

Dr. Worthington's Message

Twitter: DrLouise Worthington@BAKERprincipal

October 16–20 is National School Bus Safety Week. This year's theme is "Safely Rolling to My Destination" — a reminder about the dangers that exist outside the school bus.

"Maryland State Police and the Maryland Center for School Safety remind motorists to stop for school buses." Pay attention when driving, especially in school zones during times of day when school buses are typically on routes. Stop when a bus stops for a routine stop. It is illegal to pass a school bus when its red lights are flashing. Prepare to stop when the school bus is flashing its yellow lights and be cautious of students moving towards buses during these times. Students of all ages are unpredictable. Therefore, prepare for the unexpected and maintain a safe distance from school buses at all times.

Please see pages 4–7 for more information. Resources can also be found at [MCPS Rules & Safety About Riding the School Bus](#), [Safe Routes to School](#), and [NAPT School Bus Safety Tips](#)

Last week, Baker students had the opportunity to write notes of appreciation to their bus drivers. Please join us in saying thank you to all who transport Montgomery County Public Schools students by observing bus safety and sharing your gratitude.

SGA Canned Food Drive

The Baker SGA is challenging all advisory classes to donate towards the food drive from **September 25 to November 27** to help our fellow Damascus community members during the holiday season. The advisory class with the most donations will receive a pizza party sponsored by SGA!
Drop off food at room 233
Canned food only — NO perishables
Donations should not expire for one year or more

Holiday Giving Project

The Holiday Giving Project provides **Thanksgiving and December Holiday assistance to low-income households**. A network of social workers, school counselors, and human service professionals refer families in need of assistance. Local non-profits, faith-based organizations, and public agencies service recipients as donations are available.

If your family would like to be referred for possible assistance for the Thanksgiving and/or December holiday season, please complete the referral form by clicking [here](#).

Thanksgiving Holiday Referral Deadline – October 26, 2023

December Holiday Referral Deadline – November 20, 2023

While a referral is not a guarantee of assistance, the Project helps as many families in need as donations allow.

If you have any questions, please contact **Mrs. Jones, School Counselor**, at Shannon_Jones@mcpsmd.org or 240-207-2410.



Looking Ahead

October — Nationals Principals' Month

October 16–20 — National School Bus Safety Week and Bus Driver Recognition Week

Tuesday, October 17 — Activity Buses

Art Club, Room 210, Ms. Alvarado
Chess Club, Room 115, Mr. Ciccarello
Intramural Boys' Basketball, Gym, Mr. Smith
Cross Country vs. Rocky Hill, Away
Softball vs. Rocky Hill — Boys Home/
Girls Away

Wednesday, October 18 — Activity Buses

Intramural Boys' Basketball, Gym, Mr. Smith
Rubik's Cube Club, Room 225, Mr. Fisher

Thursday, October 19 — Activity Buses

Intramural Boys' Basketball, Gym, Mr. Smith
Jazz Band, Room 107, Ms. Fell
K-Club, Room 210, Ms. Alvarado
Talent Show Rehearsal, Rm 225, Mr. Fisher

Sunday, October 22

PTA Spirit Night Fundraiser at Leech Woods
Haunted Forest (see page 8)

Tuesday, October 24 — Activity Buses

Art Club, Room 210, Ms. Alvarado
Chess Club, Room 115, Mr. Ciccarello
eSports Club, Room 134, Mr. Conner and
Mr. Maddox
Intramural Girls' Basketball, Gym, Mr. Smith
SGA Meeting, Room 233, Ms. Blankenship
Music Department Fundraiser at
Chik-fil-A in Mt. Airy (see page 9)

October 25–31 — Red Ribbon Week

Wednesday, October 25 — Activity Buses

Wear red to celebrate being drug free
Intramural Girls' Basketball, Gym, Mr. Smith
NJHS Meeting, Room 209, Mr. Conner
Rubik's Cube Club, Room 225, Mr. Fisher
Cross Country vs. Hallie Wells, Home
Softball vs. Hallie Wells — Boys Away
Girls Home

Thursday, October 26 — Activity Buses

Wear pajamas to celebrate your dreams
Intramural Girls' Basketball, Gym, Mr. Smith
Jazz Band, Room 107, Ms. Fell
K-Club, Room 210, Ms. Alvarado
Talent Show Rehearsal, Rm 225, Mr. Fisher

Friday, October 27

**Wear your favorite jersey to team up
against drugs**

Attention Parents of 6th Grade Students — Important Outdoor Ed Information

All Outdoor Ed permission slips and medical authorizations (as needed) are **due by November 1, 2023**. Payments of \$97.00 need to be submitted through School Cash Online (link is located on the Baker Middle School website) and are also due by November 1, 2023. No students will be turned away due to financial reasons. If you have questions or concerns about the financial obligation or anything related to the Outdoor Ed experience, please contact

Mr. Haren Joseph_A_Haren1@mcpsmd.org,
Mr. Ajamian Paul_T_Ajamian@mcpsmd.org, or
Mrs. Buffum Lindsey_C_Buffum@mcpsmd.org.

We still need parent volunteers to chaperone. If you are interested in being chaperone, please email Mr. Ajamian for chaperone requirements.

GAMES & CRAFTS

@ Damascus Library
Grades 6-12



Wednesdays 3:30-5:30
9701 Main Street Damascus, MD
240-773-9444

Baker M.S. Chromebook Obligation Policy

MCPS does not charge a Technology Fee for students' use of an MCPS issued Chromebook. The use of a school issued device — chromebook, charger, and case (available for free upon request) — during the school day or at home, is a privilege that comes with responsibilities. If a repair for a damaged device incurs a charge, a financial obligation will be issued.

- Damaged or lost chromebooks should be reported to the students' advisory teacher. There will be chromebook repair days during advisory every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday in the media center.
- Baker/MCPS reserves the right to charge full replacement cost if the device is intentionally damaged.
- Any damage that occurs to a device **while not in the case** will be considered intentional. The first chromebook case is free upon request. Students can get a case by asking any of their team leaders or coming to the media center during chromebook repair days during advisory.
- Any damage that is caused by another student should be reported to security.
- Charges will not be issued for devices damaged by fire, flood, or natural disaster.
- If a malfunction is determined to be the result of routine equipment usage, there will be no repair charge.

Replacement Costs: Chromebook — \$307; Charger — \$28; Case — \$15

School Cash Online is the preferred method of payment for Technology Replacements

FY23

Cell Phones - Silent and Out of Sight

When *can* students use their cell phones and earbuds?

- Before school in the hallways and cafeteria
- During lunchtime in the cafeteria
- After school in the hallways and in clubs that are non-instructional

When *can't* students use their cell phones and earbuds?

- In between classes
- In classes or after-school clubs that are instructional
- During detentions - lunch, after school, or whole day
- In the locker rooms and restrooms

Outreach and Admission Process Information Overview for Regional/Countywide High School Application Programs

Summary

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) offers a wide range of high school application programs for students entering Grades 9–12. These programs have a centralized admissions process, which begins with a common online application. The admission process opens in early October of 2023.

Background

- For students entering Grades 9–12 in 2024–2025, the regional/countywide high school application programs admission, and timelines are available at: www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms/high/.
- **NEW** this year, students may apply to the MCPS Virtual Academy (MVA) during the same period.
- MCPS has streamlined the Grade 8 high school application process by providing one common online application for all programs via Synergy. Grades 9–11 will apply electronically through a link provided on the website above.
- Program eligibility for current Grade 8 students is based on the student’s address and middle school. [List of Programs by Home/Base High School for Grade 8 Students](#).
- For current Grade 9–11 students, it is based on the home address only. [List of Programs for Grade 9–11 Students](#).
- All MCPS parents/guardians of students in Grades 8, 9, and 11 received communication regarding the high school programs during the weeks of September 10 and 17, 2023, respectively. The [parent/guardian/student flyer](#) communication is located on the website.
- The criteria-based application programs will continue with multiple academic measures and a committee review. The admission process will continue with student criteria such as the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP), report card grades, and student application.
- The online application for the MVA will continue to be in ParentVUE. It is a separate application from the High School Common Application.
- Students in private schools must have an MCPS ID to access both the high school common application and the MVA application on ParentVUE.

Important Dates

- **October 6, 2023**—Application for Regional/Countywide High School Application Programs (ParentVUE and Google) and MVA opens.
- **November 3, 2023**—Application Deadline for all programs including the MVA.



Montgomery County Public Schools
www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org

Ride by the Rules: Making the Right Choices



Ms. Snehia Rami, MCPS Bus Operator

Ms. S says...

- **Be Respectful**
- **Be Responsible**
- **Be Safe**



Protect Yourself— and Others

You are responsible for your behavior and self-control at all times. Knowing this, and making good decisions based on the rules, can save you from making mistakes that could have unintended consequences.

School buses are an extension of school, and you must adhere to the same standards of behavior on a school bus as in the classroom. If you don't, you could face severe consequences, including losing the privilege of riding the bus or even being suspended from school. To protect yourself and others, and keep the privilege of riding the school bus, ride by the rules!

Put safety first

- Be careful walking to and from the bus stop and while waiting for the bus to arrive. During early morning and late afternoon hours it is more difficult for motorists to see pedestrians. At all times, but particularly in winter when you may be walking and waiting near dark and slippery roads you should
- ♦ Wear highly visible clothing and/or carry a backpack with reflective material
 - ♦ Have a safe and well-lit area to wait for the bus, especially when the roads are wet or slick
 - ♦ Wait well off the road and be observant of all traffic
 - ♦ Move toward the bus only after it stops and the driver has signaled that it is safe
 - ♦ Refrain from trying to direct traffic upon walking toward or leaving the bus

Remember: Riding the school bus is a privilege for most students, not a right, and this privilege can be revoked at any time. Be smart...

Ride by the Rules!



Obey the bus operator just as you would a teacher or school administrator.

Do:

- ◆ Behave appropriately at the bus stop, respecting private property and keeping noise levels down for nearby residents
- ◆ Line up to board the bus promptly, without shoving or pushing
- ◆ Be seated and make room for others to sit as well. After bus routes are adjusted at the beginning of the school year, standing is not allowed
- ◆ Obey the bus operator just as you would a teacher or school administrator and act as you would in the classroom
- ◆ Keep the aisle and emergency door clear of obstructions
- ◆ Keep your arms, feet, and head inside the bus at all times
- ◆ Tell the bus operator, principal, and your parents if anyone is harassing, bullying, threatening, or fighting with you
- ◆ Be aware that bus operators may assign seats to students
- ◆ Be considerate of nearby yards, driveways, houses, buildings, and private property
- ◆ Discard trash in appropriate containers
- ◆ Be courteous and respectful of others

Don't:

- ◆ Use vulgar language or gestures
- ◆ Throw any papers or objects in the bus or out the windows
- ◆ Smoke, drink, eat, chew tobacco, or play radios without headphones
- ◆ Engage in any violent behavior or sexual harassment, which also may be punishable by law
- ◆ Engage in any sexual activity
- ◆ Bring prohibited materials (i.e., alcohol, drugs, weapons, explosives, and glass containers) on the bus. In addition to being against school system regulations, possession of some of these materials is a criminal offense
- ◆ Damage or deface any part of the vehicle
- ◆ Operate the emergency door without permission
- ◆ Bring large objects that cannot be held on your lap on the bus, such as some musical instruments, class projects, etc.; try to make other arrangements to take such items to school

Riding the school bus is a privilege

Know the consequences

Failure to follow the rules may result in one or more of the following consequences:

- ◆ The bus operator may bring you back to the school, or call the police, if you pose a serious threat to your own safety and/or the safety and health of other riders
- ◆ The principal may suspend your bus riding privileges temporarily or permanently, depending on the circumstances
- ◆ For certain offenses, you may be suspended from school
- ◆ For illegal activities, you may face criminal charges

NOTE: Buses may be equipped with both an audio and a visual recording device.



For more information, see the Department of Transportation Web site: www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/transportation

This document is available in an alternate format, upon request, under the Americans with Disabilities Act, by contacting the Public Information Office, 850 Hungerford Drive, Room 112, Rockville, MD 20850, 301-279-3391 or 1-800-735-2258 (Maryland Relay).

Individuals who need sign language interpretation or cued speech translation in communicating with the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) may contact Interpreting Services in Programs for Deaf and Hard of Hearing at 301-517-5539 or 5582 (Voice/TTY).

The Montgomery County Public Schools prohibits illegal discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, marital status, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, physical characteristics, or disability. Inquiries or complaints regarding discrimination or Title IX issues such as gender equity and sexual harassment should be directed to the MCPS Compliance Officer, Office of the Deputy Superintendent, 850 Hungerford Drive, Room 129, Rockville, MD 20850, at 301-279-3474.



Rockville, Maryland

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Be Respectful

Be Responsible

Be Safe



Activities for Elementary and Middle School Students

School Bus Safety Week is held to raise awareness so that everyone can remain safe while students ride the bus. Here are some videos with bus safety reminders for students and a fun contest to encourage and promote school bus safety.

Zeal's Bus Safety Tips

Zeal, the Montgomery County Department of Transportation's (MCDOT) Traffic Safety Zebra, is here with some school bus safety tips! [This Video](#) was created in partnership with Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS). All aboard!

Respect the Bus

Learn about the [Bus cameras with MCPS](#) to help keep kids safe!

NAPT 2023–2024 POSTER CONTEST IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Theme: *Driving Safely Into the Future* ([NSBSW Poster Contest](#))

Poster Creation Period: October 2, 2023–April 1, 2024

The centerpiece of National School Bus Safety Week is the Poster Contest. Thousands of school districts in over 40 states participate in local and state-level competitions to select artwork that depicts school bus safety-related themes and encourages and promotes school bus safety. The winning posters are used to promote safer school transportation for everyone.

2022-2023 National School Bus Safety Week Poster Contest Winner



Safety Tips and School Bus Laws for Families and Motorists

Here are safety tips and reminders about the Maryland School Bus Laws for families and motorists. Please share this information with your families as we promote National Bus Safety Week and educate the public about the importance of school bus safety.

Stop On Red—Knowing When to Stop for School Buses—Zero Deaths Maryland & Vision Zero

While riding a school bus is the safest mode of transportation for school children, let's get the facts straight on when it is – and isn't – OK to pass a school bus, when you should begin to slow down and how far away from the bus you need to stop.

Maryland School Bus Laws and Safety Tips

School buses are the safest way for children to get to school. Still, children are especially vulnerable as they get on and off the bus. In Maryland, bus safety laws are in place to help drivers safely navigate the roads where children might be crossing.

Stop For School Buses: What Are The Laws In Maryland?

Maryland State Police and the Maryland Center for School Safety remind motorists to stop for school buses.

- Pay attention when driving, especially in school zones and during times of day when school buses are typically on routes.
- Stop when a bus stops. It is illegal to pass a school bus with its red lights flashing.
- Prepare to stop when the school bus is flashing its yellow lights and be cautious of students beginning to move toward the bus during these times.
- Students of all ages are unpredictable. Therefore, prepare for the unexpected and maintain a safe distance from school buses at all times.

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY

WHEN TO STOP FOR A SCHOOL BUS

TWO LANE: Vehicles traveling in both directions **MUST STOP.**

TWO-LANE with center turn lane: Vehicles traveling in both directions **MUST STOP.**

MULTI-LANE: Vehicles traveling in both directions **MUST STOP.**

DIVIDED HIGHWAY: With dirt, grass, or barrier median - Vehicles behind bus **MUST STOP.** Vehicles traveling in opposite direction **USE CAUTION.**

YELLOW FLASHING
slowdown,
prepare
to stop

be the driver
who saves lives

RED FLASHING
stop in
both
directions

BAKER NIGHT AT LEECH WOODS

11201 BETHESDA CHURCH ROAD, DAMASCUS

6:30 PM - 9:00 PM



**SUNDAY
OCT. 22**

JOIN US FOR A BAKER COMMUNITY EVENT AND
GET TO KNOW OTHER BAKER FAMILIES, WHILE
HAVING A FRIGHTFULLY FUN TIME WHILE
SUPPORTING BAKER MIDDLE SCHOOL!

A PORTION OF ALL TRAIL TICKET SALES WILL GO DIRECTLY TO THE BAKER PTA.

- FREE CARNIVAL GAMES – TEACHERS & PARENTS VS. STUDENTS (6:30 PM – 7:30 PM)
- HANG OUT BY THE BAKER BONFIRE
- DISCOUNTED FOOD MENU FOR BAKER FAMILIES
- WALK THE HAUNTED TRAIL WITH FRIENDS
- DRESS UP FOR COSTUME CONTEST TO WIN PRIZES



PURCHASE YOUR DISCOUNTED TRAIL TICKET
(10% OFF FOR ALL BAKER FAMILIES)
WWW.LEECHWOODS.COM/HAUNTED-TRAILS

DISCOUNT CODE: BULLDOG

CONTACT BAKERPTA@YAHOO.COM
WITH ANY QUESTIONS.

John T. Baker Middle School Music Department Spirit Night

Tuesday, Oct. 24th
from 5pm-7pm



Place a mobile order on Tuesday, Oct. 24th from 5pm to 7pm
and 20% of sales will go to John T Baker Middle School Music
Department.

Make sure to turn on the "support community event" switch
on the app to make sure that your order counts towards the
total!



Support Community
Care Event



Ridgeside Drive FSU
1705 Ridgeside Dr, Mount Airy, MD 21771
www.chick-fil-a.com/ridgesidedrive
www.facebook.com/chickfila

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JOHN T. BAKER MIDDLE SCHOOL YEARBOOK 2024



The yearbook captures
today's memories to enjoy for a lifetime.
Don't miss out — reserve your copy today!

WAYS TO ORDER:



ONLINE

[JOSTENSYEARBOOKS.COM](https://jostensyearbooks.com)



SCAN

OTHER HELPFUL INFO:

This year, we are providing a limited number of promo codes for a discount online. Visit the website to view the active promo code. Don't delay these codes are first-come, first-serve.

JOSTENSYEARBOOKS.COM

DEADLINE: 10/31/2023

John T Baker Middle School

Dear Parent or Student,
Yearbook Recognition Ads are the perfect way to commemorate achievements and celebrate milestones. To purchase your ad online, follow the instructions listed below. Jostens is responsible for our school's yearbook ad sales. Please do not contact or send materials to the school. Please also consider our school's ad content guidelines below during the creation of your ad online. All orders must be placed by 10/31/2023 to take advantage of early bird pricing! The final deadline to purchase an 8th grade congratulatory ad is 1/26/2024.

ORDER BY 10/31/2023

COLOR AD

1/4 Page	\$95.00
1/8 Page	\$55.00

*Tax, service and delivery fee(s) will be added if applicable.

PAYMENT PLAN AVAILABLE ON ORDERS OF \$30 OR MORE.

3 EASY STEPS TO CREATE A YEARBOOK RECOGNITION AD!



Step 1

Choose your ad size and layout



Step 2

Add your photos



Step 3

Enter your text

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are the guidelines for ad content?

Our school reserves the right to edit ads per our guidelines. Ensure all submitted materials are appropriate for school publication. Jostens retains the right to remove any explicit text, graphic photos or copyright-protected imagery or photos.

Can I create my student's ad on my mobile device?

Yes, yearbook ads can be created online from both desktop and mobile devices.

How are the ad prices determined and what is the money used for?

Recognition ad prices are determined by our school. Revenue from recognition ads helps the school create a better, more affordable yearbook.

How is the ad deadline determined?

The ad deadline is set by our school based on the production schedule for the yearbook.



(800) 358-0800
jostensadservice.com/student

Jostens

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Maryland's Largest School District

MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Expanding Opportunity and Unleashing Potential



Montgomery County Public Schools Girls Summit

Please join us for the districtwide Girls Summit on Saturday, October 21, 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. at Clarksburg High School. Students in 3rd through 12th grades and caregivers (not a drop off!) are invited to multiple supportive sessions on topics including healthy relationships, healthy eating and body image, self-esteem and more! This summit will empower girls and their caregivers through exposure to vital skills and information, networking, and fun activities. In addition to the supportive sessions, the day will end with a fashion show sponsored by White House Black Market celebrating diverse body types and focusing on strong female fashion!

Sessions will be provided in both English and Spanish and will be organized by grade level. Topics include:

- ♦ Healthy relationships/dating violence
- ♦ Social media use and mental health (including cyberbullying)
- ♦ Self-esteem
- ♦ Identifying symptoms of depression & anxiety
- ♦ Non-suicidal self-injury and suicide (how to get help)
- ♦ Healthy eating
- ♦ Body image
- ♦ Gardening therapy
- ♦ Music therapy
- ♦ Zumba
- ♦ Kaiser spin bikes
- ♦ Kaiser health screening & flu shots
- ♦ AND MUCH MORE!

RSVP Here: <https://bit.ly/452XEpp>



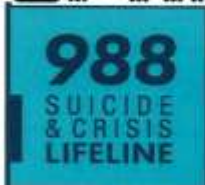
Saturday, October 21, 2023
9:00 a.m.— 1:00 p.m.

Clarksburg High School
22500 Wims Road
Clarksburg, MD 20871

SSL hours available for students
Narcan training & distribution on site



WHIBM
WHITEHOUSEBLACKMARKET™



Maryland's Largest School District

MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Expanding Opportunity and Unleashing Potential



Montgomery County Public Schools

Cumbre Femenina

Únase a nosotros para un evento de estudiantes femeninas de todo el condado el Sábado 21, de octubre, de 9:00 a.m. a 1:00 p.m., en la escuela secundaria de Clarksburg. Estudiantes de grados 3 al 12 y sus padres/guardianes, (no personas que andan dejando los estudiantes) están invitados a múltiples sesiones de apoyo sobre temas que incluyen relaciones saludables, alimentación saludable e imagen corporal, auto estima y más! Este evento empoderará las jóvenes y a sus padres/guardianes a través de talleres que van a compartir habilidades vitales e información como hacer nuevas amistades, y actividades divertidas. A demás de las sesiones de apoyo, el día terminara con un desfile de moda patrocinado por White House Black Market- una tienda de ropa que celebra diferentes tipos de cuerpos y se especializa en una fuerte moda femenina. Las sesiones se brindarán en inglés y español y se organizará por nivel de grados. Los temas incluyen:

- ♦ Relaciones saludables/violencia en noviazgos
- ♦ Usos de las redes sociales y salud mental (incluyendo acoso cibernético)
- ♦ Autoestima
- ♦ Identificar las síntomas de depresión y ansiedad
- ♦ Autolesiones no suicidas y suicidios (como obtener ayuda)
- ♦ Alimentación saludable
- ♦ Imagen corporal
- ♦ Terapia de jardinería
- ♦ Terapia musical
- ♦ Zumba
- ♦ Bicicletas de spinning Kaiser
- ♦ Exámenes de salud de Kaiser y vacunas para el flu
- ♦ Y MUCHO MAS!

Reservar su espacio aquí: <https://bit.ly/452XEpp>



Sábado, Octubre 21, 2023
9:00 a.m. — 1:00 p.m.

Clarksburg High School
22500 Wims Road
Clarksburg, MD 20871

Horas SSL disponible para estudiantes
Entrenamiento y distribución de NARCAN





Scan here
to register!



Help your school
earn a share of
\$500,000

Dear Parents,

Educational technology and funding changes daily. To keep up with these changes and expenses, our school is partnering with Weis Markets in their annual Weis 4 School program. Register your Weis Rewards card online at weis4school.com. By participating in this program, we can earn money for our school by simply shopping. Once you register, you're in the program and you do not need to register again this school year. Please share this information with your friends and family. The more interest and enthusiasm we generate, the greater the benefits to our school.

Thank you for your support.

weismarkets.com

