



PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Dr. Nelson McLeod, Principal



October, 2011

Richard Montgomery High School

School Updates

Dear Richard Montgomery High School Community:

Thank you for a very successful Back-To-School Night last month. With the start of October, let me update you on the following:

- Monday, October 10, 2011, is Columbus Day and the traditional day for Open House for all MCPS schools. As a result, we are inviting current parents to visit Richard Montgomery High School for our local Open House. Open House hours will be from 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- I am pleased to inform you that our school system has selected Friday, June 8, 2012, at 10:00 a.m. for the 2012 Richard Montgomery High School commencement ceremony. The ceremony will be held at DAR Constitution Hall located in Washington, D.C. There is no school for students on Friday, June 8, 2012.
- Montgomery County Public Schools uses Connect-ED™ to send personalized voice and email messages to all members of the school community. Connect-ED™ also has an attendance feature that can be used in conjunction with the MCPS online attendance program to send a voice and email message to the parents of absent students. This school year, Richard Montgomery High School will be sending additional school updates via the Connect-ED™ email system.
- Our next Principal's Coffee is scheduled for Thursday, October 27, 2011, in the Media Center at 6:00 p.m. We hope you will attend!! Also, our next edition of the Principal's Report will be available in mid November.
- Ruthie Prillaman**, senior, earned the 2011 American National Tree Scholarship from Scholastic Inc. and the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia for a poem, "Abel Meeropol: Sowing of the Bitter Crop." The poem is part of the exhibit that tells the stories of 100 Americans who helped to write the story of the U.S. Constitution.
- Rose Berman**, Class of 2011, will be published in the Fall Issue of *The Concord Review*. Her research paper was "A Tightening of the Ties: The Evolution of the Relationship between Germany and Austria-Hungary from Opponents to Allies." This was her second major paper, doing her first as an Extended Essay in French. Rose is attending the University of Chicago this fall.
- This summer, Richard Montgomery High School junior **Felix Ubiera Nunez**, ESOL student, participated in the Partnership Youth Initiative Program (PYI) sponsored by the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Montgomery County. He worked with MPR Translations, LLC, helping to organize the 2011 Maryland Hispanic Business Conference, which was held September 6, 2011, at the North Bethesda Marriott and Convention Center. More than 700 participants attended the program.
- Hiwot Aytenfisu** and **Christofer Riveros Hidalgo**, both seniors at Richard Montgomery High School in ESOL, were selected to participate in a two-week college admissions program at Mount St. Mary's College this summer called "Yes, You Can!" They experienced college life at Mount St. Mary's and visited three other campuses: Howard University, University of Maryland/College Park and Frostburg State University. They did some career exploration and learned about the college admissions process.

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

—Nelson McLeod, PhD
Principal

RM Rocket Pride!

Important Upcoming Dates:

- 10/1 SAT administered
- 10/10: Columbus Day, Open House
- 10/12: PSAT Administered
- 10/14: Underclassmen Picture Make-Ups, Auditorium
- 10/18: Parent Workshop, 6:30 pm, Cafeteria
- 10/18: PTSA Meeting, 7:30 pm, Cafeteria
- 10/21: No school for students
- 10/22: ACT administered
- 10/28 First Marking Period Ends
- 10/31: Professional Day—No School for Students
- 11/9 & 11/10: Senior Picture Make-Ups, Auditorium
- 11/5: SAT Administered
- 11/10: Report Card Distribution
- 11/15: Parent Workshop, 6:30 pm, Cafeteria
- 11/15: PTSA Meeting, 7:30 pm, Cafeteria
- 11/23: Early Release
- 11/24,25: Thanksgiving Holiday
- 12/3: SAT administered
- 12/10: ACT administered

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Class of 2012 — Information

Welcome back Class of 2012! As we near the road to graduation, it is important for all seniors to make sure they are on track to graduate on Friday, June 8, 2012. If you are unsure about your graduation status, please make an appointment to speak with your counselor immediately. In addition to earning all of your required credits and meeting the High School Assessment requirement, please make sure that you have submitted your Student Service Learning hours to Mr. Freda, athletic director.

We will be hosting two Senior Parent Meetings this year. The first will be held on Tuesday, November 29, 2011. Parents need to attend only one of the two meeting times on this date: 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. or 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. in the Rocket Cafe. At this meeting we will review graduation requirements, upcoming events, and preparations for end of the year activities. The se-



The Tide - Updates

Richard Montgomery High School's award-winning student newspaper, *The Tide*, has a new website, www.thermtide.org. Beginning in October, writers for the *The Tide* along with students in Mrs. MacFarlane's journalism class will begin uploading their articles to the site. If you miss the latest print edition of the *The Tide*, parents and students will still be able read about all of the Richard Montgomery High School events by logging onto the newspaper's website.

Mrs. MacFarlane's journalism class this year will include this new online component. In addition to learning important news gathering, interviewing, writing, and editing skills, students will also be learning about the changing role of the media as more newspapers and broadcast organizations turn to electronic sources to spread the news.

As the cost of printing increases and newspaper readership decreases, many newspapers across the country are moving toward online publications. *The Tide* staff is feeling the economic pinch as well. We encourage parents and local businesses to buy ad space or make a contribution to *The Tide* so the students' hard work continues to be recognized.

If you would like learn more, please send an email to thetideeditors@gmail.com or log onto the new website at www.thermtide.org.

cond meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 27, 2012.

The senior fee for the Class of 2012 will be \$45 if paid in full no later than Friday, December 23, 2011. Students paying their senior fee after this date will be required to pay \$50. The senior fees for the Class of 2012 cover the cost of caps, gowns, and graduation expenses. We will be selling tickets a la carte for events including senior banquet and senior picnic. Both of these events will be heavily subsidized by money already fundraised by the senior class. Additional details regarding these events will be shared in future communications.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Josh Neuman-Sunshine, assistant principal and senior class administrator.

Get Morning Announcements by Email



The school's web site posts the morning announcements each day from the RMBC daily broadcasts. Parents can also receive the daily announcements of activities and opportunities on email. To sign up for email announcements and for more information, go to:

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RMPTSA_Listserv/

RM Athletic Booster Club

It is time to join the Booster Club and show your school spirit! The Boosters support athletes and non-athletes alike. The restoration and installation of the RM Rocket and the recent \$40,000 commitment to the renovation of our playing fields are some of the projects that enhance Richard Montgomery High School.

Have you seen the new Richard Montgomery Spiritwear that is available this year? Please check it out at <http://rmboosters.com/spiritwear.html>. Also, the Boosters Club opens the indoor Spirit Shack every Thursday during lunch for your Spirit shopping needs.

We welcome volunteers in the concession stand or on one of the many committees that work towards raising school spirit through athletics. All of our students benefit when parents get involved! Please come join the Boosters!
(<http://rmboosters.com/bebooster.html>)

Online College Application Process

Counselors recently presented the new online college application process to all seniors in September, 2011. Students, using their Family Connection account, will now process their requests for transcripts and recommendations electronically.

Richard Montgomery High School staff will gather student transcripts, school profile, secondary school reports, and recommendations and send them electronically to colleges and universities. Students will no longer need to purchase envelopes and stamps, and our registrar will no longer have to mail application packets.

Scholarship application material will be sent in the same manner. The online application will make the application process easier and give students and school staff the ability to track the progress of requests. The process will also give the registrar the ability to better manage the hundreds of applications received each year. Last year, over three million applications nationwide were processed using this new software package and the vast majority of colleges and universities sup-

port its use. Students are still required to ask teachers for college recommendations. If the teacher agrees to write a recommendation, the student then electronically requests the recommendation.

Counselors will soon meet with juniors to demonstrate how the Family Connection software package can be used to identify colleges the student might be interested in attending. Many factors need to be considered when choosing a college and this program helps students better manage the process. By the end of the year, juniors should have a list of colleges they are considering attending.

Counselors will meet with freshman in mid-October to introduce them to the Family Connection and give them an orientation to counseling services and tips for success in high school.

Parents can obtain access to Family Connection by contacting Mrs. Hull, college and career information coordinator, at 301-610-8064.

National Merit and National Merit Scholarship Programs

The **National Merit® Scholarship Program** is a program created to recognize academic scholarship based upon student scores on the formal PSAT, a test which serves as an initial screen of approximately 1.4 million students. 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.

This year 39 Richard Montgomery students were identified as semifinalists. Also, Richard Montgomery had 2 National Achievement Scholarship semifinalists. To be considered for a Merit Scholarship award, semifinalists must advance to Finalist standing in the competition. Congratulations to our semifinalists!!

More School Updates

- We have designated 18 parking spaces for visitors. The spaces are located next to the main entrance (bus lane area). Also, thank you to the Class of 2011 and to the Class of 2010 for their donations for stained glass work on the Media Center doorway.
- Montgomery County Public Schools has completed the final phase of the softball scoreboards and signage project as of September 2011. The installation project was funded by the City of Rockville, Richard Montgomery High School, and the Richard Montgomery Athletic Boosters. The scoreboards were a donation from the Class of 1956.
- Mr. Jon Freda is the new Student Service Learning (SSL) Coordinator at Richard Montgomery High School. Mr. Freda's office is located in Room 114, his phone number is 301-610-8075, and e-mail is Jonathan_J_Freda@mcpsmd.org.
- The National Association of Music Education (NAMM) selected two educators to represent their organization at a recent White House Press Conference. Ron Frezzo, choral music teacher, had the distinguished honor of being invited to and attending President Barack Obama's press conference regarding The American Jobs Act on Monday, September 14, 2011. Also, Mr. Frezzo was one of three conductors who taught students from Montgomery College and all over the Montgomery County area at the 3rd annual Summer Choral Institute of the National Philharmonic Chorale. Five students from Richard Montgomery High School participated in choral rehearsals, private lessons, and theory instruction. The week culminated with a concert at the Parilla PAC at Montgomery College on July 22, 2011, along with an adult summer chorus!

PSAT Parent Letter

October, 2011

Dear Parents/Guardians,

On Wednesday, October 12, 2011, the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT) will be administered to Richard Montgomery High School students in grades 9, 10 and 11 from 7:30 a.m.-10:50 a.m. Richard Montgomery High School is committed to obtaining 100% attendance and participation on this day. Some of the benefits include:

Prepares students for the SAT's

Creates possibilities for earning scholarships and academic recognition through National Merits Programs

Students who take the PSAT receive FREE online access to My College QuickStart at www.collegeboard.com/quickstart

Providing feedback in regards to student strengths for possible higher level courses that would be more challenging

Opens the door and begins the process for college searches

Ninth-Graders: A mock PSAT will be administered to all ninth graders **at no cost** using an outside vendor. Since most freshmen will be experiencing the PSAT test-taking format for the first time, this is a great opportunity for our students to practice and prepare for the official PSAT which will be administered in their junior year. Therefore, we advise that parents encourage their ninth-grader, and remind them of the importance of just participating in the test-taking process. Students and parents will have the opportunity to access a comprehensive and informative analysis of the test performance on the mock PSAT.

Tenth-Graders: The formal PSAT will be administered to all students in grade 10 **at no cost**. Montgomery County Public Schools pays for the administration of PSAT for tenth-graders. **It is mandatory for all tenth grade students to take the PSAT on the October 12 test date.** Each student will receive a PSAT/NBSQT Student Bulletin from their English teacher. Please review this bulletin with your son/daughter prior to the test date. PSAT test results will be sent to us in December, at which time guidance counselors will review results with students.

Eleventh-Graders: The official PSAT will be administered to all students in grade 11, **at a cost of \$14**. **Eleventh graders MUST pre-register for the PSAT no later than Wednesday, October 5, 2011.** Registration forms are available in the main office and counseling office, as well as through the school website. Forms and money should be turned in to the Career Center in room 142. Eleventh graders who take the PSAT may qualify for the National Merit Scholarship Program, therefore we encourage all eleventh grade students take the PSAT on the October 12 test date. Each student will receive a PSAT/NBSQT Student Bulletin from their English teacher. Please review this bulletin with your son/daughter prior to the test date. PSAT test results will be sent to us in December, at which time guidance counselors will review results with students.

We wish your child a positive testing experience. If you have any questions regarding the PSAT testing process, please feel free to contact Mr. Joshua Neuman-Sunshine, assistant principal, by email Joshua_D_Neuman-Sunshine@mcpsmd.org or by phone at (301) 610-8000.

Sincerely,

Nelson McLeod

Nelson McLeod, PhD
Principal

Richard Montgomery—An American Hero

A historical marker honoring the patriot will be installed this November in Rockville. While working on an exhibit about General Richard Montgomery for National History Day, Richard Montgomery High School junior **Stuart Grosvenor** noticed that there was no historical marker honoring the namesake of our school and Montgomery County. So he drafted text for a marker and completed an application to the Maryland Historical Trust.

Last year, Stuart received a letter from Nancy Kurtz, the Maryland Trust’s coordinator for the marker program, informing him that his application had been approved. The Trust has now had the aluminum marker cast and will be installing the marker this November in front of the Old Courthouse at the 100 block of E. Jefferson St., in a landscaped area just west of the 9/11 memorial.

As some of you may know, Richard Montgomery was an immigrant from England who joined the American

cause of freedom at the start of the Revolution. Having been a career officer in the British Army, he was the most experienced general in the young American forces. George Washington put him in charge of the western army that marched into Canada, trying to help the colonists there to throw off the British crown and join our cause.

Montgomery succeeded in capturing Montreal, but was killed in the attack on Quebec in December, 1775 – the first general to die in the American Revolution. His death was a national tragedy. When the Maryland Constitutional Convention voted in 1776 to split the huge Frederick County into three parts, the large eastern third was named “Montgomery” while the smallest third in the mountains was named “Washington.” That shows the relative esteem that Richard Montgomery was held in.

Hopefully the new marker will help us remember this important – and too often neglected – American hero.

Athletics—Fall Sports

The following are updates regarding the Richard Montgomery High School athletic programs:

- ◆ Fall season is well underway for our students. Richard Montgomery High School has a record number of students participating in fall sports with almost 400 students on various teams.
- ◆ Teams are working hard towards playoffs which start at the end of October. Game attendance has also increased from last year.
- ◆ Richard Montgomery High School was the 2010-2011 winner of the Rockville Cup for the fourth year in a row. This year’s cup will be presented at a winter or spring varsity game against Rockville..
- ◆ Boys Soccer won first place in the Third Annual Rocket Shootout Tournament, beating Meade High School.
- ◆ As of late September, girls volleyball is currently undefeated. The team is playing hard and competing for a county championship.
- ◆ The coed golf team is leading their division and are all playing very well.



- ◆ The Richard Montgomery High School Athletic Department welcomes the following new fall coaches:
 - * Ashley Stodter—Varsity Field Hockey
 - * Dominique Bejean—JV Field Hockey
 - * Randy Bosnic — JV Football
 - * Samantha Hetchkop—JV Girls Soccer
 - * Daniel Whitlow—Girls Tennis
 - * Nicole Planck—JV Cheerleading

Report Card Information

First Marking Period ends:

October 28, 2011

Second Marking Period ends:

January 20, 2012

Third Marking Period ends:

March 29, 2012

Fourth Marking Period ends:

June 12, 2012

Report Card Distribution Dates:

November 10, 2011

February 1, 2012

April 12, 2012

June 21, 2012

PTSA Parent Letter

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The Richard Montgomery High School PTSA, in conjunction with the Richard Montgomery High School Counseling Department, will once again hold a series of seminars designed to help parents and students make the most of their high school experience.

Generally held on the third Tuesday of each month, the English program is presented in the cafeteria at 6:30 pm, and the Spanish program in Room 156 at 7:00 pm.

Our program begins on **Tuesday, October 18, 2011**, with ***Family Connection: A One Stop Tool to College***. Information will be presented by **Mr. John Randall** to students and parents about how to utilize a free website to help students identify their interests, match these to a career field and college major, explore careers, search for matching colleges and scholarships, develop a resume, and keep track of your college applications - to name a few of this site's many offerings. Come and learn how to use this comprehensive tool to help your child plan for life after high school! **Note special place: English program in Computer Lab (Room 163) at 6:30 pm, Spanish program in Room 159 at 7:00 pm.**

On **Tuesday, November 15, 2011: Heads Up! Concussions in Sports**. Does your child play sports? If so, it's important to be aware of the facts surrounding a concussion. A concussion is a type of traumatic brain injury, or TBI, caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head that can change the way our brain normally works. Concussions can occur in any sport or recreation activity. Coaches, parents, and athletes need to understand the signs and symptoms of a concussion and what to do if a concussion occurs. **Dr. Steven Horwitz** will feature information about concussions – how to recognize possible concussions; what to do if one occurs; what can be done to prevent concussions in sports; and useful resources.

On **Tuesday January 17, 2012: Learn about securing our students' data from enhanced and more intrusive hack attempts**. Student data files are a hot commodity to trade among hackers and third parties. This data can be breached from the outside or sold by someone on the inside with data access privileges. Student data assets can be the most elusive when detecting a security breach and can go undetected for an extended period of time. Law enforcement representatives will be available to answer questions regarding securing our students data.

On **Tuesday, February 21, 2012: Accuplacer Test** Montgomery College assesses new students to determine their reading, English and math skills. **Mr. Akim Rogers** will talk to parents about the test.

On **Tuesday, March 20, 2012: OMG! Navigating Our Kids Digital Lives: Encouraging safe & responsible on-line use**. Texting, sexting, over-use and over-sharing. These are just a few of the concerns that all of us parents have about our children's on-line lives. In this session, we will look at ways to talk to our kids about their computer and cell phone use, how to set limits and guidelines, and what appropriate sanctions we can impose when they overstep the mark. And, of course, we can look at our own behavior and how we do—or don't—model healthy and responsible on-line use ourselves.

On **Tuesday, April 17, 2012: City Year and Project CHANGE: Volunteer options before college**. Are you thinking about serving others immediately after high school instead of going straight to college, perhaps as a way to earn some money and gain valuable training? Come and find out about some options available to you right here in the D.C. metropolitan area. In this session, you'll meet **Ms. Samantha Traverso**, DC Recruitment Coordinator for City Year, and **Judy Lapping**, Director of Project CHANGE, and learn more about serving the community as a tutor, mentor, and role model, while also earning a living stipend and proving that young people can change the world!

And on **Tuesday, May 15, 2012: Help! My Child is Going to College Next Year!!** RM parents and recent graduates share their experiences and offer advice to parents and students preparing for their college experience in fall 2011. Learn how to avoid pitfalls and how to set the stage for a successful and enjoyable first year of college.

We look forward to seeing you at these exciting seminars!

Sincerely,

Nelson McLeod

Nelson McLeod, PhD
Principal

Upcoming College Visits to Richard Montgomery

The following list includes visits from colleges starting Monday, October 3. College visits started in September, 2011. For a complete listing of upcoming college visits go to your family connection account. Additional colleges may be added to the dates listed below. If you need a family connection account please contact Ms. Mary Hull, career information coordinator, at Mary_F_Hull@mcpsmd.org.

Monday, October 3:

Montgomery College, Rockville

Tuesday, October 4 :

Rice University

Vassar College

College of William and Mary

Wednesday, October 5:

University of Baltimore

Amherst College

Rider University

Colgate University

Virginia Commonwealth University

Thursday, October 6:

Susquehanna University

University of Chicago

Cabrini College

Columbia University

Friday, October 7:

American University

Bowie State University

Williams College

High Point University



Monday, October 10:

Wellesley College

Case Western Reserve University

Saint Vincent College

Stevenson University

Radford University

Tuesday, October 11:

Haverford College

Washington and Lee University

Thursday, October 13:

Emmanuel College

Lehigh University

Friday, October 14:

Wesleyan University

Pomona College

Frostburg State University

Baylor University

Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State Univ.

Gettysburg College

Monday, October 17:

Bradley University

California Institute of Technology

University of Maryland, Baltimore County

Monday, October 17 (cont'd):

University of Illinois at Chicago

Notre Dame of Maryland University

Tuesday, October 18:

Hofstra University

Tufts University

Hood College

Vanderbilt University



Wednesday, October 19:

Wilson College

University of Pittsburgh

Muhlenberg College

The Ohio State University

University of British Columbia

Juniata College

Thursday, October 20:

Siena College

Salisbury University

Mount Holyoke College

Claremont McKenna College

Lycoming College

Monday, October 24:

University of California at Los Angeles

Tuesday, October 25:

University of Connecticut

Wednesday, October 26:

St. Joseph's University

Alderson-Broaddus College

Thursday, October 27:

Swarthmore College

Friday, October 28:

Stony Brook University

Tuesday, November 1:

Pennsylvania State University,
University Park

Wednesday, November 2:

University of Mary Washington

Monday, November 7:

Agnes Scott College

Tuesday, November 8:

Montgomery College, Rockville



Wednesday, November 9:

Ohio University

Friday, November 11:

Western New England University

The University of Akron

Monday, November 14:

The University of Scranton

Wednesday, November 16:

Bridgewater College

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

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Richard Montgomery High School
COLLEGE INFORMATION NIGHT
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2011

7:00 P.M. TO 9:00 P.M.

There will be several speakers talking on topics such as:

SAT or ACT? What's the difference?

Road Map to College

Financial Aid

Speakers include:

Richard Edgar, Director of Admissions at St. Mary's College of Maryland
Writing your College Essay

There will also be a special workshop in Spanish for our Latino families!

Olander Fleming, Admissions Counselor at Longwood University will talk about
the college admissions process