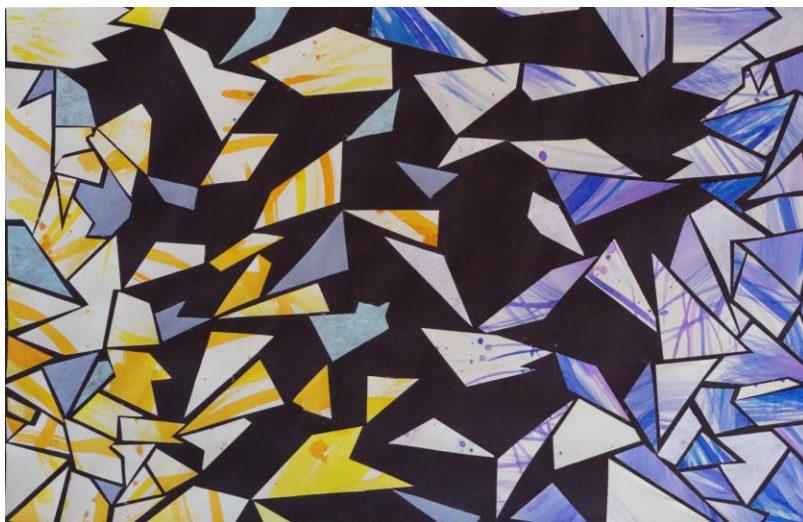
Arts and Physical Education October 2018 Newsletter

Art—Ms. Spera



In October, the sixth graders will be creating a three dimensional mask. They will be considering the choice of colors to create a sense of an emotion. They will also be working with a variety of materials to complete the design.

The seventh graders are creating a travel poster. They will be creating two different compositions to layout the words and iconic image from the place they are advertising. They will then use sharpie markers and paint to create the image they have chosen from their plans.



The eighth graders will be creating a piece of non-objective art. (This means it does not represent or depict a person, place or thing in the natural world.) They use different tools to paint watercolors on a piece of paper, then cut it up and reconstruct it on a new piece of paper. Then add another type of paper or marker to complete the composition.

FACS — Ms. Davis

In September:

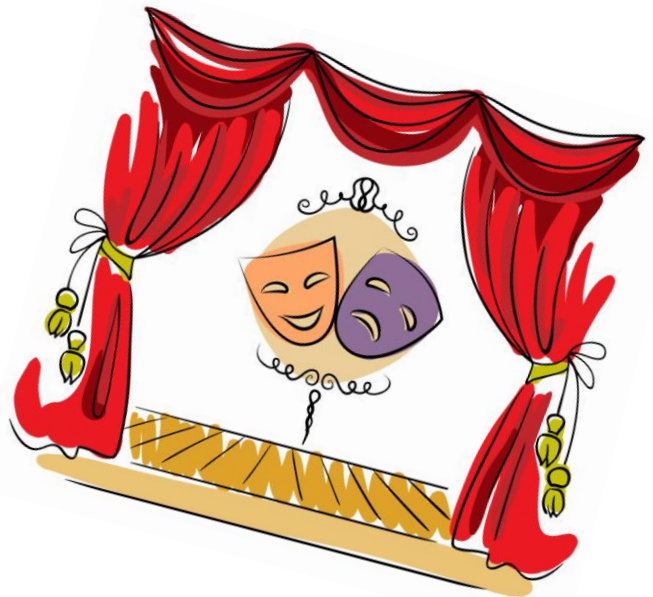
- Sixth grade students explored their values and reflected on Respect, Relationships, and Responsibilities, Decision Making, and Communication.
- Seventh grade students explored financial literacy. They learned about wants and needs and discussed what one would need in case of an emergency or identity theft. Students finished the unit with a budget simulation activity.
- Eighth grade students explored careers. They completed a job application for my imaginary "Davis Designs Bakery" and answered interview questions. Then completed a career research using Education Planner and O Net Online.

In October, all students will work on their sewing projects:

- Sixth grade students will create an applique that they will hand stitch onto a pillow and complete on a sewing machine.
- Seventh grade students will make chef hats.
- Eighth grade students will make aprons.

Theatre — Ms. Murphy

Ms. Murphy welcomes her semester 1 students to theatre! So far students have been building interpersonal skills, learning about their classmates, and starting to investigate what exactly theatre is. Students have been learning basic vocabulary as well as basic rules of theatre. Coming up in October, students will begin organizing in groups to begin writing scenes that they will be presenting on Thursday January 16, 2020 in our Semester Theatre Scenes Night, as well as beginning our unit on improvisation.



General Music and Chorus — Mr. Liddle

This year is off to another great start. Students are settling into classes and digging into new music and materials. This summer I was able to continue to reflect on the successes of the past five years of the program and to make plans to keep the program moving forward to better serve our young music students. More equipment and music have been ordered and I'm rolling out updated or new materials each day. The students continue to impress me with their willingness to try new things, their openness to getting to know me and their peers, and their ability to adapt quickly to a program that continues to develop. Smiles abound in the room and there is an energy in the air of creativity and experimentation.

General Music Students have started on their chosen or assigned instruments and our first rounds of assessments have begun and we are quickly moving toward applying skills learned

into playing in bands. Students in Chorus have begun or continue to experiment and develop their growing voices. Chorus students are beginning to thrive in their sections and are digging into new music with energy and purpose. We are rehearsing diligently to prepare for our first concert of the year on October 23 at Montgomery Blair HS as part of a cluster concert featuring elementary, middle, and high school choirs. If you have not done so, please mark your calendars for our first performance of the year! I will send home more info in the coming weeks.

Contemporary Communications and TV Studio -- Mr. Wilson

In Level One TV Studio/Media Literacy, students have been reading, writing, and talking about media. Now it's time to make some! We are moving into our "production" phase of the class, in which students will create their own short videos and learn the basics of video production.

In Level Two TV Studio/Media Literacy, students are in various stages of their first video production. Some groups have already finished, while others are still editing their footage. After students complete their ad or PSA (incorporating both an insert shot and over the shoulder shots) they will learn how to make their first video "News Package".

In Level Three TV Studio/Media Literacy, students are wrapping up their first scripted production and beginning to work on their "news piece". We will also be introduced to the "Biography" video, which will be a short documentary style video about a historically significant individual.

Physical Education- Mr. Baker, Ms. Shiffman, Mr. Kinhart, Ms. Smoot, Mr. Schoenert, Mr.

"The Physical Education Department wants to welcome everyone to a new school year. We have several helpful links to share with parents and students. The PE Department handed students a copy of the [PE Handout](#) on the first day of class. Copies were made available to parents during Back to School Night. The handout has information regarding curriculum, policies, and after school programs. The department will continue to use the [Grade-Level- Outcomes-for-K-12-PE](#) to create a learning environment that promotes health and fitness literacy. Parents and students can view the [2019 - 2020 PE Unit Schedule](#) to see the scheduled units for the year."

Orchestra & Band — Ms. Pasquale

This is going to be a superior year. This year's instrumental music students are some of the best students TPMS has ever had! Students in the TPMS bands and orchestras are working on the first pieces that they will perform for the Winter Concerts. Many have found the music challenging and are excited about the process of perfecting the music individually and as ensembles. We are pleased to announce our new 6th grade string, wind and percussion players! What a wonderful group of kids. It was a challenging start since the class is brand new but we have begun to play our first pieces and master the difficulty of tuning. 1st year students should be turning in their practice records the first class of each week. Practice sheets have been phased out for 2nd & 3rd year students. All the classes have

completed their first playing tests (passoffs) and are working on developing ensemble intonation and technique. We are working to develop a full instrumentation and switching students to some of the larger instruments to fill out the ensemble sound (tuba, string bass, bass clarinet, French horn, and oboe). TPMS Jazz ensemble auditions are ongoing and have already begun rehearsing with returning students. All students should have joined the google classroom. Look for announcements of upcoming events and calendars on the Google Classroom and Canvas (MyMCPS) under the Classwork tab or File tab respectively.





What's new in the Media Center?



Takoma Park Middle School Media Center News

October 2019

The Boooo-k Fair is Coming!!!

The annual TPMS Scholastic Book Fair will be held October 21—25, in the Media Center. Profits from the fair will be used to enhance the Media Center collection. Parents are welcome to drop in and shop any time!

Students may pay with cash or eWallet. Credit cards are accepted from adults. EWallet is a digital payment option that allows your child to shop cash free at the fair with a spending limit set by you. To set up eWallet and shop the online fair, visit:

<https://www.scholastic.com/bf/tpms2019>

Parents who would like to volunteer at the fair can sign up at:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409094dafaa2aa13-book6>



For questions, contact:

Jessica_M_Phelan@mcpsmd.org

Hope to see you at the Book Fair!

-Ms. Phelan

Current Media Center News

6th Grade Orientation

6th grade students visited the Media Center for orientation with their English classes. Students learned how to check out books and eBooks, joined the Media Center Google Classroom, and located resources in the Media Center.

Book Selection

7th & 8th grade English, ESOL, and reading classes visited the Media Center to select books & eBooks for independent reading.

Banned Books Week

Banned Books Week is an annual event celebrating the freedom to read. From September 23—27, Banned Books were displayed in the library, along with information on why books are challenged, highlighting the value of free and open access to information.

Media Center Volunteers

New student volunteers received training and will begin earning SSL hours for working in the Media Center during lunch or before school.



Borrowing eBooks

Download the **Sora, by Overdrive** app on your mobile device to access our collection of eBooks. Many new titles are available, including this year's Black-Eyed Susan Award nominees. Be sure to set your school to Takoma Park Middle School!

EBooks can also be accessed on the web using the Chrome browser through Destiny Discover:

<https://search.follettsoftware.com/metasearch/ui/2604/>

Log in with your MCPS student ID and computer password.

See Ms. Phelan for questions about eBooks.

Join the TPMS Media Center Google Classroom

Class Code: xee166

All TPMS students should join the TPMS Media Center Google Classroom.

Here you will find information on how to access all of our online resources (including usernames and passwords).