



# PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Dr. Nelson McLeod, Principal

September, 2009

Richard Montgomery High School



RM Rocket Pride!

## School Updates

Dear Richard Montgomery High School Community:

Thank you for a very successful school opening. With the start of the 2009-2010 school year, let me update you on the following:

- Principal Coffees are scheduled for Monday, September 14, 2009, at 7:30 a.m. and Monday, October 26, 2009, at 6:00 p.m. We hope you will attend!!
- Our Back-to-School Night is Thursday, September 24, 2009. Starting at 6:00 p.m., we will have an Information Fair in the Cafeteria and on Main Street. The Art Department is also sponsoring an exhibit in the Art Gallery and the Jazz Ensemble will perform. At 6.50 p.m., parents will be reporting to homeroom. During that time, there will be a message from the principal and PTSA president. Then parents will attend an abbreviated school schedule.
- The senior class will be participating in a fundraiser in which students are able to deter the cost of their senior fee. The dates of the fundraiser will be from Monday, September 14 through Wednesday, September 30, 2009. More information will be sent home with students and posted on the website.
- Reminder!! For the safety of our students, parents should not drop-off students in the bus area, staff parking area, or near the main entrance in the mornings. This is very unsafe!. All student drop-offs are near the stadium / auditorium entrance.
- Based on stakeholder feedback, we have moved all daytime visitors' parking to the main entrance of the school. A total of 14 parking spaces have been allocated for visitors.
- Extracurricular Activity (ECA) fee remittance forms were mailed directly to all students on July 16, 2009. The ECA fee is a one-time fee of \$30 for the 2009-2010 school year. A reduced fee of \$15 is available for students whose family incomes are less than \$35,000. This school year parents can pay the ECA fee online using a credit card. Payments are accepted by going to our website or [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/parents/](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/parents/) and navigating to the Parents/Resources section, and then click on Extracurricular Activity (ECA) fee - Pay online. Parents will receive by e-mail a receipt when they pay online.
- This year, Richard Montgomery High School will be piloting a new ninth grade course structure by combining all on-level and honors United States History classes. The purpose of this initiative is to raise the level of rigor for our new students. We believe that all students can and will succeed in an honors level course.
- Monday, October 12, 2009, 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.
- Over 60 students will serve as Rocket Corp interns this semester. These interns will be supporting classroom environment and attending seminars. Mr. Awono is providing leadership to the Rocket Corp program.

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

—Nelson McLeod, PhD  
Principal

### Important Upcoming Dates:

- 9/7: Labor Day Holiday (no school)
- 9/12: ACT administered
- 9/14: Principal's Coffee, 7:30 am
- 9/15: PTSA Meeting, 7:30 pm, Cafeteria
- 9/24: Back To School Night, 6:00 pm
- 9/28: Yom Kippur (no school)
- 9/30: IB Senior Parent Meeting, 6:30-9:30pm
- 10/1: IB Junior Parent Meeting, 7:00-9:00 pm
- 10/2: Early dismissal K-12
- 10/7: College Information Night, 7 pm
- 10/12: Columbus Day, Open House
- 10/14: PSAT Administered
- 10/16: No school for students
- 10/20: PTSA Meeting, 7:30 pm, Cafeteria
- 10/22 & 10/23: Senior Picture Make-Ups, Auditorium
- 10/24: ACT administered

### Included in this Issue:

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# College Enrollment Initiative

This year we will be increasing our focus on making sure that all students are prepared for the different assessments associated with college enrollment. Our counseling department will survey and meet with students in 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grade level teams in order to provide them with information on the SAT, ACT, and Accuplacer. In the summer mailing you received a chart with a brief comparison between the three college entrance assessments.

In addition, all MCPS high schools will have an SAT/ACT Committee for the 2009-2010 school year. This committee will meet throughout the year in order to monitor the implementation of the SAT/ACT Action

Plan. The committee will include representatives from the following areas: Administration, Math, English, Counseling, Science, Social Studies, Interrelated Arts, Foreign Language, SGA, and PTSA.

A component of our school improvement plan will be the SAT/ACT Action Plan which will focus on meeting and exceeding the MCPS performance target of 1650 for all students.

While Richard Montgomery High School exceeded the MCPS performance target with 1795 on SAT performance, we will continue to expand opportunities for all students regarding college enrollment.

## Congratulations Students on National Language Exams

Congratulations to the following students who received high marks in the Spanish National Exam which was taken during the 2008-2009 school year. This exam is sponsored by the National Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese. Gold medals for Level 4 went to **Zachary Etheart**, **Melissa Yang**, and **Clark Wright**; Level 5 went to **Maryama Scott**; and Level 6 went to **Kara Karpman** and **Martin Posthumus**. Silver medals for Bilingual Level 4 went to **David Varilla** and **Daniela Vazquez**. In addition, **Martin Posthumus** received a \$500 scholarship because of his performance in this contest.

Congratulations also to the following students who excelled in the Latin National Exam and placed as follows in the Latin 1 exam: Gold Summa Cum Laude went to **Zachary Etheart**; Silver Maxima Cum Laude went to both **Maxwell Wappel** and **Paula Alterman**. In the Latin 2 exam, Gold Summa Cum Laude went to **Todd Derose**, and Magna Cum Laude went to **Julia Lopez**.

Job well done...congratulations students!!

## PSAT Testing

The PSAT will be administered on Wednesday, October 14, 2009, for ninth, tenth, and eleventh grade students. Ninth grade students will be taking a free mock PSAT. Tenth graders will be taking the real PSAT free of charge as well. It is expected that ALL ninth and tenth grade students take the PSAT on this date. We need a 100% participation rate. Eleventh graders who wish to take the PSAT will be required to pay \$13 and pre-register in order to take the exam. Additional information regarding registration will be forthcoming. Eleventh graders who elect to take the PSAT will be considered for National Merit Scholarships based on their test scores. Information on pre-registration for eleventh graders will be made available soon. Any questions related to PSAT testing may be directed to Mr. Neuman-Sunshine, Assistant Principal.



## Important Phone Numbers—RMHS

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

# RM Choir Finds the 'Pot of Gold' in Ireland

After a full year of meetings, evening rehearsals and fundraising, 21 Richard Montgomery students from the Treble Chorale, Concert Choir, and Madrigals and five chaperones lead by choral director Ron Frezzo, departed Dulles Airport for a one week concert tour of the Emerald Isle this summer. The students performed three formal concerts during the week at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin (where Jonathan Swift was a canon), Kilkenny Castle, built in 1192, and lastly, at St. Mary's Cathedral in Killarney.

The students performed to the delight of other diners at Kate Kearney's Cottage, a restaurant overlooking the beautiful Gap of Dunloe when the traditional Irish performers and dancers encouraged audience participation.

The trip also included touring of historical and natural sites of Ireland, such as the famous Book of Kells at Trinity University, Dublin, the Ring of Kerry, the monastic ruins of Glenmacnoise originally founded in 545 AD, and of course a trip to kiss the Blarney Stone. Our students proudly represented our country, our state, and Richard Montgomery High School very well.



## Athletics - Fall Sports

We welcome the following new fall coaches:

- **JV Football** John Redman  
Ryan Harrigan
- **JV Boys Soccer** Dylan Dempsey
- **JV Girls Soccer** Monica Tarzy
- **JV Cheerleading** Kim Wiltshire
- **JV Field Hockey** Jennifer Ruggeri

Over 400 students tried out for the fall sports teams. Fall athletic games start on Friday, September 4th.

On Friday, September 4, Boys Soccer hosted rival Rockville High School. As you may be aware, all contests with Rockville HS are counted towards the Rockville Cup Award Trophy. The cup is passed from school to school depending on the total number of varsity sports victories. Any varsity sport contest against Rockville HS is big. We need your help to fill the stands to support Richard Montgomery High School. Go Rockets!!

## Capital for a Day Program

On Thursday, July 30, 2009, State Superintendent of Schools Nancy Grasmick visited Richard Montgomery High School. The purpose of the visit was to learn more about the career transition partnership between Montgomery County Public Schools and St. Luke's House.

The Career Transition Program operates to help high school juniors and seniors with serious emotional disabilities make a successful transition to college, voca-

## 2009-2010 Athletic Potluck/Awards Nights

### Fall

August 26	Potluck Dinner
November 19	Awards Night

### Winter

November 23	Potluck Dinner
March 18	Awards Night

### Spring

March 16	Potluck Dinner
May 25	Awards Night

tional training, the workforce or to pursue other post-secondary goals. The program, administered by St. Luke's House in cooperation with the MCPS Transition Unit and other staff, offers a unique combination of mental health and career/vocational resources to assist students and their families.

Special thanks to Kristen Heyniger and Sally Rosner for their assistance with the school presentations.



**RICHARD MONTGOMERY HIGH SCHOOL**  
**250 Richard Montgomery Drive**  
**Rockville, Maryland 20852**  
**(301) 610-8000**

Dear RMHS Parent:

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.

Please join us on the third Tuesday of each month from 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. in the Rocket Café (cafeteria) to hear knowledgeable speakers offer sound advice on a variety of topics.

And this year, I am pleased to announce that many of the seminars for Spanish-speaking parents and students are being planned for the same dates and times, in Room 156.

Our program begins on **Tuesday, September 15, 2009**, with ***A Parent's Survival Guide to High School: How to Successfully Navigate High School***. This seminar offers parents new or returning to RMHS an overview of important school policies such as attendance and grading and ways to stay engaged in your child's education. **Resource teachers and Mr. John Randall, supervisor of the Richard Montgomery Counseling Department**, are among the presenters who will participate in a question and answer session with parents. This seminar is highly recommended for all parents.

On **Tuesday, October 20, 2009**, please join us for ***The 7th Key to College Readiness: SAT 1650, ACT 24***. MCPS educators are working to ensure that all students are eligible to attend college. An important key to unlocking this opportunity is scoring at least 1650 on the SAT or 24 on the ACT. **Learn from MCPS staff** how RMHS, in partnership with parents and students, can make this happen. Working towards this goal begins in grade 9 - all parents are strongly urged to attend this important seminar.

On **Tuesday November 17: *Raising Student Achievement: Study and Organization Skills Strategies that Work!*** **Judy Stern** is the featured speaker, whose professional background includes 34 years of experience as a classroom teacher, a reading specialist and a learning disabilities teacher in public and private schools. Ms. Stern is an educational consultant who speaks nationally to professional and parent groups on subjects such as Attention Deficit Disorder, learning problems, homework strategies, behavior management and study and organization skills. Take advantage of this very knowledgeable speaker and renowned author to help your child excel in school. Students are welcome to attend, as well.

On Tuesday, January 19: ***My Child Took the PSAT in October and I Just Received the Results. What Does the Score Mean?*** The PSAT, a precursor to the SAT, will be administered in October at RMHS to all students in grades 9 - 12. Your child's PSAT score can be used to predict his/her SAT score. **Bridget Merrick** from the test-prep group, **Revolution Prep**, will help you understand your child's score and how this score can be used to help your child earn at least a 1650 on the SAT or a 24 on the ACT. This is a valuable seminar to help students and parents prepare for college admission.

On Tuesday, February 16: ***Family Connection: A One-Stop Tool to College***. Come and learn how to use this comprehensive free web site to help your child plan for life after high school! **Mary Hull, College and Career Information Coordinator at RMHS**, will show students and parents how to utilize this tool 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 college applications - to name a few of this site's many offerings.

On Tuesday, April 20: ***De-Stressing the College Process: Understanding Applications and Admissions***. The guest speaker will be **Gail Ross**, an educational consultant who works with students and parents to successfully navigate all aspects of the college process. Ms. Ross will de-mystify and offer tips to simplify the process. Bring your questions and concerns. Students welcome.

And on Tuesday, May 18: ***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 2010. 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, Ph.D.  
Principal

# Edline Information—Updates

Edline is an excellent tool for communication between parents and teachers. It enables parents to monitor their student's progress frequently. Edline is updated every evening. In addition to displaying student's grades, Edline also has other unique features. The features include a combined calendar, class pages, and communication link between parents and teachers.

Parents and students have access to a combined calendar that displays information from all seven classes that the student is enrolled in. The combined calendar option allows parents and students to have all of the information they need in one location.

Each individual class has its own page on Edline. Teachers are required to include the following information on their individual class pages:

- Course Syllabus
- Grading Policy
- Major due dates of assignments and assessments
- Calendar updates for each course
- Grades updated at least every two weeks in Pinnacle
- Post announcements/updates for assignments or assessments requiring additional grading time

Through Edline, teachers can send emails to both parents and students, provided that parents and students have entered their email address in the Edline profile during the activation process. Likewise, parents and students can also email the teachers. Teacher email information is provided on the Edline page.

Our goal this year is to have all students and parents activate and use their Edline accounts. With the threat of a

swine flu epidemic, the school will use Edline to avoid a breach in the learning process. For returning students and parents, please log in to your account to ensure that it is still working. If you have any problems, please contact Mr. Awono.

New students will receive their Edline activation codes in their English classes during the first week of school. Their parents should receive their activation code at home by U.S. mail. If you have not received your Edline activation code, please contact Mr. Awono.

How do I sign up for Edline? If you would like to sign up for Edline, or you have signed up and have forgotten your screen name and/or password, send an email to Mr. Awono. His email address is: Parfait\_Awono@mcpssmd.org.



## Back to School Night

**When:**

**Thursday, Sept. 24th**

**Time:**

**6:00 p.m.**

## Student Service Learning Hours

Chami Wijeratne is the new Student Service Learning (SSL) Coordinator at Richard Montgomery High School. Mr. Wijeratne's office is located in Room 163, his phone number is 301-610-8041, and e-mail is Chamara\_U\_Wijeratne@mcpssmd.org.

Detailed information about SSL, including approved activities, procedures for preapproval for other activities, and all forms, can be found on the MCPS website at:

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/ssl/>

The most important dates to remember are three critical due dates when SSL verification forms are due to Mr. Wijeratne:

- Documentation of all service performed during the summer is due by the last Friday in September (**September 25, 2009**).
- Documentation of all service performed during the first semester is due by the Friday before first se-

mester exams begin (**January 8, 2010**).

- Documentation of all service performed during the second semester is by the Friday before second semester exams begin (**June 4, 2010**).

Please remember that if your child is a freshman or sophomore this year, 75 SSL hours are required to graduate. Current seniors need 60 hours to graduate.

All organizations and opportunities for which SSL hours are desired must be preapproved. Check the list of organizations tagged, "Approved SSL MCPS" and opportunities tagged, "MCPS SSL Approved" at the website [www.mcpsssl.org](http://www.mcpsssl.org) or get MCPS Form 560-50, *Request for SSL Preapproval* granted in advance of any involvement. The award of SSL hours outside of the instructional day (before school, lunchtime, after school) is one SSL hour for every hour of service within a 24 hours period.

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

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Rockville, MD

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## Marking Period & Report Card Information

**First Marking Period ends:      October 30, 2009**  
**Second Marking Period ends:    January 22, 2010**  
**Third Marking Period ends:     March 26, 2010**  
**Fourth Marking Period ends:    June 16, 2010**

**Report Card Distribution Dates:**

**November 11, 2009**  
**February 3, 2010**  
**April 14, 2010**  
**June 23, 2010**

