

Dr. Worthington's Message

Twitter: DrLouise Worthington@BAKERprincipal

Parents: please restock your child's supplies — especially pencils.

MCPS is rolling out Remind, a new primary communication tool for schoolwide messages. In order to ensure that you are receiving messages, **please update all your communication info.**

October 25–31 is Red Ribbon Week. Enrique "Kiki" Camarena was a DEA Agent who was killed in Mexico in 1985. To honor his memory and his battle against illegal drugs, friends and neighbors started wearing red badges. Today, the Red Ribbon serves as a reminder to communities to educate youth and encourage participation in drug prevention activities.

Tuesday, October 31, is Costume Day at Baker. *Wearing of costumes is completely optional and at the discretion of parents.* Each parent who is allowing their child(ren) to wear a costume is asked to work with their child(ren) on costume selection. **In honor of Red Ribbon Week, students are encouraged to wear costumes which show that our focus is to be drug free.** All costumes must be middle school appropriate.

The following will not be allowed:

- Weapons (real or toy)
- Costume masks
- Gory or bloody costumes or accessories

Please note that all school rules regarding appropriate attire remain in effect on Costume Day. Parents will be called to bring a change of clothes for students not adhering to our dress code. Thank you in advance for your cooperation in making this a successful event.

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.

SEE Something → SAY Something
Maryland Safe School Hotline Number
1-833-MD-B-SAFE / 1-833-632-7233



Looking Ahead

October — Nationals Principals' Month

Sunday, October 22

PTA Spirit Night Fundraiser at Leech Woods
Haunted Forest (see page 5)

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

All SGA members and any students who are interested — earn 2 SSL hours by joining SGA after school this Tuesday, October 24, to create fliers and posters to spread awareness on our advisories food drive competition

Music Department Fundraiser at
Chik-fil-A in Mt. Airy (see page 6)

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
Rubi'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

October 3–November 3 —

Mental Health Awareness Week

Monday, October 30

Wear college or career attire to celebrate your future

Tuesday, October 31 — Activity Buses

Hocus Pocus — wear costumes (no masks, weapons, or inappropriate outfits), to show that being drug free is our focus

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

Outdoor Ed permission slips and medical authorizations 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.

Baker Students Raise \$1,000 + for The Johns Hopkins Children's Center

On October 14, the **Baltimore Running Festival** took place in downtown Baltimore. **Luca Petronio, Ryder Holliday, and Adrian Lopez** were three of only 20 runners under the age of 16 who completed the **13.1-mile half marathon race**. They trained throughout the summer and fall in their limited free time between other sports, activities, and schoolwork. They encouraged, supported, and pushed each other throughout their training. They ran through rain, wind, and chilly conditions for 2.5-3.5 hours to reach the finish line. This would be an amazing accomplishment on its own, but **they also raised over \$1000 for The Johns Hopkins Children's Center**. Each chose to not only run the race but do it in the benefit of others. Luca, Ryder, and Adrian represent many of the values MCPS and Baker Middle School hope to cultivate in their students. We are so very proud of them!



Games & Crafts at the Damascus Library Wednesdays 3:30–5:30 for Grades 6–12

MCCPTA Cluster Coordinator(s) for Damascus:

We have two current Cluster Coordinators and are looking for one more Cluster Coordinator in Damascus this school year. This is a position that ensures that the Damascus perspective is taken into account when Montgomery County decisions are being made. You would participate in cluster and other Montgomery County level meetings (many are now virtual), representing the Damascus Cluster of schools and bringing back to our cluster information provided and decisions made.

If you are interested in learning more, please contact Leander at lawdog9428@verizon.net or Aimee at aimee1000@yahoo.com.

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

CONVERTING FROM AC TO HEAT

KNOWING YOUR SCHOOL'S MECHANICAL SYSTEM

It's fall, and schools will have their air conditioning systems converted to heat in the **SECOND HALF OF OCTOBER**. Your school's mechanical system provides heating, cooling, and ventilation to your building. Twice a year, that system must be shut down for seasonal changeover. This flyer provides information about that process.

A COMMON QUESTION:

At my house, we just flip a switch and we have heat one day and cooling the next. Why can't you do that at our school building?

THE ANSWER:

School mechanical systems are very different from residential systems. Boilers and chillers, known as central plant equipment, heat or cool water that is then pumped to the equipment that conditions air for your room. However, only one set of pipes connects the central plant to the room equipment in most schools.

When the chiller operates, the boiler must be physically disconnected by valves from the pipe loop. Similarly, when the boiler operates, the chiller must be isolated from the pipe loop.

Prior to switching the valves, the water in the loop must first be allowed to return back to room temperature. The boiler cannot be started with chilled water in the loop. The loop temperature takes approximately 24 hours to equalize.

Altogether, the complete changeover process may take up to two days in each school, during which time the building has neither heating nor cooling available. Please be prepared and **dress appropriately for the weather** each day; sweaters or jackets work well for chilly mornings. Maintenance crews will perform the changeover with as little inconvenience as possible.



CHECK YOUR SCHOOL'S CHANGEOVER STATUS ONLINE!

<https://maintweb.mcpsmd.org/>



ANY QUESTIONS?

If you have questions or concerns about the changeover process, contact your school's assigned Division of Maintenance and Operations Service Center.

[Click here to find your center.](#)



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.

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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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





The poster features a large, stylized green 'GAME' with 'CHANGER' in yellow text inside the letters, and 'CONFERENCE' in yellow below it. The background is a crowd of young men. Below the title, it says '2023 Fall Conference For Young Males' in green. The main body is dark blue with white and yellow text. On the left, it says 'REGISTER TODAY!' in yellow, 'Space is Limited!' in white, and 'Seneca Valley High School' in yellow, followed by the address '19401 Crystal Rock Drive, Germantown, MD 20874' in white. There is a small cartoon character of a person on the phone. At the bottom left, it says 'The World is Shifting! Focus Forward' in white. On the right, it says 'SATURDAY OCTOBER 28' in white, '8:00AM - 1:00PM' in white, and a URL 'https://bit.ly/ucf-gc-fall-2023' in white. There is a QR code and a small logo in the bottom right corner.

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Youth Program Coordinators,

We are thrilled to extend a warm invitation to [The Game Changer Conference for Young Males 2023!](https://bit.ly/ucf-gc-fall-2023) hosted by UCF (United Christian Fellowship, Inc)! This transformative event, hosted by UCF (United Christian Fellowship, Inc), is set to take place on **Saturday, October 28, 2023**, from **8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** at the **Seneca Valley High School**, located at 19401 Crystal Rock Dr., Germantown, Maryland 20874.

◆ **Conference Goal:**

Our mission is to craft a “Game Changer” experience that reignites and builds the social-emotional wellness, confidence, and values our young males need to ascend to the next level and become a true Success Story. This conference is a beacon of hope and empowerment. We encourage young males to embrace a positive attitude and pursue academic excellence to reach their full potential, boosting High School graduation and College Readiness Rates.

◆ **2023 Theme:**

"The World is Shifting Focus Forward: How Will YOU Pursue Excellence?"

We aim to inspire and encourage our young males to compete academically and socially, showing them that their lives are valued, and their potential is limitless in this post-COVID pandemic era.

Continued on next page

◆ Conference Features:

- **Life Skills Stations, Panel Conversations, and Enrichment Forums:** A variety of interactive sessions designed to equip students with essential life skills and knowledge.
- **Parent Advocacy Academy Roundtable:** Parents are encouraged to attend workshops themed "New School Parenting for Old School Issues" to learn how to better advocate for their students.
- **STEM Exposure Experience:** An opportunity for students to explore and engage with STEM-related activities and learning.

◆ Essay Writing Competition:

To foster academic excellence, we are excited to announce the **Essay Writing Competition** for students! Participants are encouraged to submit a **300-word essay** on the theme: "The World Is Shifting! Being Focus Forward is a Game Changer: How Will YOU Pursue Excellence?" **Submissions are due by Wednesday, October 25, 2023**, at [GC Essay Contest Submission](#). Huge prizes await the winners in each age division!

◆ Register Now:

Don't miss out on this golden opportunity! Secure your student's spot by registering through [GC Fall 2023 Registration](#) before the cut-off on Friday, October 20, 2023. Spaces are limited, and we are anticipating a vibrant turnout!

◆ Be a Helping Hand:

Spread the word to your circle of influence today! Whether you are a parent, guardian, mentor, youth leader, or school coordinator, your voice can make a difference. Encourage family members, neighbors, and anyone working directly with youth to bring their students and be part of this life-changing journey.

◆ Safety First:

Given the ongoing impact of COVID-19, we are committed to ensuring the safety of all participants. While masks are optional, we recommend bringing one for added protection.

◆ Thank You:

This conference is more than an event; it's a stepping stone towards a brighter, more successful future for our young males. Let's come together to show them that they are cherished, their dreams are attainable, and their pursuit of excellence is supported by a community that believes in them.

Thank you for being a pivotal part of this journey. We look forward to seeing you and your students at the Game Changer Conference 2023!

To learn more about UCF and The Game Changer Conference visit our websites at www.UCFINC.org and www.TheGameConference.org.

Mentoring Leadership Matters!

Serving Faithfully,
Donald Williams II, (Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army, Retired)
Executive Director. UCF Youth Development Organization
www.ucfinc.org
www.TheGameConference.org