



PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Dr. Nelson McLeod, Principal

April, 2009

Richard Montgomery High School



RM Rocket Pride!

School Updates - Part 1

Dear Richard Montgomery High School Community:

- The Richard Montgomery High School Dedication ceremony is Saturday, April 18 at 10:00 a.m. The Madrigals, Jazz Ensemble, and drama students from *The Baker's Wife* will perform at the ceremony. All students and parents are invited to attend this special ceremony.
- Congratulations to **Bob Hines**, Social Studies Resource Teacher, who has been selected to receive the Archeological Society of Maryland's Patricia Seitz Memorial Teacher of the Year Award. He will receive this award at the annual Spring Symposium which is held in St. Mary's City, Maryland.
- **Jiayi Yang**, a junior at Richard Montgomery High School, is one of the two final candidates for Student Member of the Board of Education. The candidates were selected by students at a nominating convention held Thursday, March 5 at James Hubert Blake High School, from among five students who were vying for the position. The two finalists will campaign until the election, scheduled for Wednesday, April 29, at all secondary schools.
- **Elena Perry**, senior, is a finalist for the Bill of Rights Institute essay contest. She was featured recently in *The Washington Post*.
- Congratulations to **Robert Cai**, junior, who has been selected to receive a Howard Hughes Medical Institute/National Institutes of Health/Montgomery County Public Schools (HHMI/NIH/MCPS) Student Internship for the 2009-2010 school year. The internship program begins Monday, June 22, 2009, and continues full time for eight weeks through the summer.
- Congratulations to **Alex Steinbarth** and **Lisa Deng**, IB Art students, who have been selected for scholarships to the Yellow Barn Studio and Gallery in Glen Echo's National Park. These students submitted some of their works to be reviewed and were awarded the scholarships based on the merit of their portfolios.
- Richard Montgomery High School could have another International Brain Bee winner. Recently, **Julia Chartove**, junior, won the United States National Brain Bee. She will represent the United States and Richard Montgomery High School in the International Brain Bee in Toronto this August.

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

—Nelson McLeod, PhD
Principal

Important Upcoming Dates:

- 4/6-4/9: Spring break—No school for students
- 4/10, 4/13: Easter holidays—No school for students
- 4/15: National College Fair
- 4/16: Report Card Distribution
- 4/18: School Dedication
- 4/20-4/24: HSA Testing
- 4/21: Senior Banquet—Golden Bull Restaurant, 5:30-8:30pm
- 5/1: International Night, 7:00pm
- 5/2: SAT administered
- 5/4-5/22: AP/IB Testing
- 5/15: Junior/Senior Prom—Bethesda Hyatt Regency
- 5/18-5/21: HSA Testing
- 5/25: Holiday—Memorial Day
- 6/6: SAT administered
- 6/8: Graduation—DAR Constitution Hall
- 6/13: ACT administered
- 6/16: Last day for students
- 6/23: Report Cards mailed

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National Merit and National Achievement Finalists

Richard Montgomery High School had 38 National Merit finalists and one National Achievement finalist this year. The finalists were recently awarded certificates and honored at a reception during the school day. The National Merit® Scholarship Program is an academic competition for recognition and scholarships that began in 1955. High school students enter the National Merit Program by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®)—a test which serves as an initial screen of approximately 1.5 million entrants each year—and by meeting published program entry/participation requirements.

The National Achievement® Scholarship Program is an academic competition established in 1964 to provide recognition for outstanding Black American high school students. Black students may enter both the National Achievement Program and the National Merit® Program by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®) and meeting other published requirements for participation. The two annual programs are conducted concurrently but operated and funded separately. A student's standing is determined independently in each program. Black American students can qualify for recognition and be honored as Scholars in both the National Merit Program and the National Achievement Program, but can receive only one monetary award from NMSC.

To participate in the National Merit® Scholarship Program, a student must take the PSAT/NMSQT® in their junior year. Students must meet a minimum PSAT score to advance in the competition. From those test scores 50,000 students advance to the category of Commended Scholar or Semifinalist. Semifinalists must advance to Finalist standing in the competition by meeting high academic standards and all other requirements. In early September, about 16,000 students, or approximately one-third of the 50,000 high scorers, are notified that they have qualified as **Semifinalists**. Semifinalists are designated on a state representational basis. They are the highest scoring entrants in each state. To be considered for a National Merit or National Achievement Scholarship, Semifinalists must advance to Finalist standing in the competition by meeting high academic standards. In Febru-

ary, some 15,000 Semifinalists are notified that they have advanced to **Finalist** standing. All winners of Merit Scholarship and National Achievement awards are chosen from the Finalist group, based on their abilities, skills, and accomplishments—without regard to gender, race, ethnic origin, or religious preference. A variety of information is available for NMSC selectors to evaluate—the Finalist's academic record, information about the school's curricula and grading system, two sets of test scores, school official's written recommendation, information about the student's activities and leadership, and the Finalist's own essay.

Beginning in March and continuing to mid-June, NMSC notifies approximately 8,200 Finalists at their home addresses that they have been selected to receive a Merit Scholarship or National Achievement award. Merit Scholarship awards are of three types: National Merit (from NMSC); corporate-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards; and College-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards.

Please congratulate the following students who were Finalists at Richard Montgomery High School:

Richard Montgomery High School Finalists

Stephanie Bastek	Abiola Laniyonu*
Jeremy Blair	Raishay Lin
Sara Bloem	My-Linh Nguyen
Hanfu Chai	Charlotte Pfeifer
Eric Cheng	Anne Pi
Arielle Fein	Martin Posthumus
Bonnie Goldberg	Nathan Prillaman
Kevin Haaga	Jeffrey Rappaport
Samuel Hopkins	Helen Rave
Elena Hutchinson	Nicholas Shawen
Katherine Ip	Weili Shi
Keith Jamieson	David Shiao
Lucas Johns	Yvonne Shiao
Upasana Kaku	Linyao Sun
Rachel Karitis	Peter Suzich
Kara Karpman	Jonah Wacholder
Rachel King	Jing Yuan
Leon Ko	Lin Yuan
Claire Kwong	Ivy Zhou

* Also National Achievement Finalist

Richard Montgomery HS — Important Phone Numbers

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

National College Fair for Students—April 15, 2009

The Montgomery County National College Fair will be held Wednesday, April 15, 2009, from 9:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. and Thursday, April 16, 2009, from 9:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at the Montgomery County Agricultural Center in Gaithersburg, Maryland. Sponsored by the National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC) and Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) and hosted by the Potomac and Chesapeake Association for College Admission Counseling (PCACAC), this event is free and open to the public.

Attending a college fair is an excellent way to gather information about colleges and universities. The National College Fair program provides valuable resources for students and parents attempting to navigate the college-admission process. The fair allows students and parents to meet with admission representatives from a wide range of national and interna-

tional, public and private, two-year and four-year colleges and universities.

Participants will learn about admission requirements, financial aid, course offerings, and campus environment, as well as other information pertinent to the college-selection process. At the fair's counseling center, students and parents can discuss their individual needs with college experts.

On Wednesday, April 15, 2009, students from Richard Montgomery High School will attend the fair. Permission slips are available in the career center and must be turned in by Thursday, April 2. The \$5 charge covers the cost of the MCPS bus. If students are unable to attend during the day with their class, there is an evening session available on Wednesday, April 15, 2009, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.



International Night 2009

On Friday, May 1, 2009, at 7:00 p.m., Richard Montgomery High School will be hosting the “extravaganza of the year”: International Night 2009. International Night is entertaining, culturally diverse, and a creative program. Some of the events include:

- Various talented singers performing numbers from countries as far away as Japan, The Philippines, China, and Brazil.
- Dynamic and energetic break dancing from Korea
- Ethnic dancers entertaining you with pieces from India, France, Venezuela, Columbia, and the Middle East.

And much, much more....

In addition, after the performances, you will be invited to visit our *Avenue of the World*. In the transformed cafeteria, you will have a chance to nibble on various multi-cultural foods, talk to experts about their countries of origin, and browse amongst a collection of amazing artifacts.

Tickets are \$5.00 and children under 10 years old are free. All money collected will benefit the ESOL program at Richard Montgomery High School. We look forward to seeing you at International Night 2009!

Graduation Updates

MONDAY, JUNE 8TH IS FAST APPROACHING!! The graduation committee is busy working on plans for graduation at D.A.R. Constitution Hall. Busses will be available for anyone wishing to ride to Constitution Hall. The cost is \$30 per person. The bus will leave from Richard Montgomery High School. Please contact Ms. Amy Weaver at Amy_J_Weaver@mcpsmd.org for further information and reservations. We have arranged for interpreters for the hearing impaired for the ceremony. We are finalizing plans for the graduation speaker and will announce that name as soon as possible.

Please be sure that all seniors have cleared their obligations, paid their senior dues, submitted a ticket request if they need more than 6 tickets, and ordered their cap and gown. The next parent meeting is Thursday, April 30, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. in the cafeteria. Please visit the Richard Montgomery web site and look in the “student” tab for additional information.



Athletic and Sports News

- On Thursday, March 19, the Winter Awards Night was held and was a huge success. Many thanks to the Richard Montgomery High School Boosters for their continued support.
- The winter student athletes continue to shine in the classroom. There were 20 athletes who achieved a 4.0 GPA.
- Spring sports have begun. The Boys and Girls Lacrosse teams opened their season with wins over Wheaton High School. The Baseball and Softball teams are also in the win column as they defeated Poolesville High School. Both the Boys and Girls Track teams competed at Einstein and came back victorious. The Boys Tennis and Volleyball teams are continuing to improve. There are over 210 Spring athletes who are competing for Richard Montgomery High School. Good luck to all!
- The Spring Sports Schedule is updated weekly via the RM ListServ by the Richard Montgomery Boosters and can also be found on the Richard Montgomery web site.
- Many thanks to the Rockville Recreation Department for their help in maintaining the new baseball and softball fields. The field's maintenance staff has done a fantastic job.
- The Athletic department is continuing its effort to improve the facility. Current projects underway include:
 - * New pathway baseball/softball field
 - * Flag poles in the stadium
 - * Safety fence cap in the stadium
 - * New RM stencil for the turf field
 - * Batting cages
 - * Discus cage
 - * Records boards in the gym lobby
- The Athletic Department in conjunction with VOLI productions held an All-Star Basketball game on Wednesday, March 24. The teams were Montgomery County Public Schools and Montgomery County Private Schools. The Montgomery County Public Schools won with a score of 105 over 98 for the Private Schools. Proceeds of approximately \$2200 from the game were for the Leukemia Foundation.

Go Rockets!



Richard Montgomery HS Pilots New County Course

Ethnic Literature is the first course of its kind to be offered in Montgomery County. Maria Nunez-Gaylor, English teacher at Richard Montgomery High School, started the course three years ago in an effort to increase the diversity of the texts students read while in high school. This course helps students develop an understanding of the dynamics of various ethnic groups, how cultural perspectives are reflected in literature. Students then come away better appreciating and understanding what these groups offer to our society.

Topics that students explore include, but are not limited to: impact of cultural heritage on identity, familial relationships, the immigrant experience, assimilation versus acculturation, culture conflict, education and educational systems, and the role of men, women, and children within each culture. In the past, students have read various selections, including Amy Tan's *Joy Luck Club*, Julia Alvarez's *In the Time of the Butterflies*, Arundhati Roy's *The God of Small Things*, and Sherman Alexie's *The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven*.

Every year, they also participate in multicultural stu-

dent programs sponsored by the Smithsonian Museums of Washington, D.C. This year, the students will travel to the Museum of the American Indian to help restore the native plants that were damaged because of the foot traffic during the Presidential Inauguration. Due to the success of RM's pilot of the course, Ethnic Literature is now in the final stages for being approved county-wide for all high schools.

Prom Information

"A Night Under the Stars" is the theme for the 2009 Richard Montgomery High School Prom. Tickets will be on sale during lunch starting Wednesday, April 15, through Monday, April 20. Cost of the ticket is \$65. The prom will be held at the Hyatt Recency Bethesda on Friday, May 15, 2009. Please contact Ms. Weaver or Ms. Wheeler with questions.



You Are Invited!!

MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

and

Richard Montgomery High School

cordially invite you to join members of the
County Council, the Board of Education,
the Superintendent of Schools,
and MCPS staff for the

Dedication and Open House of
Richard Montgomery High School
Saturday, April 18, 2009

10:00 AM - Ceremony

Richard Montgomery High School Auditorium
250 Richard Montgomery Drive
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Richard Montgomery High School

AP and IB May 2009 Exam Schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
4	5	6	7	8
Morning AP US Gov't IB English HL	Morning AP Computer Sci. A AP Computer Sci. AB AP Spanish Lang. IB Chinese SL & HL	Morning AP Calculus AB AP Calculus BC IB History HL	Morning AP English Lit IB Biology SL & HL IB Environ. Syst. SL	Morning AP US History IB Mathematics SL & HL IB Math Studies SL
Afternoon AP Comparative Gov't AP French Lang IB Chinese SL & HL	Afternoon AP Statistics IB History SL & HL	Afternoon AP Chinese IB Biology SL & HL IB Environ. Syst. SL	Afternoon IB Mathematics SL & HL IB Math Studies SL	Afternoon AP European History AP Studio Art
11	12	13	14	15
Morning AP Biology AP Music Theory IB English HL	Morning AP Chemistry AP Environ. Sci. IB Econ. SL & HL	Morning AP English Lang. Physics SL & HL	Morning AP Macroeconomics AP World History	Morning AP Spanish Lit. Music SL & HL
Afternoon AP Physics B AP Physics C - Mech AP Physics C - E&M IB Econ. SL & HL	Afternoon AP Psychology Physics SL & HL	Afternoon IB Spanish A2 S	Afternoon AP Microeconomics IB Mathematics HL	Afternoon
18	19	20	21	22
Morning IB Spanish A2 SL & HL IB Spanish SL & HL	Morning IB Chem. SL & HL	Morning IB Comp. Sci SL & HL	Morning IB French A2 SL & HL IB French SL & HL	Morning IB Psychology SL & HL
Afternoon IB Chem. SL & HL	Afternoon IB Comp. Sci SL & HL	Afternoon IB French A2 SL & HL	Afternoon IB Psychology SL & HL	Afternoon

Please see the RMHS web site for start times and location.

School Updates - Part 2

- The Richard Montgomery Madrigals recently sang in the regional Maryland Music Educators Association Chamber Choir festival. The Madrigals sang two Renaissance madrigals, one in English and the other in Italian, and were awarded with all superior ratings. This qualifies them to proceed to the State Choral Festival on Friday, May 1, 2009.
- Congratulations to the RMHS Wind Ensemble for receiving all superior ratings at the MCPS District Band Festival. The students played very well, receiving perfect scores from some of the judges. This successful performance makes the Wind Ensemble eligible to compete at the Maryland State Band Festival in April.
- Richard Montgomery High School was one of the 96 Montgomery County Public Schools that received certificates of recognition from the Maryland State Department of Education in the 2008 Maryland School Performance Recognition Program. The awards were based on performance for the 2007–2008 High School Assessments (HSA).
- The RM Mock Trial Team defeated Hebrew Academy last month and captured the County Championship. It was their 15th county championship in 18 years.



Safety-Student Drop-offs

We need your assistance with our morning student drop-off. The current morning traffic patterns have become a safety issue for our students. It is a safety hazard to your child and other students to stop in the middle of the road and then drop-off your child. We ask that all drivers only utilize the designated student drop-off area located on the auditorium side of the building and pedestrians maintain the expectations of using crosswalks. We will be providing security assistance to maintain this expectation as needed.

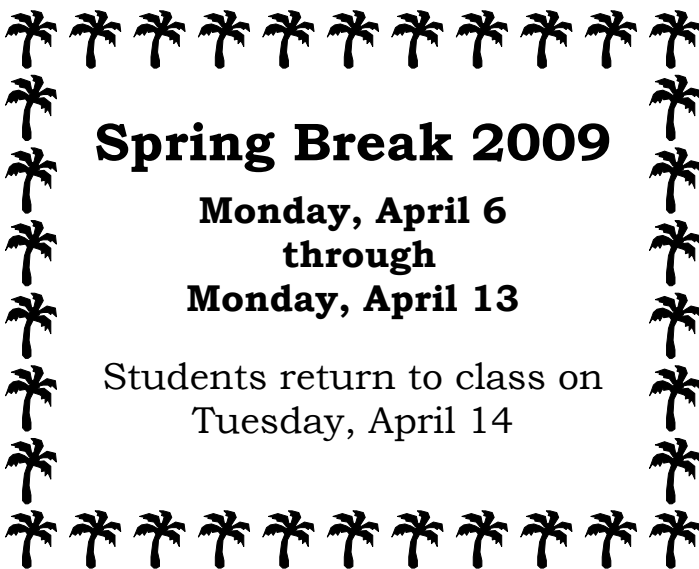
Thank you for your cooperation in maintaining the safety and security of our students and school.

RM Model Congress Club

The Richard Montgomery High School Model Congress Club was founded February 2008 with the goal of promoting discussion of current political issues. This year the club sent a delegation of 16 students to the University of Pennsylvania Model Congress Conference last month.

Some members of the Richard Montgomery delegation served on the mock National Security Council and Supreme Court.

Several Richard Montgomery students brought home awards for their outstanding performances at Penn Model Congress. Junior **Marissa Medine** received a gavel for Best Delegate in her White House committee and junior **Josh Rothman** was awarded Honorable Mention for his performance in the Full Session. Sophomore **Austin Trupp** and junior **Abby Pershing**, one of the presidents of the Model Congress Club, received the Best Delegation award for their time in the U.S. Supreme Court.



Spring Break 2009

Monday, April 6
through
Monday, April 13

Students return to class on
Tuesday, April 14

Calendar Reminders

- ◆ Saturday, April 18, 2009 — School Dedication
 - ◇ 10:00 a.m.—Official Ceremony, Auditorium
 - ◇ 1:30 p.m.—Baseball Field Naming Ceremony

- ◆ Friday, May 15, 2009 — Junior/Senior Prom
 - ◇ 8:00 p.m.—Hyatt Regency Bethesda

- ◆ Monday, June 8, 2009 — Graduation
 - ◇ 10:00 a.m.—D.A.R. Constitution Hall, Washington, D.C.