

Dr. Worthington's Message

Twitter: DrLouise Worthington@BAKERprincipal

Dear School Community,

Many of our families will spend time over the upcoming break traveling and visiting with friends and family. As travel and crowded indoor gatherings can increase the risk of respiratory infections including COVID-19, MCPS is making at-home rapid test kits available to students and staff prior to the break.

At Baker Middle School, we started distributing the test kits on November 6, and will have distributed kits to all students before Thanksgiving.

Testing is not mandatory. We are depending on our staff and families to [consider their exposure risk](#), and test and report positive results accordingly.

The InteliSwab test takes 30 minutes for results and has an extended expiration date. Test kits should be used for staff and students. For other family members, free rapid test kits are also available at most [public library locations](#) and [by mail](#).

What do I do if the rapid test is positive?

Staff and students positive for COVID-19 should notify their school or program directly if absent due to COVID-19. Individuals who have a positive COVID-19 test will need to follow [CDC guidelines for isolation](#).

Please remember that respiratory infections like influenza and RSV are also circulating in our community. Healthy habits including isolating when sick, good handwashing and covering coughs and sneezes help prevent illness.

Baker Middle School celebrates **American Education Week November 13–17**. Students had the opportunity to write notes of appreciation to their teachers, paraeducators, counselors, administrators, and any other staff members they wished to recognize. Parents and guardians who wish to recognize any of the adults who work with their students may send an email directly to the staff member(s). Email addresses are found in the blue bar on the left of the Baker home page under Staff Directory.

Please join us when students from the Damascus Cluster Schools present the **Damascus Cluster Concerts**. All three concerts will be held at Damascus High School and start at 7:00 p.m.

- **BMS/DHS Choral Concert** — Tuesday, November 14
- **Bands Concert** — Wednesday, November 15
- **Strings Concert** — Thursday, November 16

Parent Conferences will be held **Monday, November 20, 2023**.

These conferences are by invitation, only. If it was deemed that a conference at this time would be beneficial to your child's progress, your child's Team Leader or Counselor will have contacted you to schedule a conference time.

Talent Show — Baker students will showcase their talents Friday evening and Saturday afternoon. See page 2 for more info.

Continued on page 2

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



Looking Ahead

November — National Native American Heritage Month

November 13–17 — American Education Week

Monday, November 13

PTA 8th Grade Committee Mtg, 6:00 p.m.
 PTA General Membership Mtg, 7:00 p.m.
 PTA meetings will be in-person and on Zoom
[https://mcpssmd.zoom.us/j/93677883016?](https://mcpssmd.zoom.us/j/93677883016?pwd=d01Kc201WkVGSmdYYlJ1UVRWUDJCQj09)
[pwd=d01Kc201WkVGSmdYYlJ1UVRWUDJCQj09](https://mcpssmd.zoom.us/j/93677883016?pwd=d01Kc201WkVGSmdYYlJ1UVRWUDJCQj09)
ID 936 7788 3016 Code Bulldog
Phone 1-301-715-8592

Tuesday, November 14 — Activity Buses

Art Club, Room 210, Ms. Alvarado
 Chess Club, Room 115, Mr. Ciccarello
 Homework Club, Room 227, Ms. Laraia
 Intramural Girls Basketball, Gym, Mr. Smith
 SGA Meeting, Room 233, Ms. Blankenship
 Damascus Cluster MS/HS Choral Concert

Wednesday, November 15 — Activity Buses

Math Club, Room 231, Mr. McKay
 Rubik's Cube Club, Room 225, Mr. Fisher
 Damascus Cluster Bands Concert — Gr. 5-12

Thursday, November 16 — Activity Buses

Intramural Girls Basketball, Gym, Mr. Smith
 Jazz Band, Room 107, Mrs. Fell
 K Club, Room 210, Ms. Alvarado
 Talent Show Rehearsal, Rm. 225, Mr. Fisher
 Damascus Cluster Strings Concert

Friday, November 17

Talent Show, 6:30 p.m., Baker Gym

Saturday, November 18

Talent Show, 2:00 p.m., Baker Gym

Monday, November 20

Early Release Day for students
 Parent Conferences (by invitation only)

Tuesday, November 21 — No Activity Buses

Early Release Day for students

November 22–November 24

Schools and offices closed



November 24 —

National Native American Heritage Day



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 an SGA sponsored pizza party!

- 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](#).

December Holiday Referral Deadline – November 20

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

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

Monday, November 20, and Tuesday, November 21, are early release days for students. We will dismiss students at 12:30 p.m. on both days. **Schools and offices will be closed Wednesday, November 22 through November 24 for Thanksgiving break.**

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

MCPS is rolling out Remind, a new communication tool for schoolwide messages. In order to ensure that you are receiving messages, **please update your communication info — email, phone numbers, etc.**

Time to Bundle Up

With the freezing temperatures in the morning we want to remind you that our doors open for students at 7:50 a.m. on regular school days and 9:50 a.m. on days when there is a two-hour delay. Staff are not on duty until those times and, thus, there is no one to supervise your child or let them in to the building.

Please make sure students come bundled warmly in preparation for the cold temperatures outside. Thank you!



Baker Bulldog Basketball Teams

Attention parents of 7th and 8th grade students — if your child is interested in trying out for the Baker Bulldog Basketball Teams, please go to the Baker website and click on Athletics. Then click on the Basketball tab and follow the directions.

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

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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.

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Help your school
earn a share of
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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



MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Expanding Opportunity and Unleashing Potential

OFFICE OF DISTRICT OPERATIONS

November 3, 2023

Dear Staff, Parents, and Guardians:

We are pleased to inform you of an opportunity to purchase a piano for your family. Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) has an agreement with Schaeffer's Piano Company, Inc., to provide MCPS with new grand, upright, and digital pianos to be used in schools. Schaeffer's Piano Co. Inc., located in Rockville, Maryland, is the area's oldest piano store. This agreement also provides MCPS families and staff an opportunity to purchase these and other pianos for considerably reduced prices at an annual piano sales event.

This year's liquidation sales event will take place November 11–19, 2023, at 105 North Stonestreet Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20850. Sales will be by appointment only to provide an opportunity for you to purchase these pianos before they are offered for sale to the public. All pianos will carry a 15-year transferable warranty. Each piano will come with a bench and one free in-house tuning.

For additional information, you may visit the Schaeffer's Piano Company, Inc., website at www.schaefferspiano.com. To make an appointment for the sale, between November 11–19, 2023, please call the Schaeffer's Piano Company appointment desk at 301-424-1147.

We are grateful to be working with Schaeffer's Piano Company, Inc., to support our school music programs and help MCPS keep new and well-maintained instruments in our schools each year. If you have any questions, please contact Schaeffer's Piano Company, Inc., at 301-424-1144.

Sincerely,



Dana E. Edwards
Chief of District Operations

What You Need To Know

ENGLISH	SPANISH
<p>Report Cards and First Quarter Absences</p> <p>Parents/caregivers will soon receive first quarter report cards. In addition to reviewing academic progress, please make note of the number of absences your student had during the first quarter.</p> <p>A student is considered chronically absent if they are absent 10 percent or more (5 days or more during the first quarter) of the days they are enrolled.</p> <p>Please make every effort to send your child(ren) to school every day. If you have any barriers to sending your child(ren) to school, reach out to a trusted staff member. We are here to help.</p>	<p>Boletines de Calificaciones y Ausencias del Primer Trimestre</p> <p>Los padres/cuidadores pronto recibirán los boletines de calificaciones del primer trimestre. Además de revisar el progreso académico, por favor tome nota del número de ausencias que su estudiante tuvo durante el primer trimestre.</p> <p>Un estudiante se considera crónicamente ausente si está ausente el 10 por ciento o más de los días en que está inscrito.</p> <p>Por favor haga todo lo posible para enviar a su hijo(s) a la escuela todos los días. Si tiene alguna barrera para enviar a su(s) hijo(s) a la escuela, comuníquese con un adulto de confianza. Estamos aquí para ayudar.</p>
<p>November 20th and 21st are Instructional Days</p> <p>November 20th and 21st are half-day instructional days for all MCPS students. Important teaching and learning will occur on both days and both days are a great opportunity for students to engage with their peers before the five-day Thanksgiving holiday. Please make every effort to ensure that your children attend each of these two half-days on time. Their teachers and peers miss them when they are not in school.</p>	<p>Los días 20 y 21 de noviembre son días de instrucción</p> <p>El 20 y 21 de noviembre son días de instrucción de medio día para todos los estudiantes de MCPS. Enseñanza y aprendizaje importantes ocurrirán en ambos días y ambos días son una gran oportunidad para que los estudiantes se involucren con sus compañeros antes de las vacaciones de Acción de Gracias de cinco días. Por favor haga todo lo posible para asegurarse de que sus hijos asistan a cada uno de estos dos medio días a tiempo. Sus maestros y compañeros los extrañan cuando no están en la escuela.</p>
<p>Share Your Feedback for Phase Two of Developing the MCPS School Year Calendar</p> <p>Let your voice be heard! This feedback represents the second phase in the Montgomery County Public Schools calendar development process for the 2024-2025 school year.</p> <p>MCPS will consider educational interests, operational needs, mandated school closures by state law, compliance with minimum instructional days and credit hour requirements, inclement weather and other emergencies, staff professional days and early release days, alignment with assessment schedules and more.</p>	<p>Comparta sus comentarios para la Fase Dos de Desarrollo del Calendario del Ciclo Escolar de MCPS</p> <p>¡Deja que tu voz sea escuchada! Estos comentarios representan la segunda fase en el proceso de desarrollo del calendario de las Escuelas Públicas del Condado de Montgomery para el ciclo escolar 2024-2025.</p> <p>MCPS tendrá en cuenta los intereses educativos, las necesidades operativas, el cierre obligatorio de escuelas por ley estatal, el cumplimiento de los requisitos mínimos de días de instrucción y horas de crédito, las inclemencias del tiempo y otras emergencias, los días profesionales del personal y los días de salida temprana, la alineación con los horarios de evaluación y más.</p>

What You Need To Know

ENGLISH	SPANISH
<p>Awards Season is Underway, Nominate Today!</p> <p>Is there a staff member, administrator or teacher you think deserves recognition? Nominations are open for several awards to honor exceptional staff, teachers, and administrators.</p>	<p>La temporada de premios está en marcha, ¡nomina hoy!</p> <p>¿Hay algún miembro del personal, administrador o maestro que usted cree que merece reconocimiento? Las nominaciones están abiertas para varios premios para honrar al personal excepcional, maestros y administradores.</p>
<p>Speak Up, Save a Life PSA Contest for Students</p> <p>The Montgomery County State's Attorney's Office is hosting a contest that challenges teens to create an original video to promote awareness of the dangers of opioid abuse or overdose and fentanyl among teens. The contest is open to students in Grades 6-12. The top prize is \$1,000, second place is \$750, third place and fan favorite winners will receive \$500. Prizes are being donated by Magnolia Plumbing in honor of two young men who lost their lives to illicit fentanyl. Students can earn up to 10 Student Service Learning (SSL) hours. Deadline is Nov. 16.</p> <p>Visit the contest webpage for more information.</p>	<p>Concurso PSA para estudiantes Speak Up, Save a Life</p> <p>La Oficina del Fiscal del Estado del Condado de Montgomery está organizando un concurso que desafía a los adolescentes a crear un video original para promover la conciencia de los peligros del abuso de opioides o sobredosis y fentanilo entre los adolescentes. El concurso está abierto a estudiantes en los grados 6-12. El premio mayor es de \$1,000, el segundo lugar es de \$750, el tercer lugar y los ganadores favoritos de los fans recibirán \$500. Los premios están siendo donados por Magnolia Plumbing en honor a dos jóvenes que perdieron la vida a causa del fentanilo ilícito. Los estudiantes pueden ganar hasta 10 horas de aprendizaje mediante servicio estudiantil (SSL). La fecha límite es el 16 de noviembre.</p>
<p>Changemaker Workshops</p> <p>Grades 3 - 12 students and families are invited to attend this year's changemaker workshop to learn how to take action to improve their communities. Middle and High School English: November 14, 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM; Middle and High School Spanish: November 15, 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM; Grades 3 - 5: November 16, 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM. Middle and high school students will earn 2 SSL hours for attending. Learn more: Secondary English Flier; Secondary Spanish Flier</p>	<p>Talleres de Changemaker</p> <p>Se invita a los estudiantes y familias de los grados 3 al 12 a asistir al taller de Changemakers de este año para aprender cómo tomar medidas para mejorar sus comunidades. Inglés para secundaria e intermedia: 14 de noviembre, de 6:30 p. m. a 8:00 p. m.; Español para secundaria e intermedia: 15 de noviembre, 6:30 p. m. - 8:00 p. m.; Grados 3 - 5: 16 de noviembre, 5:30 p. m. - 6:30 p. m. Los estudiantes de secundaria e intermedia obtendrán 2 horas SSL por asistir. Obtenga más información: Folleto en inglés para secundaria; Folleto en español para secundaria</p>
<p>We Want to Hear From You! Join Us at the Next Virtual Budget Forum Nov. 14</p> <p>Your voice matters, and we are eager to hear your insight! Join Board of Education Member Julie Yang and MCPS leadership Tuesday, Nov. 14 at 6:30 for a virtual Operating Budget Forum.</p> <p>RSVP</p>	<p>¡Queremos saber de usted! Únase a nosotros en el próximo Foro de Presupuesto Virtual el 14 de noviembre</p> <p>¡Tu voz importa, y estamos ansiosos por escuchar tu visión! Únase a la miembro del Consejo de Educación Julie Yang y al liderazgo de MCPS el martes, 14 de noviembre a las 6:30 p.m. para un Foro virtual de Presupuesto Operativo.</p> <p>Reserve</p>

Resources

[Parent Academy](#)

[Pathway to College, Career, and Community Readiness](#)

[SSL Hours](#)

Communication Channels

MCPS connects with families and staff in a variety of ways.

[MCPS News Center](#)

Webpage featuring the latest MCPS news and press releases updated regularly.

Thursday Message

Weekly message with at least five things to know sent to families, students, and staff. Find the latest edition [here](#).

QuickNotes

A newsletter emailed to all families every other week. Find the latest edition [here](#).

Ask MCPS / Spanish Hotline

General information about MCPS

Call: 240-740-3000 | Spanish Hotline: 240-740-2845

E-mail: ASKMCPS@mcpsmd.org

Social Media - Connect With Us

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MCPS-TV:



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