

Dr. Worthington's Message

Twitter: DrLouise Worthington@BAKERprincipal

After 19 years of being your Principal, I will be retiring effective July 1, 2024. It has been my greatest honor and privilege to serve at Baker Middle School. I also want to share that I will be getting married this May.



NJHS/SGA Friendship Dance – see pages 2-6

Please help students have a friendly and fun time at the **February 9, 2024**, Friendship Dance by purchasing any items from the following Amazon list. Items can be ordered and then **sent with your student** to drop off in the Media Center. Please do not set the delivery address as Baker MS. Thank you so much!

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/ILTWIZQN1G6W?ref=wl_share



Baker MS needs Parent/Guardian Chaperones for the dance. Please see pages 2–6 for more information and the required permission slip.

DHS Renovation Update

Thanks to those who came out for the third community meeting on January 23rd. [Click here](#) for the presentation. Your continued advocacy is needed! The Montgomery County Council will be holding public hearings on February 6th at 1:30pm & 7pm. If you are interested in providing testimony, please see this site on [How to Testify](#). Visit the project's [website](#) for more information on our DHS major capital project. If you have questions about the project, you are welcome to email project managers, [Patrick M. Schmidt@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Patrick.M.Schmidt@mcpsmd.org) and [Robbie S. Badstibner@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Robbie.S.Badstibner@mcpsmd.org) from the Division of Design and Construction.

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



Looking Ahead

February —

African American Heritage Month (see p 7)

February 1–April 1, 2024 — COSA Transfer Application Season (see page 9)

February 5–9 —

National School Counseling Week

Monday, February 5

Report cards available in Synergy and distributed to students

Tuesday, February 6 — 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
 Workout Club, Weight Room, Mr. Fisher
 Basketball vs. Rocky Hill, Boys Home/Girls Away

Wednesday, February 7 — Activity Buses

WIDA Testing, 8:15–10:43 a.m.
 Rubik's Cube Club, Room 225, Mr. Fisher

Thursday, February 8 — Activity Buses

WIDA Testing, 8:15–10:43 a.m.
 Jazz Band, Room 107, Mrs. Fell
 K–Club, Room 210, Ms. Alvarado
 Workout Club, Weight Room, Mr. Fisher

Friday, February 9

NJHS/SGA Friendship Dance at Baker MS, permission slip required (see pages 3–6)

Tuesday, February 13 — Activity Buses

Lifetouch Club and Team Photos
 Art Club, Room 210, Ms. Alvarado
 Chess Club, Room 115, Mr. Ciccarello
 Homework Club, Room 227, Ms. Laraia
 Workout Club, Weight Room, Mr. Fisher
 PTA 8th Gr. Committee Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
 PTA General Membership Mtng, 7:00 p.m.
 PTA meetings are on Zoom:

<https://mcpsmd.zoom.us/j/93677883016?pwd=d01Kc201WkVGSmdYYlJlUVRWUDJCQT09>

ID 936 7788 3016 Code Bulldog

Phone 1-301-715-8592

Wednesday, February 14 — Activity Buses

NJHS Meeting, Room 209, Mr. Conner
 Rubik's Cube Club, Room 225, Mr. Fisher
 Basketball vs. King, Boys Away/ Girls Home

Thursday, February 15 — Activity Buses

Jazz Band, Room 107, Mrs. Fell
 K–Club, Room 210, Ms. Alvarado
 Workout Club, Weight Room, Mr. Fisher



Introducing Joshua Dunton

Hello Bulldog Families! I would like to introduce myself to you all. My name is Joshua Dunton, and I'm your new career advisor here at John T Baker Middle School! This is a new position as part of the [Montgomery County Career Advising Program \(Moco CAP\)](#) based on the [Blueprint for Maryland's Future](#), aiming to ensure all students are college,

community, and career-ready by the end of 10th grade. The Blueprint mandates partnerships between local workforce boards and local education institutions to provide these services. All Career Advising coaches are employees of [WorkSource Montgomery](#).

I will primarily be working with 6th graders for the time being, however, 7th and 8th graders are welcome to meet with me as well. Our intent is to assist students with the process of self-reflection and identifying their main strengths, interests, and values. This will occur as part of our students' daily classroom lessons, in small group meetings, through individual appointments, and as presentations in school events.

For more information about MOCO CAP, please visit [this website](#). Please also take a look at the If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at joshua_d_dunton@mcpsmd.org. I'm very excited to be joining the Baker Middle School Team and I'm looking forward to working and growing together.

FRIDAY
FEBRUARY
9TH

3-5PM
IN THE GYM

Baker MS

NEEDS DANCE PARENT/GUARDIAN CHAPERONES!

PLEASE EMAIL
ANGELA_E_BLANKENSHIP2@MCPSMD.ORG IF YOU ARE
WILLING TO CHAPERONE FOR THE FRIENDSHIP DANCE
(ONLINE CHAPERONE TRAINING IS NEEDED)

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

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

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Sustainability

POSTER CONTEST

All MCPS students and staff are invited to participate in the Division of Sustainability and Compliance's 2024 poster contest.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE:
APRIL 5, 2024

The focus of this annual contest is to increase awareness and demonstrate your school's commitment to environmental sustainability and sustainable actions related to energy conservation, waste reduction, and responsible recycling.

Scan the QR codes to download the entry form and to get more details about the contest.

ENTRY FORM
bit.ly/46ECKOB

GUIDELINES
bit.ly/4SQRHru

THREE OF THE FIVE WINNING POSTERS FROM 2023

240-740-7715
sustainability@mcpsmd.org

Division of Sustainability and Compliance
45 West Gude Drive, Suite 4000
Rockville, Maryland 20850

NJHS and SGA “Gift of Friendship” Dance

Friday, February 9, 2024 • 3:00-5:00 p.m. in the Gym



Tickets may only be purchased online using SchoolCash Online <https://mcpsmd.schoolcashionline.com/> starting Wednesday, January 31, 2024 through Wednesday, February 7, 2024.

Tickets are \$7.00 each. All sales are final — refunds will not be given. Tickets will not be sold at the door!

Profits from the sales of tickets and concessions will be distributed between NJHS and end-of-year 8th grade activity costs.

Students must have their own transportation home after the dance at 5:00 p.m. Students picked up more than 15 minutes after the end of the dance will not be permitted to participate in any dances for the remainder of the school year.

Pizza slices, beverages, and candy will be sold for \$1.00 each. CASH ONLY!

All school rules apply, including dress code.

As with all Baker dances, this dance is open to Baker students only.

Parents – if you wish to chaperone, please contact the Baker Main Office staff at 240-207-2440.

“THE GIFT OF FRIENDSHIP” DANCE PERMISSION SLIP

Students: You must turn in this completed and signed permission slip **AND** a payment receipt from SchoolCash Online (<https://mcpsmd.schoolcashionline.com/>) at lunch Monday, February 5–Thursday, February 8, 2024, in order to attend the dance.

Name of Student: _____ Grade _____

Name of Parent: _____

Phone number where parent can be reached during the dance: _____

My child has permission to attend the Baker Middle School Dance on Friday, February 9, 2024 from 3:00-5:00 p.m.

My child and I agree to the following expectations:

1. Only students who have purchased tickets online using SchoolCash Online AND have turned in this permission slip will be admitted to the dance.
2. All ticket sales are final — no refunds will be given.
3. Each student will abide by all school rules, including dress code.
4. Each student will have a ride home at 5:00 p.m. Students picked up more than 15 minutes after the end of the dance will not be permitted to participate in any dances for the remainder of the school year.
5. A student leaving before 5:00 p.m. must be picked up by a parent at the doors to the gym.

Parent Signature (required): _____ Date: _____

Student Signature (required): _____ Date: _____

Baker Middle School Dance Chaperone Guidelines

BEFORE THE DANCE

Call the Main Office at 240-207-2440 if you are the parent of a Baker student and wish to chaperone at the dance. Please leave a phone number where you may be reached.

Please remember that Baker dances are for Baker students only. It is not appropriate to bring along siblings that do not attend Baker Middle School.

Prior to arriving at the dance, please review the school student discipline policy and behavior expectations as posted in the student planner and parent handbook.

ARRIVAL AT THE DANCE

Arrive 15 minutes before the dance is scheduled to begin.

If the dance is held after school, enter the school through the main front doors and report to the Main Office to receive your name badge. Proceed to the gym where you will be given directions by an administrator.

If the dance is held at night, enter the building through the lower level doors and report to the administrator in the lobby to receive your name badge and directions for the dance.

DURING THE DANCE

Monitor students in your assigned area.

Once tickets are collected, students may exit the gym only through the side doors.

Students may not go outside during the dance. A student may leave only if a parent arrives and escorts his/her child out of the dance.

All school rules (*see the Student Planner and/or Parent Handbook*) apply to students at the dances. If you observe behavior that is contrary to school policies, report it to an administrator or teacher.

If you observe behavior that is rude, threatening, offensive, harmful, or otherwise inappropriate, report it to an administrator or teacher. This applies to adults as well as students.

AFTER THE DANCE

Stay 15 minutes after the dance.

Usher students out of the dance once the gym lights have been turned on.

Usher students out of the building and assist students in finding their rides home.

If any student has not been picked up within 15 minutes after the end of the dance, escort the student to an administrator in front of the building.

**Thank you for chaperoning the dance
and supporting our students!**



Baile del “Regalo de la amistad” de NJHS y SGA

Viernes, 9 de febrero de 2024 • 3:00-5:00 p.m. en el gimnasio



Los boletos solo se pueden comprar en línea usando SchoolCash Online <https://mcpsmd.schoolcashionline.com/> a partir del miércoles 31 de enero de 2024 hasta el miércoles 7 de febrero de 2024.

Los boletos cuestan \$7.00 cada uno. Todas las ventas son finales, no se darán reembolsos.
¡No se venderán entradas en la puerta!

Las ganancias de la venta de boletos y concesiones se distribuirán entre NJHS y los costos de las actividades de fin de año del octavo grado.

Los estudiantes deben tener su propio transporte a casa después del baile a las 5:00 p.m. Los estudiantes recogidos más de 15 minutos después del final del baile no podrán participar en ningún baile durante el resto del año escolar.

Las rebanadas de pizza, las bebidas y los dulces se venderán a \$1.00 cada uno. ¡SOLAMENTE EFECTIVO!

Se aplican todas las reglas de la escuela, incluido el código de vestimenta.

Al igual que con todos los bailes de Baker, este baile está abierto solo para los estudiantes de Baker.

Padres: si desea ser un chaperón, comuníquese con el personal de la oficina principal de Baker al 240-207-2440.

PERMISO PARA EL BAILE “EL REGALO DE LA AMISTAD”

Estudiantes: debe entregar este formulario de permiso completo y firmado

Y un recibo de pago de SchoolCash Online (<https://mcpsmd.schoolcashionline.com/>) en el almuerzo del lunes 5 de febrero al jueves 8 de febrero de 2024 para poder asistir al baile.

Nombre del estudiante: _____ Grado _____

Nombre del padre: _____

Número de teléfono donde se puede localizar a los padres durante el baile: _____

Mi hijo/a tiene permiso para asistir al Baile de la Escuela Intermedia Baker el viernes 9 de febrero de 2024 de 3:00-5:00 p.m.

Mi hijo/a y yo estamos de acuerdo con las siguientes expectativas:

1. Solo los estudiantes que hayan comprado boletos en línea usando SchoolCash Online y hayan entregado este formulario de permiso serán admitidos al baile.
2. Todas las ventas de boletos son finales, no se otorgarán reembolsos.
3. Cada estudiante cumplirá con todas las reglas de la escuela, incluido el código de vestimenta.
4. Cada estudiante tendrá un viaje a casa a las 5:00 p.m. Los estudiantes recogidos más de 15 minutos después del final del baile no podrán participar en ningún baile durante el resto del año escolar.
5. Un estudiante que sale antes de las 5:00 p.m. debe ser recogido por uno de los padres en las puertas de la gimnasio.

Firma del Padre (obligatorio): _____ Fecha: _____

Firma del estudiante (obligatorio): _____ Fecha: _____

Directrices para acompañantes del baile de Baker Middle School

ANTES DEL BAILE

Llame a la oficina principal al 240-207-2440 si es el padre de un estudiante de Baker y desea ser chaperón en el baile. Por favor, deje un número de teléfono donde puede ser alcanzado.

Recuerde que los bailes de Baker son para Baker. estudiantes solamente No es apropiado llevar hermanos que no asisten a la escuela secundaria Baker.

Antes de llegar al baile, por favor revise el política de disciplina y comportamiento de los estudiantes de la escuela expectativas tal como están publicadas en el planificador del estudiante y manual de padres.

LLEGADA AL BAILE

Llegue 15 minutos antes de la hora programada para el baile comenzar.

Si el baile se lleva a cabo después de la escuela, ingrese a la escuela a través de las puertas principales e informar al Oficina principal para recibir su gafete con su nombre. Proceder a la gimnasio donde te darán indicaciones por un administrador.

Si el baile se lleva a cabo en la noche, ingrese al edificio a través de las puertas de nivel inferior e informar a la administrador en el lobby para recibir su nombre placa e instrucciones para el baile.

DURANTE EL BAILE

Supervise a los estudiantes en su área asignada.

Una vez recogidos los boletos, los estudiantes pueden salir del gimnasio sólo por las puertas laterales.

Los estudiantes no pueden salir afuera durante el baile. Un estudiante puede irse solo si un padre llega y escolta a su hijo fuera del baile.

Todas las reglas de la escuela (consulte el Planificador del estudiante y/o Manual para padres) se aplican a los estudiantes en los bailes. Si observa un comportamiento que es contrario a la escuela políticas, repórtelo a un administrador o maestro.

Si observa un comportamiento grosero, amenazante, ofensivo, dañino o de otra manera inapropiado, repórtelo a un administrador o maestro. Este se aplica tanto a los adultos como a los estudiantes.

DESPUÉS DEL BAILE

Quédate 15 minutos después del baile.

Saque a los estudiantes del baile una vez que la gimnasio las luces se han encendido.

Acompañe a los estudiantes fuera del edificio y ayude estudiantes en encontrar sus viajes a casa.

Si algún estudiante no ha sido recogido dentro de 15 minutos después del final del baile, acompañe al estudiante a un administrador en frente del edificio.

**Gracias por acompañar el baile.
y apoyando a nuestros estudiantes!**



SO YOU THINK YOU CAN FLOW?

Black History Month
Poetry, Rap, Song Contest

Due Date
February 23, 2024

Submitted Entries
**Place in Mrs. Jones
mailbox-counseling**

Contest Rules

- **Write a 2-3 minute poem, rap, or song answering the following question, "Like the black historians who stood up to injustice, how will you make your mark in the world?"**
- **Winners will win a prize and be featured on BMS broadcast.**
- **Entries containing inappropriate or disrespectful words, will not be accepted!**





John T Baker Middle School PTA

8th Grade Promotion and End of Year Activities

Hello 8th grade families. This is your child's last year at Baker Middle School and there will be a lot to celebrate in June of 2024! We are planning now and need your help to make 8th grade events a success for our children.

End of year events and activities include a DHS Class of 2028 t-shirt for each student, the 8th grade celebration/dance, a class gift to the school, and the 8th grade promotion ceremony on the last day of school.

We ask that families contribute \$25 or more for each child. The money will be applied toward the items mentioned above and to make sure that *all students* are included, so if you would like to contribute more than \$25 it will be well utilized. We also ask that families consider signing up to help with various events and activities. We appreciate both your financial contributions and your time and efforts to help create wonderful memories for our children.

Please complete the form and send it in, along with your \$25 contribution, to the main office. Please make checks payable to **"Baker PTA,"** and note in the memo **AND on the envelope: "8th Grade Promotion."** Return to **Baker Middle School PTA, 25400 Oak Drive, Damascus, MD 20872.**

If you prefer digital payment options, you can pay through PayPal by using [@BakerMSPTA](#) or by scanning the following QR code:



8th grade committee meetings are from 6-7 PM before PTA meetings. Please stay connected so you know what the plan is and to see how you can help. Email questions to the PTA at BakerPTA@yahoo.com. We greatly appreciate your support!

Your 8th grader's full name: _____

Let us know how you can help! Circle one or more.

Dance/Celebration

Promotion ceremony

T-shirt distribution

Fundraising

Class gift

Committee Chair

Name: _____

Email: _____ **Phone Number:** _____

Enclose your \$25 check payable to Baker PTA, and mark in the memo "8th Grade Promotion."

Student Transfer Application Season Begins February 1

The Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) 2024-2025 Change of School Assignment (COSA) transfer season opens on Thursday, Feb. 1, 2024. The COSA process allows families to submit a request for their children to transfer out of their assigned home school. All COSA request applications must be submitted no later than Tuesday, April 2, 2024.

New for the 2024-2025 COSA transfer process:

- COSA request applications now can be submitted online instead of the traditional paper form. When an application is submitted online, a “receipt” email notification will be sent to the parent/guardian submitting the request shortly after the administrative team of the student’s assigned home school receives the application. If the request is successfully completed online, a paper form submission is not necessary. The link to the online COSA request form can be found on the [Student Transfers website](#).

MCPS students are expected to attend the school within the established attendance area in which they reside (home school) or according to their Individualized Education Program (IEP). Students may apply for a COSA from the home school or the school of assignment through the IEP process based on the following criteria:

- **Unique Hardship:** When an extenuating circumstance(s) related to a student’s specific physical, mental or emotional well-being or their family’s individual or personal situation could be mitigated by a change of school assignment.
- **Family Move:** When a family moves within Montgomery County and wishes to continue attending their current school, they may request a COSA without demonstrating a unique hardship. Such requests may be considered for the remainder of the current school year only, with the exception that students in Grade 11 or 12 may be granted a COSA to stay through high school graduation.
- **Siblings:** When a student seeks to attend the school where a sibling will be enrolled in the regular/general school program, or a special education program, during the year the student wants to enroll.
- When a sibling attends a magnet, language immersion or other application program at the elementary level, a COSA may be approved to the regular school program for other siblings on a case-by-case basis. Such approval requires consideration of available classroom space, grade-level enrollment, staffing allocations or other factors that impact the schools involved.

The sibling exemption does not apply if the sibling is in Pre-K or if a boundary change has occurred.

The transfer process begins in the assigned home school. Applications can be found online or in the [Change of School Assignment \(COSA\) Information Booklet](#), which also provides useful information on the COSA process. Exempt countywide programs that do not fall under the transfer guidelines are listed in the booklet. Booklets can be obtained from the student’s home school.

For information about assignments for students residing in the Northeast, Downcounty or Middle School Magnet Consortium areas, please contact the Division of Consortia Choice and Application Program Services (DCCAPS) at 240-740-2540 or visit the [Student Transfers website](#).

For more information about the transfer process, parents/guardians are encouraged to contact the principal at their home school. Non-English speaking students and parents/guardians who require assistance can call ASK MCPS at 240-740-3000.

2023-2024 MCPS Inclement Weather and Operating Status

This is the full list of systemwide weather-related and operating status options for Montgomery County Public Schools and provides guidelines related to school status and activities during certain emergency conditions, and identifies the various levels of personnel.

Green

Normal Operations

All Schools and Admin Offices are open on time

All staff report on time
Before/After school childcare programs and Community Use occur as scheduled

Yellow

Delayed Opening

Schools will open 2 hours later and Admin Offices will open on time

10-month staff report 2 hours later
11 and 12-month staff report on time
Before/After school childcare programs and Community Use occur as scheduled

Blue

Early Dismissal

Schools will close 2.5 hours earlier and Admin Offices will remain open

10-month staff depart after all students
11 and 12-month staff remain to complete scheduled work day
Before/After school childcare programs and Community Use canceled

Orange

Schools Closed Offices Open

Schools closed and Admin Offices are open

10-month staff do not report
11 and 12-month staff report 2 hours late
Before/After school childcare programs may decide to operate
Community Use is canceled

Red

School System Closed

Schools and Admin Offices are closed

Only emergency personnel will report
All other staff does not report
Before/After school childcare programs and Community Use are canceled

Purple

Virtual Learning Day

Virtual Instruction Occurs

Emergency personnel and others performing essential functions report in person
All other staff can report virtually
Before/After school childcare programs and Community Use are canceled

- ICB Childcare Programs follow the responses for MCPS administrative offices
- CUPF - Community Use Activities are canceled when schools are closed, for the morning if there is a 2 hour delay, and for the afternoon when schools are dismissed early
- Emergency personnel must report to work and perform work for all status options, as in the negotiated contracts

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

Opciones para el tiempo inclemente y el estado de funcionamiento de MCPS 2023-2024

Esta es la lista completa de opciones relacionadas con el clima y el estado operativo en todo el sistema para las Escuelas Públicas del Condado de Montgomery y proporciona pautas relacionadas con el estado escolar y las actividades durante ciertas condiciones de emergencia, e identifica los diversos niveles de personal.

Verde

Operaciones normales

Todas las escuelas y oficinas administrativas abren en su horario habitual

Todo el personal se reporta a trabajar en su horario habitual. Los programas de cuidado infantil de antes y después de la escuela y el uso comunitario ocurren según lo programado

Amarillo

Apertura retrasada

Las escuelas abrirán 2 horas más tarde y las oficinas administrativas abrirán en su horario habitual

El personal de 10 meses se reporta a trabajar 2 horas más tarde. El personal de 11 y 12 meses se reportan a trabajar en su horario habitual. Los programas de cuidado infantil de antes y después de la escuela y el uso comunitario ocurren según lo programado.

Azul

Salida temprana

Las escuelas cerrarán 2.5 horas más temprano y las oficinas administrativas permanecerán abiertas

El personal de 10 meses sale después de todos los estudiantes. El personal de 11 y 12 meses permanecen para completar el día de trabajo programado. Los programas de cuidado infantil de antes y después de la escuela y el uso comunitario quedan cancelados.

Naranja

Escuelas Cerradas Oficinas Abiertas

Las escuelas están cerradas y las oficinas administrativas están abiertas

El personal de 10 meses no se reporta a trabajar. El personal de 11 y 12 meses se reportan a trabajar 2 horas más tarde. Los programas de cuidado infantil de antes y después de la escuela pueden decidir operar. Se cancela el uso comunitario

Rojo

Sistema escolar cerrado

Las escuelas y las oficinas administrativas están cerradas

Solo el personal de emergencia se reporta a trabajar. Todo el resto del personal no debe reportarse a trabajar. Los programas de cuidado infantil antes y después de la escuela y el uso comunitario se cancelan

Morado

Día de aprendizaje virtual

La instrucción es virtual

El personal de emergencia y otras personas que desempeñan funciones esenciales se reportan a trabajar en persona. El resto del personal puede reportarse a trabajar de manera virtual. Los programas de cuidado infantil antes y después de la escuela y el uso comunitario se cancelan.

- Los Programas de Cuidado Infantil de ICB siguen las pautas para las oficinas administrativas de MCPS.
- CUPF (siglas en inglés) - Las actividades de uso comunitario se cancelan cuando las escuelas están cerradas, por la mañana si hay un retraso de 2 horas, y por la tarde cuando las escuelas salen temprano.
- El personal de emergencia debe presentarse al trabajo y realizar el trabajo durante todas las opciones de estado, según los contratos negociados.

Información de emergencia: cómo recibir información de emergencia de MCPS, decisiones meteorológicas, Cierre de escuelas y otros procedimientos de emergencia, preparación para emergencias, recursos