

Dr. Worthington's Message

Twitter: DrLouise Worthington@BAKERprincipal

As the first day of the 2024 New Year approaches, I would like to express my appreciation to all our students, staff members, substitutes, and parents, who work tirelessly each day to make Baker Middle School the wonderful place it is for students!

Each staff member brings his or her own special talent to the school culture. Our classrooms are alive with the children's excitement and enthusiasm for learning! Students feel connected to their peers, their staff members, and their school.

As a parent, each one of you plays an important part in bringing life to the school, whether you help out by volunteering, attending meetings, supporting the vision and mission of the school, or assisting your child with schoolwork.

Each student has the opportunity to come to school prepared to learn and grow as much as possible in academics, arts, music, computers, physical education, and the plethora of after-school activities, programs, and sports that are available here at Baker. Making new friends comes naturally when children are in an environment where *caring, sharing, and respect* are at the heart of our core values.

Have a wonderful winter break, and we will see everyone back at school on **Wednesday, January 3, 2024!**

This week, we get a little more into the holiday spirit with our annual festivities — **Winter Hat Day, Winter Sweater Day, Winter Pajama Day, and the Staff vs. Student Basketball Games.** Come and join us for a bit of fun!



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



Looking Ahead

Monday, December 18

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

Tuesday, December 19 — Activity Buses

SGA Spirit Day – Dress like a Celebrity (see page 2)

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

Enjoy Winter Break!



Wednesday, January 3 — Activity Buses

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

Thursday, January 4 — Activity Buses

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

Friday, January 5

SSL forms due for hours earned during Semester 1 and Summer 2023

Time to Bundle Up

Brrrr — it's freezing! A reminder that our doors open to students at 7:50 a.m. (9:50 a.m. on days when there is a two-hour delay). Please make sure students come bundled warmly in preparation for the cold temperatures outside. Thank you!



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.

SGA Spirit Day — Dress Up Like a Celebrity

Students and Staff —Have fun before the break by dressing up as a celebrity on **Tuesday, December 19!** No masks and make sure to follow the dress code. Per **Regulation JFA-RA, IV., L., 3.** Students ... style of dress or grooming [is not allowed if it]

- is likely to cause a disruption to the educational environment;
- causes a disruption to the educational environment;
- endangers or potentially threatens the health and/or safety of self or others;
- fails to meet a reasonable requirement of a course or activity;
- is associated with gangs;
- is lewd, vulgar, obscene, revealing, or of a sexual nature; or
- promotes tobacco, smoking, alcohol, drugs, or sexual activity.

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!

Upcoming Community Meetings

[Click here](#) for the DHS Renovation Slideshow. [DHS Renovation, Community Design Worksessions](#) (DHS Cafeteria)

- January 10, 2024 – 6:30 pm
- January 23, 2024 – 6:30 pm

JOHN T. BAKER MIDDLE SCHOOL YEARBOOK 2024

The yearbook captures today's memories to enjoy for a lifetime.
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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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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

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