

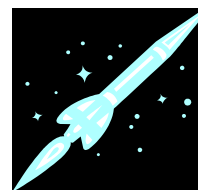


PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Dr. Nelson McLeod, Principal

December, 2008/January, 2009

Richard Montgomery High School



RM Rocket Pride!

School Updates - Part 1

Dear Richard Montgomery High School Community:

- This month, *The Washington Post* released the Challenge Index for the Washington metropolitan area. **Richard Montgomery High School was ranked #2 in the region and the highest in Montgomery County.** The *Washington Post* Challenge Index is a regional ranking of 160 high schools in Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia based on the relative rigor of their academic programs.
- Congratulations to **Alie Brooks**, junior, and **Kristy Choi**, sophomore, on their first published articles in *The Washington Post*. Their reviews of Einstein High School's *Flowers for Algernon* and Gaithersburg High School's *And Then There Were None* were the best written for the Post's Young Critic Program and were printed in the Montgomery County Extra Magazine.
- *The Tide* recently won a gold rating from the Maryland District of Columbia Scholastic Press Association. Also, several students won individual awards. Congratulations to **Daphne Mlachila, Leslie Adkins, Upasana Kaku, Valerie Soon, Linyao Sun, Maya Krishnan, and Deepanjali Jain.**
- The Siemens Foundation recently selected **Sarah Paleg**, senior, as a finalist in the 2008-2009 Siemens Competition in Math, Science and Technology. With its high academic standards, rigorous judging process and emphasis on authentic scientific research, the Siemens Competition is regarded as one of the leading science and mathematics research-based competitions for high school students. A banner will be displayed acknowledging our finalist at Richard Montgomery High School.
- **Cayla Jakubowski**, freshman, was recently recommended and is serving as a student representative on the Curriculum Advisory Assembly (CAA) during the 2008-2009 school year. Student contributions to the efforts of this group will benefit the curriculum and instructional program throughout Montgomery County Public Schools.
- A decision was made at the December 9th Board of Education meeting to designate Inauguration Day, January 20, 2009, as a holiday in Montgomery County Public Schools. All schools and offices will be closed. A copy of the exam schedule is included in this newsletter.
- Our next Principal's coffee is Thursday, January 15, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. The topic is Special Education. Cynthia Webb, supervisor, Division of School-Based Special Education Services, will be attending the meeting. We would like to get feedback regarding the Special Education Delivery Model at Richard Montgomery High School.
- Reminder!! For the safety of our students, parents should not drop-off students in the bus area.

Thank you for your continued support of Richard Montgomery High School.

—Nelson McLeod, PhD
Principal

Important Upcoming Dates:

- 12/24-12/25: Holiday—Christmas
- 12/26-1/2: Winter Break—no school for students
- 1/06: Julius West Incoming Ninth Grade Parent Meeting, 7:30pm
- 1/07: Athletic Booster Club Meeting
- 1/15: Special Education Parent Meeting, 7:00pm
- 1/19: Holiday—Martin Luther King's Birthday
- 1/20: Holiday—Presidential Inauguration Day
- 1/21: Financial Aid Night, 7:30pm
- 1/23: Second Marking Period Ends
- 1/26: Professional Day—No School for Students
- 2/02: Report Card Distribution

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Congratulations All State and Honors Instrumental Music Students

Congratulations to the following students for auditioning for and making this year's county and state honors ensembles:

All State Jr. Orchestra

Alice Chang - Violin
Cynthia Gan - Cello
Jean Lee - Violin - alternate

All State Jr. Band

Ben Hsen - Bass Clarinet
Eunah Lee- Flute
Stephen Kostka - Baritone Sax - alternate

All State Senior Orchestra

Elena Perry - Violin
Lydia Cho - Violin
Alina Hwang-Violin
Lydia Liang- Viola
Yvonne Shiau - Cello
Marissa Zhong - Cello
Andrew Yu - Cello - alternate

MCPS Senior Honors Band

Emily Glassford - Clarinet
Ezra Kebrab - French Horn - Principal
Raishay Lin - Flute

MCPS Senior Honors Orchestra

Tatios Kebrab - Cello
Melissa Yang - Violin - alternate

MCPS Jr. Honors Orchestra

Jean Lee - Violin

MCPS Jr. Honors Band

Somin Kwon - Clarinet
Ben Hsen - Bass Clarinet
Eunah Lee- Flute



Richard Montgomery Sports Updates

The winter sports season began on Friday, December 5th, and include the following:

- Boys/Girls Basketball
- Boys/Girls Swimming and Diving
- Boys/Girls Indoor Track
- Wrestling
- Cheerleading
- Poms

Winter sportsmanship is paramount. Expectations are for positive behavior by players, coaches and spectators.

The girls varsity volleyball team has achieved the highest grade point average this fall. The average GPA is 3.69. The boys cross country team achieved an average GPA of 3.31 which is the highest for boys this fall. There were 29 athletes in fall sports that had 4.00 GPA's and 200 athletes or 54% of the fall athletes made the Maryland "Minds in Motion Program." The "Minds in Motion Program" is sponsored by the Maryland Athletic Association and recognizes athletes who achieve a 3.25 or better grade point average while participating in interscholastic athletics. Congratulations to all of our fall athletes!



Yearbook Reminder

Place your orders for the 2008-2009 Richard Montgomery High School yearbook. You can order your yearbook now and get the best discount. Prices are as follows:

- Order by February 1 \$70
- Order after February 1 \$75

Order forms for the yearbook are in the main office. Also, complete order forms with payment can should be placed in the box in the main office. Please contact Ms. Carper, yearbook advisor, to place your order.



Richard Montgomery HS Important Phone Numbers—

RMHS—Main Office	301-610-8000
Counseling Office:	301-610-8050
Registrar:	301-610-8055
Athletic Director:	301-610-8075
Career Center:	301-610-8064
Business Manager:	301-610-8011
Financial Office:	301-610-8012
Attendance Office:	301-610-8010

Edline Activation Codes Mailed to Parents

Richard Montgomery High School is committed to improve communication with parents in order to ensure success for all of our students. In that regard, the school mailed approximately 800 letters to selected parents this month. Our goal is for 100% of our parents to activate their Edline accounts. Each letter contained the parent's Edline activation code and instructions on the activation process in English and Spanish. It is important for parents to activate their accounts and to check Edline regularly. During the activation process, please include an email address where teachers can reach you. In addition to viewing your student's grades under "Private Reports", parents can

also access a wealth of information from each class. By clicking on the name of the class, parents and students have access to a calendar and other resources specific to the class. If you have any questions about Edline, contact Mr. Awono at 301-610-8157 or Parfait_Awono@mcpsmd.org.

Congratulations to Richard Montgomery Cheerleaders

The Richard Montgomery High School Varsity cheerleader squad placed second in the Montgomery County Cheerleading competition. The competition was held at Montgomery Blair High School on Saturday, November 22, 2008. First place was awarded to the Churchill High School cheerleading squad. Third place was awarded to Paint Branch High School. Dr. McLeod presented each cheerleader with a yellow rose at the competition. Congratulations to our girls for their excellent performance and demonstration of positive RM spirit. We look forward to them having a successful winter season in cheering on the girls and boys basketball teams.

Testing Updates

The next testing date for the SAT will be Saturday, January 24th. Students should be registering now for this testing date. Students who are planning on taking the SAT can visit the collegeboard.com website for additional test preparation information. Mary Hull, College Information and Career Coordinator, and guidance counselors are also available to provide information regarding the SAT's.

The Final Prep online resource to prepare students the week before taking the test is available through the MCPS website. Additional information about the Final Prep program is available in the main office and guidance department.

The Maryland State Department of Education is still reviewing final High School Assessment qualifications for the Class of 2009. The next testing date for students graduating in June 2009, will be January 12, 2009, through January 15, 2009. Students who qualify to complete a Bridge Plan should be meeting with their counselor to discuss options. Currently, H S A/ Bridge Plan support sessions are being held every Tuesday and Thursday from 2:30 p.m.-4:00 p.m. in room 163. Students should see their guidance counselor for more information about the support sessions.



Graduation Information

The date for graduation is Monday, June 8, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. The graduation ceremony will be at DAR Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C. Seniors have ordered their cap and gown and received information regarding upcoming parent meetings and other pertinent dates.

The graduation ticket request letter was sent home by seniors in November. The forms were due back to the Main Office by December 19, 2008. All seniors will be allocated six tickets. If you need less than six tickets, indicate the total number that you will need on the form and return the form to the Main Office. If you need additional tickets, please indicate the number on the form and return. Additional ticket requests will be honored on a first come, first served basis.

We have updated our "Graduation" page on the RM website and will provide additional information throughout the school year. Click on students and the link for "Graduation" to see all the information provided. The Graduation Coordinator is Ms. Amy Weaver and together with the 12th Grade Administrator, Mrs. Matthewson, this will be a grand event!

Attendance Policies

Arrival to School: It is imperative that students arrive on time to school!

Attendance reports must be submitted to the Maryland State Department of Education each morning by 9:15 a.m.. Students arriving to school after are marked absent by their 1st period teacher – which is reflected in our Attendance Report to the state. If your student arrives after 7:40 a.m., it is important that they provide a note (signed by the parent/guardian) to the Attendance Office excusing the student for the time away from school.

Substitute Teachers: Please be patient with our Substitute Teachers.

Substitute Teachers do not have the ability to log students into the Attendance System. Therefore, Substitute Teachers will take manual attendance each class period, and then submit the daily attendance to the Attendance Office at the end of the day. This may cause delays in the system, but our school will make every effort to update the information as quickly as possible.

Early Departures: Please have your child “sign-out” when departing early.

All early departure notes are to be brought to the attendance office before school starts in order for them to receive a pass. The early departure note (signed by a parent/guardian) should state the time and date your student should be excused early from class. NOTE: The Attendance Office will contact parents/guardians about any question or concern relating to early departures.

Tardy to Class: Please tell your child to get to class on time!

Any student who arrives less than 15 minutes late to class (without an excuse in their agenda book) will be marked unexcused tardy – **NOT ABSENT**. If a student arrives more than 15 minutes late to class (with or without a pass or unexcused pass), the student will be marked ABSENT for the class.

Special Situations

Field Trips: At least 2 days prior to a field trip, teachers will submit a roster of students attending a Field Trip. Should your child be unable to attend a Field Trip, please contact the Attendance Office, via phone or email, so the school can update the Attendance System.

Athletic Teams: Coaches will submit a list of student athletes, and the date and time the teams will be dismissed from school, for individual athletic events.

Should a parent/guardian have any questions or concerns regarding a student absence, please feel free to contact the Attendance Office for clarification. While we realize that the Attendance System is not flawless, we are more than happy to correct situations as they arise.

School Updates - Part 2

- We are moving forward with the software for the foreign language lab. The software was tested by MCPS and we have received the final approval. My plan is a three tier installation model. The first tier would involve 17 licenses this winter. The second tier is June 2009, and the last tier is December 2009.
- The Division of Construction started last month with the enhancements to Main Street. Phase one of all of the painting and new signage are complete. Also, we have purchased additional bulletin boards for Main Street. Music, SGA, SSL, Senior Class, Guidance, and Career Center now have an identified area for announcements.
- Richard Montgomery High School will conduct an instructional walkthrough regarding our inclusion classes on Tuesday, January 16, 2009, with the Office of Special Education and Student Services. The walkthrough is not evaluative, but to get feedback regarding our delivery model for the 2009-2010 school year.
- To increase school spirit, I met with the SGA delegates last month to solicit their input on ways to enhance school spirit. Student delegates completed a principal survey regarding school spirit. Also, the Principal's January Staff Dialogue will focus on enhancing school spirit.
- **Molly Clarkson**, English teacher, recently received notification that she earned National Board Certification in Early Adolescent Young Adulthood English Language Arts.
- I am pleased to inform you that **Luanne Schinzel** will serve as our Staff Development Teacher for the remainder of the school year. For the past six years she has worked as a staff development teacher, long term substitute, in MCPS. Her mentoring work at the University of Maryland, College Park has placed her in many different schools within the MCPS system. Her work both as a reading consultant and as a group facilitator providing training in staff supervision and team building has given her an enriching experience of working with both students and staff across many different counties in the state within both public and non-public school settings.

Hispanic Outreach

Ask the principal in Spanish? Yes! Last November, Dr. McLeod hosted an *Ask the Principal* evening for Spanish-speaking parents. Over 40 parents and students attended the meeting. Parents expressed interest in topics such as High School Assessments (HSA), Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), after school tutoring and Edline.

Specific questions about HSA's were answered in the December 8th meeting. Ms. Gina Anazco, community coordinator, MCPS Department of Family and Community Partnership, led the discussion with a Spanish-language presentation on the HSA.

Spanish-speaking parents are invited to share their questions at our monthly Latino Parent Meetings. The third meeting is scheduled for January 12 at 7:00 PM, will address the Scholastic aptitude Test (SAT). In Spanish? Yes!

¿Pregúntele al director en español? ¡Sí! El pasado mes de noviembre el Dr. McLeod se reunió con los padres latinos. Más de 40 padres y estudiantes vinieron y expresaron interés en temas como los High School Assessments (HSA), el Scholastic Aptitude Test (exámenes para solicitar entrada en universidades), tutoría después del día escolar y el sistema de comunicación de calificaciones Edline.

Los requisitos de los HSA fueron explicados en la reunión del 8 de diciembre, donde la Sra. Gina Anazco del departamento de Colaboración de Familias y Comuni-

dad de MCPS hizo una presentación en español sobre el tema.

Los padres hispanohablantes están invitados a las conversaciones mensuales. La tercera reunión será el 12 de enero, 2009 a las 7:00 PM. El tema a tratar es el examen de SAT. ¿En español? ¡Sí!



Richard Montgomery High School
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Please Note: The *Principal's Report* is posted monthly on the Richard Montgomery High School web site (<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/rmhs/>). Printed copies are available in the Main Office. This issue was mailed home because of the change to the first semester exam schedule.

First Semester—Exam Schedule (January 2009)

Thursday, January 15	Review Day
Friday, January 16	Period 6 & 7 Exams
Wednesday, January 21	Period 4 & 5 Exams
Thursday, January 22	Period 2 & 3 Exams
Friday, January 23	Period 1 & Make-up Exams

Exam times:

7:25 a.m.—9:25 a.m.

Break

10:00 a.m.—12:00 noon