

Dr. Worthington's Message

✉ (Twitter): DrLouise Worthington@BAKERprincipal

Congratulations to Mrs. Brittany Gagle on achieving National Board Certification in English as a New Language/Early and Middle Childhood [teacher].

"... the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards states, 'National Board Certification (NBC) is the highest professional distinction available in education. It benefits students, teachers, and school systems by advancing the quality of education and learning.' This achievement demonstrates your commitment to furthering efforts to uplift the teaching and education profession. We commend and honor you for your dedication."

MISA Testing for 8th graders will take place the mornings of **Tuesday, March 12**, and **Thursday, March 14**. Please make sure your child arrives at school on time, well rested, and having had a nourishing breakfast. Please avoid making non-emergency appointments during the testing hours. A schedule for the testing days is on page 3.

This **Thursday, March 14**, the **U.S. Army Blues** will be presenting **Jazz with the Blues**. The **Damascus High School Jazz Ensemble** and **Baker Middle School Jazz Band** will also perform. Join us at 7:00 p.m. at DHS for an evening of great music! Admission is free – no tickets required. See page 5 for additional information.

Thursday, March 14, is Pi Day. The first 100 digits of pi are

π

3.1415926535 8979323846 2643383279
5028841971 6939937510 5820974944
5923078164 0628620899 8628034825
3421170679. How many can you memorize?

2024-2025 Baker Middle School Motto

It's time to start thinking about the new **school motto** for the **2024–2025** school year! The window for submitting entries for Baker's school motto for the 2024–2025 school year via a portal on Baker's website will be **March 18 through April 10, 2024**.

We look forward to reading your suggestions!

Asynchronous Instruction on April 22

There have been three inclement weather school closures in the 2023-2024 school year thus far. **Monday, April 22** is now an **asynchronous learning day** and will be used as a make-up instructional day for students. Students will be sent home with assignments to complete independently.

Asynchronous learning describes educational activities and assignments that engage students in learning without live instruction or use of technology. Students must complete assignments to count towards their attendance for the day. Additional time for students to complete assignments will be granted for any challenges or unforeseen circumstances.

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



April 1, 2024 — COSA Season ends (see p 10)

March — Women's History Month

Monday, March 11

Interims available on StudentVUE/
ParentVUE and mailed home to
non-activated ParentVUE households

Tuesday, March 12 — Activity Buses

8th Grade MISA Testing (see page 3)
Lifetouch Group Photo Make-Ups
Art Club, Room 210, Ms. Alvarado
Chess Club, Room 115, Mr. Ciccarello
Homework Club, Room 227, Ms. Laraia
Jazz Band, Room 107, Mrs. Fell
Street Hockey, Mr. Sprinkle
PTA 8th Grade Committee Mtg, 6:00 p.m.
PTA General Membership Mtg, 7:00 p.m.
PTA meetings are on Zoom:

[https://mcpsmd.zoom.us/j/93677883016?](https://mcpsmd.zoom.us/j/93677883016?pwd=d01Kc201WkVGSmdYYlJ1UVRWUDJCQT09)
[pwd=d01Kc201WkVGSmdYYlJ1UVRWUDJCQT09](https://mcpsmd.zoom.us/j/93677883016?pwd=d01Kc201WkVGSmdYYlJ1UVRWUDJCQT09)

ID 936 7788 3016 Code Bulldog

Phone 1-301-715-8592

Wednesday, March 13 — Activity Buses

Drama Club – Actors Only
Kickball Club, Blacktop, Mr. Ruocco
Rubik's Cube Club, Room 225, Mr. Fisher
Street Hockey, Mr. Sprinkle
Baker PTA Fundraiser at That Smoothie
Place, 4:00–8:00 p.m. (see page 4)

Thursday, March 14 — Activity Buses

Pi Day

8th Grade MISA Testing (see page 3)
Drama Club – Everyone
Kickball Club, Blacktop, Mr. Ruocco
Street Hockey, Mr. Sprinkle
The U.S. Army Blues, DHS Jazz Ensemble,
and Baker Jazz Band, 7:00 p.m. at DHS

Friday, March 15

Sami Saed (SMOB) visits during lunches

March 26–April 1 — Spring Break

SSL News — Superintendent's SSL Award

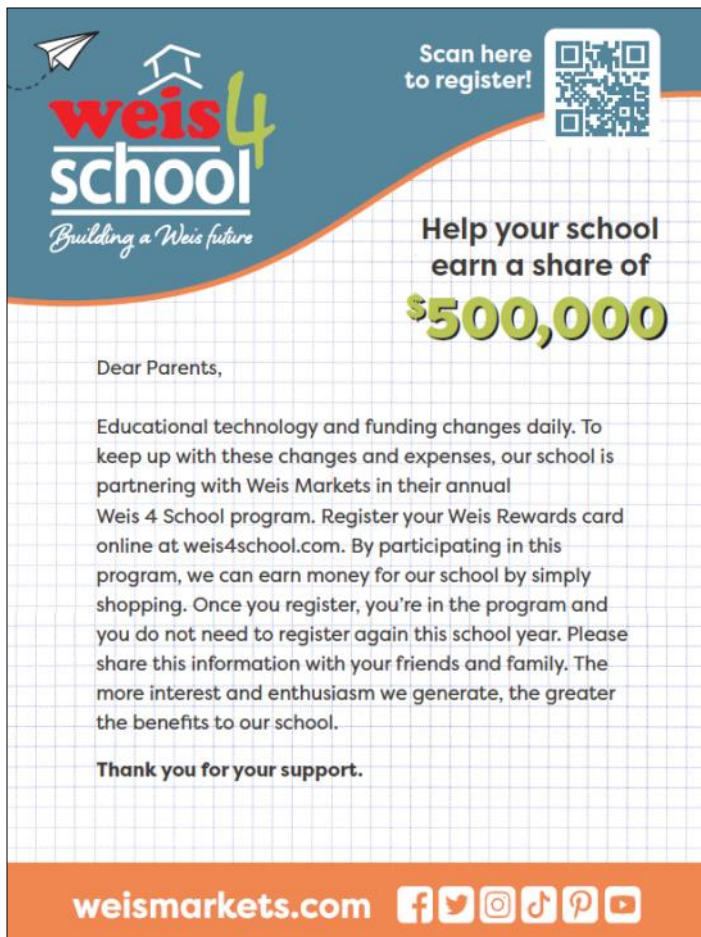
Any student that is interested in getting the Superintendent's SSL award this year **must have 75 SSL hours turned in BEFORE April 5!** Please see Mrs. Paredes if you have any questions about this. If you turn SSL hours in after April 5, they will be accepted, but will not count towards the Superintendent's SSL award for this year!

MCPS Communications Updates


Inviting All Students, Staff and Families to Share Your Feedback

We want to hear from you on how we are doing. MCPS is inviting ALL students, staff and parents/caregivers to share your experiences and thoughts on academics, communication, and overall satisfaction with your school and the district and/or experience working at MCPS. Your input and insight are essential in helping us understand what is working well and areas of improvement. Your participation and any identifying information are completely confidential. The feedback collected will be used to inform decisions and help create a more supportive and enriching environment for students, staff, and families in our district. [Click here to access more information about the surveys](#). The survey will be open until **March 15**.

Doodle for Google — [Doodle for Google](#) is holding its 16th annual art contest for students in grades K-12. Kids are invited to create their own Google Doodle for the chance to have it featured on Google.com, as well as win college scholarships and tech packages for their schools. The deadline to apply is **Thursday, March 14**. [How to enter](#) [Submit a doodle](#)



Scan here to register!









weis4 school
Building a Weis future

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      

Calling All Students: Enter to Win!

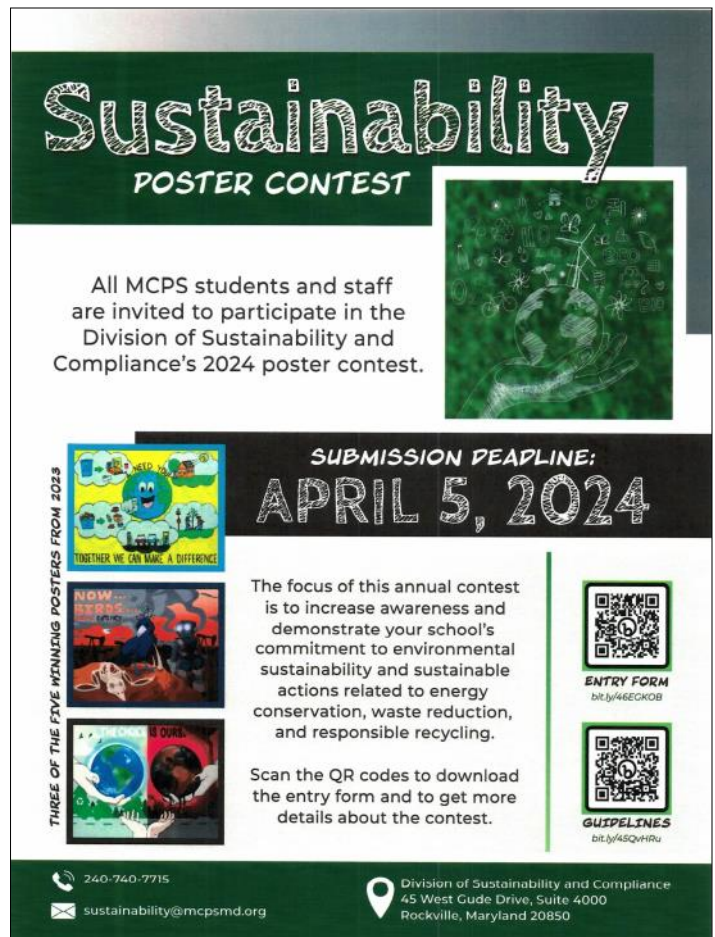
The **Keeping it SAFE Coalition: Under Twenty-One Alcohol Prevention Coalition** is sponsoring its annual video contest to create a 30-second public service message addressing the risks and dangers of under 21 alcohol use. This year's topics are:

- Standing Your Ground: Fighting Peer Pressure from Friends to Drink
- Ways to Help/Support Friends Who Are Abusing Alcohol
- How Alcoholic Drinks Affect Mental Health

The contest is open to teams of two or more students enrolled in Montgomery County middle and high schools. Cash prizes of \$100 to \$1,000 are up for grabs. Participating MCPS students are also eligible for five Student Service Learning (SSL) hours. **Entries are due by 4 p.m. on Sunday, March 31.** [Visit the website](#) for more information and official contest rules.

The **Division of Sustainability and Compliance** is sponsoring its [annual poster contest](#), open to MCPS students and staff. Raise awareness about the importance of environmental sustainability, energy conservation, waste reduction and responsible recycling, and showcase your creativity! Entries are due **Friday, April 5**. Check out the [contest flyer](#), [guidelines](#) and [entry form](#).

The **National School Bus Safety Week poster contest** is sponsored by the National Association for Pupil Transportation. This year's theme is Driving Safely Into the Future. Posters must be submitted to state directors by **Wednesday, April 17**. The contest is open to students in K-8th grade, special education students in K-12th grades and those who use computer-aided drawing. Details and guidelines are available [here](#).



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.

THREE OF THE FIVE WINNING POSTERS FROM 2023



ENTRY FORM
bit.ly/46EKG0B

GUIDELINES
bit.ly/45QVHRu

240-740-7715
sustainability@mcpsmd.org

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

SEE SOMETHING? HEAR SOMETHING? SAY SOMETHING!

SY24 Spring MISA 8 Testing Schedule

Day 1 (Tuesday, March 12, 2024) 2 sections x 40 minutes

| Bells | GRADE 6 | GRADE 7 | GRADE 8 |
|---------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| 8:15- 9:05 | Period 1/Announcements | Period 1/Announcements | 8:15 - 10:43 MISA 8 Testing (Sections 1 & 2) |
| 9:09 - 9:54 | Period 2 | Period 2 | |
| 9:58 - 10:43 | Period 3 | Period 3 | |
| 10:47 - 11:36 | Period 4 | Period 4 | Period 4 - Lunch/Advisory |
| 11:40 - 12:29 | Period 5 | Period 5 - Lunch Advisory | Period 5 |
| 12:33 - 1:22 | Period 6 - Lunch/Advisory | Period 6 | Period 6 |
| 1:26 - 2:11 | Period 7 | Period 7 | Period 7 |
| 2:15 - 3:00 | Period 8 | Period 8 | Period 8 |

Day 2 (Thursday, March 14, 2024) 2 sections x 40 minutes

| Bells | GRADE 6 | GRADE 7 | GRADE 8 |
|---------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| 8:15- 9:05 | Period 8/Announcements | Period 8/Announcements | 8:15 - 10:43 MISA 8 Testing (Sections 3 & 4) |
| 9:09 - 9:54 | Period 7 | Period 7 | |
| 9:58 - 10:43 | Period 3 | Period 3 | |
| 10:47 - 11:36 | Period 4 | Period 4 | Period 4 - Lunch/Advisory |
| 11:40 - 12:29 | Period 5 | Period 5 - Lunch Advisory | Period 5 |
| 12:33 - 1:22 | Period 6 - Lunch/Advisory | Period 6 | Period 6 |
| 1:26 - 2:11 | Period 1 | Period 1 | Period 1 |
| 2:15 - 3:00 | Period 2 | Period 2 | Period 2 |

***Total testing time includes material handout, collection, and extended time accommodation



SMOOTHIE BOWLS



SALADS



CREPES



SMOOTHIES

**AND
MORE!**



Spirit Night at THAT SMOOTHIE PLACE

Support BAKER MIDDLE PTSA

WED

MARCH 13th

4pm-8pm

LOCATED IN THE
DAMASCUS SHOPPING CENTER
9815 MAIN ST. STE. 106 - DAMASCUS
240-207-3017
WWW.THATSMOOTHIEPLACE.COM

A PORTION OF
THE SALES WILL
SUPPORT THE
BAKER MIDDLE
PTSA

PHONE AND
ONLINE
ORDERS
ACCEPTED AS
LONG AS IT'S
THROUGH
THAT
SMOOTHIE
PLACES
WEBSITE

JAZZ WITH THE BLUES

THURSDAY / MAR 14 / 7PM
Damascus High School



THE U.S. ARMY BLUES with

Damascus High School Jazz Ensemble and
Baker Middle School Jazz Band

Matt Kuhn Memorial Auditorium
25921 Ridge Road / Damascus, MD

FREE; no tickets required



U.S. ARMY

THE U.S. ARMY BAND
**PERSHING'S
OWN**



USARMYBAND.COM
@usarmyband / TW: @theusarmyband

PLEASE JOIN US FOR

BAKER MIDDLE SCHOOL

INTERNATIONAL NIGHT

POR FAVOR ÚNETE A NOSOTRAS

BAKER MIDDLE SCHOOL

NOCHE INTERNACIONAL

TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 2024

6:00PM-8:00PM

MARTES 9 DE ABRIL

6:00PM-8:00PM

COME TRAVEL TO DIFFERENT COUNTRIES

TASTE FOOD

HEAR DIFFERENT LANGUAGES

FASHION SHOW

HAVE FUN

VEN A VIAJAR A DIFERENTES PAÍSES.

PROBAR COMIDA

ESCUCCHAR DIFERENTES IDIOMAS

DESFILE DE MODA

DIVERTIRSE





Weis Markets Damascus #129



Fundraiser for St. Jude's
April 13, 2024 Doors open at 5pm
Bingo starts at 7pm

Advance Tickets: \$40 per person

At the door: \$50 per person

\$100 GAMES!

Ticket includes: 6 pack *20 games*
2 piece chicken dinner with sides and drink

OTHER GAMES SOLD SEPERATE:

- Two 50/50's
- Vegas Games
- Jackpot \$300

For Tickets Contact:

Weis Markets Damascus #129
26075 Ridge Rd.
Damascus MD, 20872

Venmo Available for Ticket Purchase
(please put first and last name and phone number
in the "what's this for" section
please send as *GIFT*

Jay Smith

@Jay-Smith-1097



venmo

MUST BE 18 YEARS OR OLDER TO PLAY

We reserve the right to change payouts if less tickets are sold

Location: Damascus VFD Activities Building
10211 Lewis Dr., Damascus MD





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."



PTA de la escuela secundaria John T. Baker

Promoción de 8vo grado y actividades de fin de año

Hola familias de octavo grado. ¡Este es el último año de su hijo/a en Baker Middle School y habrá mucho que celebrar en junio 2024! Estamos planeado ahora y necesitamos su ayuda para que los eventos de octavo grado sean un éxito para nuestros niños.

Los eventos y actividades de fin de año incluyen una camiseta de DHS Clase 2028 para cada estudiante, la celebración/baile del 8.º grado, un obsequio de la clase para la escuela y la ceremonia de promoción de 8.º

Pedimos que las familias contribuyan con \$25 o mas por cada niño. El dinero se aplicará a los artículos mencionados anteriormente y para garantizar que todos los estudiantes están incluidos, por lo que si desea contribuir con más de \$25, será bien utilizado. También pedimos que las familias consideren inscribirse para ayudar con diversos eventos y actividades. Apreciamos tanto sus contribuciones financieras como su tiempo y esfuerzos para ayudar a crear recuerdos maravillosos para nuestros niños.

Complete el formulario y envíelo, junto con su contribución de \$25, a la oficina principal. Por favor haga los cheques a nombre de “**Baker PTA**” y **nota en el memorando Y en el sobre: “Promoción de 8.º grado”**. Volver a **PTA de la escuela secundaria Baker**, 25400 Oak Drive, Damascus, MD 20872.

Si prefiere las opciones de pago digital, puede pagar a través de PayPal usando @BakerMSPTA o escaneando el siguiente código QR:



Las reuniones del comité de octavo grado son de 6 a 7 p. m. antes de las reuniones de la PTA. Manténgase conectado para saber cuál es el plan y ver cómo puede ayudar. Envíe sus preguntas por correo electrónico a la PTA a BakerPTA@yahoo.com. ¡Estamos muy agradecidos por su apoyo!

El nombre completo de su hijo/a de octavo grado _____

¡Háganos saber cómo puede ayudar! Encierra en un círculo uno o más.

Promoción de baile/celebración

Ceremonia

Distribución de camisetas

Recaudación de fondos

Obsequio de clase

Presidente del comité

Nombre: _____

Correo electrónico: _____ Número de teléfono: _____

Adjunte su cheque de \$25 a nombre de Baker PTA y marque en el memorando “Promoción de 8º grado”.

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