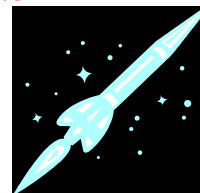




PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Dr. Nelson McLeod, Principal



Summer, 2009
Richard Montgomery High School

RM Rocket Pride!

School Updates

Important Upcoming Dates:

- 8/13: MCPS Summer School Graduation, Auditorium, 2:00 pm
- 8/15: Fall Sports Season begins, Auditorium, 9:00 am
- 8/20 and 8/21: Senior Pictures Make-up in Auditorium, 8:30 am-3 pm
- 8/25-8/27: Marching Band Camp, 3:00 pm
- 8/26: IB Freshman Orientation, Auditorium, 3:00 pm
- 8/27: New Student/Freshman Orientation, 7:25 am-11:30 am
- 8/31: First day of School
- 8/31 and 9/1: Underclassman pictures, Auditorium
- 9/7: Labor Day Holiday (no school)
- 9/15: PTSA Meeting, 7:30 pm, Cafeteria
- 9/24: Back To School Night, 6:00 pm
- 9/28: Yom Kippur (no school)

Dear Richard Montgomery High School Community:

Welcome to the 2009-2010 school year! The staff and I have been enthusiastically preparing for the arrival of our students on Monday, August 31, 2009. This year will provide our students with many opportunities for academic rigor, success, and school spirit.

- Mark your calendars!! The Richard Montgomery High School Back-To-School Night is scheduled for Thursday, September 24, 2009, at 6:00 p.m.
- This summer, the Instructional Council updated school policies (cell phone, dress code, etc.). The updated policies will be sent home in the August mailing and will be in the Spin Book (student planner).
- Two remarkable students from Richard Montgomery High have won national recognition. **Nathan Prillaman** was named a Presidential Scholar, one of the highest honors a U.S. high school student can receive. The U.S. Presidential Scholars Program was established in 1964, by executive order of the President, to recognize and honor some of our nation's most distinguished graduating high school seniors. **Julia Chartove** won first place in the U.S. National Brain Bee Championship. The competition features questions about the human brain in areas such as memory, intelligence, and more.
- We welcome **Afie Mirshah-Nayar** as our new assistant principal. Mrs. Matthewson is now an assistant principal at Watkins Mill High School. Mrs. Mirshah-Nayar was an achievement specialist for the Office of School Performance and has worked as a staff development content specialist, and executive assistant to the Associate Superintendent.
- **Elena Hutchinson**, 2009 graduate of Richard Montgomery High School, was awarded the 2009 Ida F. Haimovicz Visual Arts Award. The Ida F. Haimovicz Visual Arts Award includes a \$3,000 cash award and a solo exhibition at the Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation Arts Center, Montgomery College Takoma Park-Silver Spring Campus.

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

—Nelson McLeod, PhD
 Principal

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New Student and Freshman Orientation

New Student Orientation will be held on Thursday, August 27 from 7:25 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Bus transportation will be available and students will follow the normal bus routes and time schedules. This is an important opportunity for our new students to meet their teachers, tour the building, and get a first grasp of academic life at Richard Montgomery High School. Welcome to the class of 2013!

Back To School Night

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.

Principal's Coffees

- Monday, September 14, 7:30 a.m. (Principal's Conference Room)
- Monday, October 26, 6:00 p.m. (Media Center)

Schedule Changes

There are two reasons why a student's schedule may require a change:

1. If there is an error in the student's schedule, and/or
2. There is a missing class in the student's schedule.

If one of these cases exists, please do the following:

- Contact the assigned counselor before school starts;
- During the first two days of school, make an appointment with your guidance counselor; or
- After the first two days of school, contact your counselor before school, during lunch or after school.



Welcome METS Program!!

MCPS is decentralizing the secondary METS centers. METS is Multidisciplinary Education, Training, and Support program. The METS program of the Montgomery County Public Schools is designed to meet the linguistic and academic needs of English language learners who have had limited or previous schooling or significant schooling gaps due to interrupted or disrupted education. Students enrolled in the METS program receive instruction in developing English language proficiency and basic literacy and academic skills. We will have 15 METS students in the fall, supported by a METS teacher and paraeducator.

Open House

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.

Important Phone Numbers—RMHS



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

Ninth Grade Academy

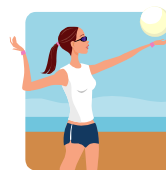
We are excited to announce the creation of a new program designed to support ninth grade students as they make the transition from middle to high school. Research has shown that success in the ninth grade is critical for future success in tenth, eleventh, and twelfth grades.

This new initiative has been designed to provide select students support in the areas of reading, writing, organizational skills, study skills, and character education. Mr. Chamy Wijeratne will work in collaboration with counselors at Julius West Middle School and Richard Montgomery High School to identify students who may benefit from enrollment in the Ninth Grade Academy classes.

In his role as the primary Ninth Grade Academy teacher Mr. Wijeratne will contact parents, monitor student progress on Edline, and work in collaboration with students' counselors and teachers in order to provide any instructional supports needed in order to increase student achievement.

Students enrolled in the Ninth Grade Academy may also have the opportunity to hear from guest speakers and participate in educational field trips. If you believe that your son/daughter may benefit from enrollment in the Ninth Grade Academy class please contact your son/daughter's school counselor.

Athletics Update



The fall sports season begins on Saturday, August 15, 2009. All athletes will meet in the auditorium at 9:00 a.m., for an informational meeting on Saturday. Fall sports include football, soccer, field hockey, volleyball, and cross country.

All required forms are to accompany the athletes to the first day of tryouts. Athletes who do not have all of the forms completed will not be permitted to take part in any team activity until the forms are completed. Please go to the Richard Montgomery High School web site (www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/rmhs/athletics/) for a list of the required forms. Upon making the team, all players are required to pay the MCPS Activity Fee before they can continue to practice with the team.

With the support of the Booster Club, we are enhancing our athletic facilities:

- ◇ Upgraded speaker system
- ◇ Installation of three stadium flagpoles
- ◇ Installation of the historic Rocket mascot

Last year, the gym floor from the old building was mounted to the gym lobby wall. This summer, school and player award plaques were also installed in the gym lobby. We appreciate the continued support of the Richard Montgomery Booster Club.

Richard Montgomery HS SGA Officials

SGA OFFICIALS 2009-2010

SGA President: Rachel Burke
SGA Vice President: Zimin Hang
SGA Secretary: Vincent Abad-Santos
SGA Treasurer: Andy Wu

Class of 2010:

President: Christina Wiltshire
Vice President: Alina Butareva
Secretary: Nazia Kaendera
Treasurer: Jeremy Batt

Class of 2011:

President: Nnamdi Edokobi
Vice President: Mickael Washington
Secretary: Vivian Feldbum
Treasurer: Michael Zhang

Class of 2012

President: Ahmed Elnaiem
Vice President: Zack Phillips
Secretary: Rebecca Sinai
Treasurer: Kara Kurland

Biology Olympiad—Congratulations

Congratulations to Richard Montgomery High School students Alia Mahmud, Wint Aung, Jeremy Blair, Kat Ip, Shegufta Razzaque, Matthew Smith, Peter Radonic, and Olubusayo Awe, who sat for the first round of the Biology Olympiad. The Biology Olympiad is an international competition designed to test the knowledge and skill base of high school students. Marcy Reedy, the coordinator for the Olympiad, wrote, “The 2009 Open Exam was most assuredly a very challenging exam and your students distinguished you as their teacher, themselves and your school through their outstanding performance!. We are very proud to have such dedicated, talented students! 543 students from 39 states, China and Hong Kong in 166 schools advanced to the

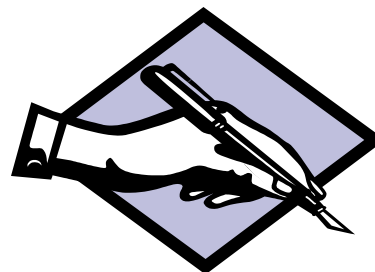
semifinal round. RMHS is proud to have two students, Peter Radonic and Matthew Smith, advance to semifinal rounds, a rigorous two hour test consisting of three parts. Twenty semi-finalists will then be invited to a no-cost, residential training program to learn advanced biological concepts and lab practice under the tutelage of professors at a major research university. Four students will earn the right to represent the USA at the International Biology Olympiad being held in Tsukuba, Japan this summer.



‘Fine Lines’ Continues With Successful Year

Richard Montgomery’s literary magazine, *Fine Lines*, has logged another successful year. After receiving recognition from the National Council of Teachers of English as one of Maryland’s best student magazines and being named a finalist for the National Scholastic Press Association’s highest honor, the Pacemaker Award, the publication was honored with the Columbia Scholastic Press Association’s (CSPA) highest award, the Gold Crown. *Fine Lines* was one of only eight student magazines in the country to receive this honor at the CSPA spring convention in New York City on Friday, March 20, 2009.

Copies of the 2008-2009 magazine can be purchased by contacting Molly Clarkson at Molly_A_Clarkson@mcpsmd.org.



Team Rocket—Dragon Boat Festival

Team Rocket comprised solely of students from Richard Montgomery High School, won two gold medals during the 8th DC Dragon Boat Festival held in May on the Potomac River. Within their Division, this youthful team of dragon boaters competed in the Mixed Category, Divisions “E” and “C” against seasoned veterans from such organizations as NIH, Northrop Grumman and APEX.

Team Captain and organizer Jeff Young, 2009 RMHS graduate, recruited and trained a group of 35 boys and

girls who successfully turned in winning times in both the 250 meter races and the more strenuous 500 meter races. In winning the 250 Gold Medal, Team Rocket turned in a time of 1:23.50 minutes. The 500 meter race had Young’s team in a dramatic photo-finish win, posting a time of 2:45.030 after a previous disappointing 2:58.780 in the preliminaries. Overall, Team Rocket’s 500 meter victory was just one second behind the winner’s of the Major “C” Class and faster than the Silver Medal winner in that division.

Team Rocket is in its second year and operates as a club at Richard Montgomery High School under the sponsorship of Ms. Patricia Smith. If you are interested in joining the club for the 2009-2010 school year, please contact Ms. Smith at Patricia_Y_Smith@mcpsmd.org.



School Updates—Part 2

- Richard Montgomery High School is hosting the Regional Summer School Program this year. There are currently 920 students attending classes for the second session at RMHS. Summer School graduation will be Thursday, August 13, 2009, at 2:00 p.m. in the Richard Montgomery High School auditorium.
- The Richard Montgomery High School Drama Program is pleased to announce that the following students were honored this spring at the Superintendent's Performing Arts Gala, which recognizes outstanding contributions over four years to high school students. Congratulations for this outstanding accomplishment go to **Martin Posthumus** (Technical Theatre), **Talia Prussin** (Technical Theatre and Theatre Leadership), and **Emily Wavering** (Performance and Theatre Leadership).
- Congratulations to the following Richard Montgomery High School art students whose work was displayed at the 2009 Friends of the Yellow Barn Studio High School Exhibition: **Shegufta Razzaque, Peter Zimmerman, Carol Holland, Diana Nam, Sara Bloem, Alexander Stenbarth, Elena Hutchinson,** and **Yen Chuang**.
- The Leadership Montgomery Youth Community Leadership Awards were presented in June to five Montgomery County high school seniors who exhibited outstanding leadership in developing and/or implementing service learning activities in their communities. Each student received a \$1,000 cash award. **Kara Karpman**, 2009 graduate, was chosen from Richard Montgomery High School.
- The SGA is excited about the 2009-2010 school year. This year the SGA will be hosting some "Rocket Pride" spirit events. SGA will be selling the "ROCKET RIOT" shirts this fall. As an incentive to show your pride, every student who wears a Rocket Riot shirt to the first home football game on Friday, September 11th, will have his or her name added to a raffle. Winners will be announced during halftime and prizes will be given. Order forms for the shirts will be on the SGA website before the school year begins with instructions and deadlines regarding getting your own Rocket Riot shirt. We hope to see many students showing their spirit with these shirts at the first home game!
- As these tight budget times continue, we appreciate the funding and support the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) has received from the County Council. We recognize that it is imperative to use our resources in the most efficient and effective manner. MCPS staffing allocations are based on projected enrollment. We certainly hope that at the beginning of the school year our actual enrollment matches the projected enrollment. Unfortunately, as a result of this current fiscal situation, it may become necessary for staffing changes to occur in some schools if enrollment comes in below projection and doesn't justify the staffing that was allocated. If there is a need to make an adjustment in staffing based on actual enrollment, I will do my best to minimize the impact of these necessary adjustments. I will keep you informed and alert you of any changes that may occur at our school.



“Rocket Pride”

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

Non-Profit Organization
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Rockville, MD

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

