

Dr. Worthington's Message

✂ (Twitter): DrLouise Worthington@BAKERprincipal

Please note — there will not be a March 24 issue of *Paw Prints* or a ConnectEd Sunday Update. The next *Paw Prints* issue and Sunday Update will be on March 31.

Our next **Baker MS Open House** will be held the week we come back from Spring Break. Come visit your child(ren)'s classes from **8:15 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 3**. We will also have a **Coffee & Conversation 9:45–10:30 a.m. in the Media Center**. Please see page 4 for the agenda.

SSL News — Superintendent's SSL Award

Students 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!

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!*

SGA Creating Comfort Case Backpacks

SGA, with the help of the Baker MS community, is creating comfort case backpacks for teens in the foster care system in MCPS. Please donate any of these items: backpacks, duffel bags, blankets, pjs, journals, pens and pencils, stuffed animals, toothpaste, toothbrush, deodorant, shampoo and conditioner, soap, bodywash, and books. Travel sizes are preferred.

MCPS NHD History Day Champion!

Congratulations to 7th grader **Andrew Civillico** who represented Baker MS at the **Montgomery County History Day Competition** on Saturday, March 9. Andrew's project titled, "How Bobbi Gibb and Kathrine Switzer Smashed the Stereotype of Women Through Running," **won first place in the Individual Website category!**

Andrew will now advance to the NHD Maryland state competition on May 4 at UMBC.

Andrew, we are proud of your accomplishment and wish you the best of luck next month!



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



Looking Ahead

April 1, 2024 — COSA Season ends (see p 9)

March — Women's History Month

Monday, March 18

MISA Make-Ups in the morning
 Choral Adjudication

Tuesday, March 19 — Activity Buses

Art Club, Room 210, Ms. Alvarado
 Chess Club, Room 115, Mr. Ciccarello
 Drama Club, Media Center, Ms. Friedman
 eSpots Club, Room 134, Mr. Conner and Mr. Maddox

Flag Football, Field, Mr. Cummings
 Homework Club, Room 227, Ms. Laraia
 Kickball Club, Blacktop, Mr. Ruocco
 SGA Meeting, Room 233, Ms. Blankenship
 Street Hockey, Mr. Sprankle

PTA Fundraiser at That Smoothie Place
10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. (see page 3)

Wednesday, March 20 — Activity Buses

Drama Club, Media Center, Ms. Friedman
 Flag Football, Field, Mr. Cummings
 Kickball Club, Blacktop, Mr. Ruocco
 Rubik's Cube Club, Room 225, Mr. Fisher
 Street Hockey, Mr. Sprankle
 NJHS Induction Ceremony, 6:30–8:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 21 — Activity Buses

Book Wars Competition at Hallie Wells
 Flag Football, Field, Mr. Cummings
 Jazz Band, Room 107, Mrs. Fell
 K-Club, Room 210, Ms. Alvarado
 Kickball Club, Blacktop, Mr. Ruocco
 Street Hockey, Mr. Sprankle

March 25–April 1 — Spring Break



BAKER
OFFICIAL ONLINE STORE

1ST PLACE Spiritwear

Spring SALE 25% OFF

ORDER AT [1STPLACE.SALE/44058](https://1stplace.sale/44058)
HURRY! SALE ENDS MARCH 26TH

SCAN HERE TO ORDER

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](#).

weis4school
Building a Weis future

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

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/46EKG0B

GUIDELINES
bit.ly/45QVHRu

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



SMOOTHIE BOWLS



SALADS



CREPES



SMOOTHIES

**AND
MORE!**



Orders with student or teacher discount do not count towards the fundraiser - It has to be either or

Spirit Night at THAT SMOOTHIE PLACE

Support BAKER MIDDLE PTSA

TUE

MARCH 19th

ALL DAY - 10am-4pm

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

**MUST MENTION
BAKER MS
WHEN ORDERING**

**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**

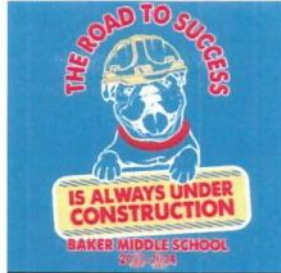
Baker Middle School Parent Coffee Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, April 3, 2024 • 9:45 am–10:30 am • Media Center

Virtual Option

<https://mcpsmd.zoom.us/j/93677883016?pwd=d01Kc201WkVGSmdYYlJ1UVRWUDJCQT09>

ID 936 7788 3016 Code Bulldog Phone 1-301-715-8592



Outcomes

By the end of the meeting, participants will be able to:

- Hear about the refreshed Vision, Mission and Core Values of Baker Middle School
- Understand the School Improvement Plan and focus on Community Outreach and Well-being
- Discussed topics in the community that we can address

AGENDA				ACTION NOTES
TIME	CONTENT	WHO	PROCESS	WHAT
9:45-9:55 10'	Framing the Meeting ☐ Vision, Mission, and Core Values Click Here	Louise	Share	
9:55 - 10:05 10'	School Improvement Plan ☐ PTA Meeting and on the Website Link Slides Click Here ☐ Baker Kindness Day - April 19	David Louise	Inform	
10:05 - 10:15 10'	☐ Focus on Community Outreach Last Year's Baker MS International Festival Click Here This Year's International Festival - April 9 from 6 - 8 pm ☐ Focus on Well-being	David Melanie	Inform	
10:15-10:30 15'	Open Forum ☐ What is happening in the Community that the school needs to know about?	All	Decide on the Next Steps	
10:30	Wrap Up			

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

VEN A VIAJAR A DIFERENTES PAÍSES.





TASTE FOOD

PROBAR COMIDA

HEAR DIFFERENT LANGUAGES

ESCUCCHAR DIFERENTES IDIOMAS





FASHION SHOW

DESFILE DE MODA

HAVE FUN

DIVERTIRSE

BAKER SCHOOL GYM

BAKER SCHOOL GYM

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