

Dr. Worthington's Message

Twitter: DrLouise Worthington@BAKERprincipal

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.**

Baker MS Winter Concerts

Baker Bands

December 11 — 6:30 p.m. at DHS

Baker Chorus and Orchestra

December 13 — 6:30 p.m. at DHS

Instrumental groups under the direction of Mrs. Valerie Fell.

Choral groups under the direction of Mrs. Kari Liuzzi



SGA Warm Coat Drive

The Baker MS SGA is collecting warm coats for the Warm Coat Drive **until December 12, 2023.**

Donations can be dropped off in Room 233 or the Media Center.



A Message from the Baker PTA

Dear Baker Families —

As we approach the holiday season, we would like to express our gratitude to the staff at Baker Middle School by hosting a **Staff Appreciation Luncheon on Thursday, December 14.** We will be providing sandwiches, fruits, and veggies, but we need your help to make the event extra special. Please use the Sign-Up Genius link below to sign up! Thank you for your help! <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0F48ADAF2BA1FF2-46495357-staff>

Sincerely,

The Baker Middle School PTA

Upcoming Community Meetings

[Click here](#) for the DHS Renovation Slideshow. We have a number of meetings coming up that are really important! Please see the list below.

[DHS Renovation, Community Design Worksessions](#)

(DHS Cafeteria)

- December 11, 2023 – 6:30 p.m.
- January 10, 2024 – 6:30 pm
- January 23, 2024 – 6:30 pm



Looking Ahead

Monday, December 11

Baker Bands Winter Concert; 6:30 p.m., Damascus High School Auditorium
DHS Renovation, Community Design Worksession, 6:30 p.m., DHS Cafeteria

Tuesday, December 12 — Activity Buses

Town Halls with Phil Andrews on Cyber Civility through PE/Health classes
Art Club, Room 210, Ms. Alvarado
Basketball Tryouts – Girls
Chess Club, Room 115, Mr. Ciccarello
Homework Club, Room 227, Ms. Laraia
NJHS Meeting combined with SGA Meeting, Room 233, Ms. Blankenship, Mr. Conner

Wednesday, 13 — Activity Buses

Basketball Tryouts – Girls
Math Club, Room 231, Mr. McKay
Rubik's Cube Club, Room 225, Mr. Fisher
Baker Chorus and Orchestra Concert, 6:30 p.m., Damascus HS Auditorium

Thursday, December 14 — Activity Buses

PTA Staff Appreciation Luncheon
Basketball Tryouts – Girls
Jazz Band, Room 107, Mrs. Fell
K-Club, Room 210, Ms. Alvarado

Monday, December 18

Interims available on ParentVue and StudentVue and mailed home to non-activated Parent/VUE accounts

Tuesday, December 19 — Activity Buses

Art Club, Room 210, Ms. Alvarado
Chess Club, Room 115, Mr. Ciccarello
eSports Club, Room 134, Mr. Conner and Mr. Maddox

Homework Club, Room 227, Ms. Laraia

Wed., December 20 — Activity Buses

Winter Hat Day
NJHS Meeting, Room 209, Mr. Conner
Rubik's Cube Club, Room 225, Mr. Fisher

Thursday, December 21 Activity Buses

Winter Sweater Day
Jazz Band, Room 107, Mrs. Fell
K-Club, Room 210, Ms. Alvarado

Friday, December 22 Activity Buses

Winter Pajama Day
Staff vs. Student Basketball Games

December 25, 2023–January 2, 2024

Winter Break

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



Winter Hat Day Wednesday, December 20

Students and staff are invited to wear favorite holiday or winter hats all day long at school



Winter Sweater Day Thursday, December 21

Students and staff are invited to wear favorite holiday or winter sweaters at school



Winter Pajama Day Friday, December 22

Students and staff are invited to wear favorite holiday or winter pajamas at school



Staff v. Student Basketball Games Friday, December 22

8th grade	Period 3	10:20–10:43
7th grade	Period 4	11:10–11:36
6th grade	Period 5	12:03–12:29



Americanism Essay Contest

Each year, the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) sponsors an Americanism Essay Contest for students in grades 3-12, including students with special needs. Grade levels are divided into six classes. One award in each of the six classes will be presented in each division. Winners will receive \$50 and a \$50 donation in the student's name will be made to the Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship fund.

Essay Title: "What does Freedom mean to me?"

Essay Classes:

Class	Grade Level	Word Requirement
I	3 and 4	150-250
II	5 and 6	250-300
III	7 and 8	350-400
IV	9 and 10	450-500
V	11 and 12	450-500
VI	Students with special needs	Word count should correspond with student's grade level.

The required cover sheet will be available from Ms. Lawrowycz. You will need to ask a Baker MS teacher to sponsor you.

A Charlie Brown Christmas at DHS

It's that time of the year again! The Damascus Drama Club presents **A Charlie Brown Christmas** on Tuesday, December 19. All tickets are \$5 and available for purchase at the door. There will be two shows. The first will be at 5:00 p.m. and the second show will be at 7:00 p.m. Both shows last approximately 30 minutes and are perfect for young audience members!

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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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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

Getting Ready for Winter Weather

As we move into winter, MCPS will keep you updated with timely and accurate information about weather-related delays, closures and early dismissals.

As a reminder, MCPS has [six operational status options](#), which are reported by easy-to-understand, color-coded messages on the main page of the MCPS website. This information is also linked to each school website.

 Green Normal Operations <i>All schools and offices are open on time</i> <i>Before and After school childcare programs and Community Use occur as scheduled</i>	 Yellow Two Hour Delay <i>Schools will open 2 hours later</i> <i>Before and After school childcare programs and Community Use occur as scheduled</i>	 Blue Early Closing <i>Schools will close 2.5 hours earlier</i> <i>After school childcare programs and Community Use are canceled</i>
 Orange Schools Closed/ Offices Open <i>Schools closed / School and Admin Offices are open</i> <i>Before and After school childcare programs may decide to operate and Community Use is canceled</i>	 Red School System is Closed <i>Schools and Offices are closed</i> <i>Before and After school childcare programs and Community Use are canceled</i>	 Purple Virtual Learning Day <i>Virtual Instruction Occurs</i> <i>Before and After school childcare programs and Community Use are canceled</i>

The safety of students and staff is our top priority, and MCPS understands the inconvenience changing situations can cause for families and staff. Operational changes due to emergency weather conditions are only made when necessary and after careful review.

In making decisions, MCPS leadership reviews information from national and local weather experts, local emergency management officials, and the operating status of other government and neighboring school districts. Additionally, leadership gathers information from state highway administrators and relies on key MCPS personnel who inspect the conditions of roads, sidewalks, MCPS parking lots and bus lanes.

[Emergency Information](#) — How to Receive MCPS Emergency Information, Weather Decisions, School Closings and Other Emergency Procedures, Emergency Preparedness, Resources