

Mr. Levine's Message

Greetings Baker Bulldogs Families!

Parents/Guardians are invited to Baker's Open House on Tuesday, November 11 from 8:15 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. We invite you to join us for a Q&A in the Media Center at 10:00 a.m. as part of our Open House event.

November 17–21 is American Education Week. Students will have the opportunity to write a note this week to the staff with whom they interact (*teachers, paras, administrators, counselors, cafeteria staff, etc.*). Parents/Guardians — if you would like to drop a note, a sheet of notes can be found on page 2 of this issue of Paw Prints. If you would prefer to send an email, the Staff Directory can be found on Baker's webpage.

November is Remembrance and Reconciliation Month in Montgomery County. Secondary students will be invited to participate in a virtual changemakers workshop in which local advocates and activists share how they are taking informed action and what students can do to advocate for change in their communities. Please see page 8 for the event flyer.

Schaeffer's Piano Sale Program

Schaeffer's Piano Company, Inc., has a public sale of instruments twice a year—the first sale is scheduled for **November 15-23, 2025**. During this time, the public can purchase pianos at reduced prices. Please see page 9 for additional information.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can support your child's experience at Baker Middle School in any way. Thank you for your support and partnership!

Best,
Sam Levine

Congratulations, Chorus Students!

Julia Civillico, Kayla Donfack, Bondo Enhesuyierhan, Mafo Makamte, Dylan Schetter, and Naomi Yang prepared for a rigorous audition and were all selected to perform with the **MCPS Middle School Honors Chorus!**



Damascus Food Drive

Drop off any non-perishable food items or canned goods in the Media Center or Main Office for the Damascus Food Drive **until November 14**. The advisory class that donates the most will earn a pizza party sponsored by SGA!

Holiday Giving Project

The Holiday Giving Project provides **December Holiday assistance to low-income households**. A network of social workers, school counselors, and human service professionals refer families in need of assistance. Local non-profits, faith-based organizations, and public agencies service recipients as donations are available.

Referral Deadline:

- **December Holiday — Friday, November 21, 2025**

While a referral is not a guarantee of assistance, the Project helps as many families in need as donations allow.

Please contact your grade level counselor if you would like a referral: 6th Grade — Mrs. Slotkowski, 7th Grade — Ms. Hahn, 8th Grade — Mrs. Buffum, Supported Programs — Mrs. Merdoc.



Looking Ahead

November — Remembrance and Reconciliation Month (see page 8)

Tuesday, November 11 — Activity Buses

Baker Open House for Parents/Guardians
FCA, Mrs. Paredes, Room 219
Intramural Basketball — CoEd, Mr. Smith
PTA 8th Gr. Committee Mtg, 6:00–7:00 p.m.
PTA Gen. Membership Mtg, 7:00–8:00 p.m.

PTA meetings in-person and on Zoom

<https://mcpsmd.zoom.us/j/85601569113?pwd=Fd4X4T4qMIUCFN997gJFXr1QQZG4MT.1>

Meeting ID: 856 0156 9113 Passcode: 908892

Phone: +1 301 715 8592 US

One tap mobile:

+13017158592,,85601569113#,,, *908892# US

Wed., November 12 — Activity Buses

Report cards distributed to students
Wellness Wednesday during Advisory
Intramural Basketball — CoEd, Mr. Smith
SGA, Ms. Blankenship, Room 208
Damascus Cluster Band Concert at DHS
7:00 p.m., Grades 5–12

Thursday, November 13 — Activity Buses

Bracelet Club, Ms. Walsh, Room 101
Homework Club, Ms. Laraia, Room 131
Jazz Band, Ms. Fell, Room 107
Damascus Cluster Strings Concert at DHS
7:00 p.m., Grades 5–12

November 15–23

Schaeffer's Piano Sale (see page 9)

November 17–21

American Education Week

Tuesday, November 18 — Activity Buses

eSports, Mr. Conner and Mr. McKay,
Rooms 233 and 234
FCA, Mrs. Paredes, Room 219
Intramural Basketball — Boys, Mr. Smith
Gym

Wed, November 19 — Activity Buses

Wellness Wednesday during Advisory
Fidos for Freedom Therapy Dogs, in the
Media Center
Intramural Basketball — Girls, Mr. Smith
Gym

Thursday, November 20 — Activity Buses

Bracelet Club, Ms. Walsh, Room 101
Homework Club, Ms. Laraia, Room 131
Intramural Basketball — Girls, Mr. Smith,
Gym
Jazz Band, Ms. Fell, Room 107
NJHS, Mr. Conner, Room 234

November 24–25

Early Release Day for Students



**A Note in Celebration of
American
Education Week**

Dear _____

Thank you for —

Signed _____



**A Note in Celebration of
American
Education Week**

Dear _____

Thank you for —

Signed _____



**A Note in Celebration of
American
Education Week**

Dear _____

Thank you for —

Signed _____



**A Note in Celebration of
American
Education Week**

Dear _____

Thank you for —

Signed _____

THE 2026 YEARBOOK

Jostens



Everyone belongs in the
BAKER MIDDLE SCHOOL yearbook.

ORDER NOW:



ONLINE

[JOSTENS.COM/BUYYEARBK](https://jostens.com/buyyearbk)



SCAN



CALL

1 (877) 767-5217
8 A.M.–5 P.M. CST MONDAY–FRIDAY

OTHER HELPFUL INFO:

[JOSTENS.COM/BUYYEARBK](https://jostens.com/buyyearbk)

UPCOMING PTA MEETING DATES:

Tuesday, Nov. 11

6 pm – 8th Grade Committee
7 pm – PTA Meeting

Tuesday, Dec. 9

6 pm – 8th Grade Committee
7 pm – PTA Meeting

Tuesday, Jan. 13

6 pm – 8th Grade Committee
7 pm – PTA Meeting

Tuesday, Feb. 10

6 pm – 8th Grade Committee
7 pm – PTA Meeting

PTA EXECUTIVE BOARD:

Amy Bartosch, President –
BakerPTA@yahoo.com

Shannon West, Treasurer –
BakerPTATreasurer@yahoo.com

Stacy Smith, Secretary –
BakerPTASecr@yahoo.com

Jaime Kemp, 8th Grade Comm –
Baker8thGrade@yahoo.com

Visit our webpage!



Visit our Facebook Page!



PTA UPDATES

Still thinking about joining us? If you're thinking you just don't have the energy to devote to the PTA – Don't worry - there's good news! The PTA at the middle school level doesn't require a huge time commitment. We have a few events during the year that require manpower, but mainly we need ideas & feedback from our families during our monthly meetings. (Zoom or in-person!)

If you think you may be interested (Or maybe still have questions?) Please email BakerPTA@yahoo.com!



Scan the QR code to link to our online membership form!

PTA Meeting is Tuesday, November 11!

- ♦ 8th Grade Committee meets at 6 pm
- ♦ General Meeting is at 7 pm
- ♦ In person in the Media Center
Want to call in? [Zoom Call In Link](#)
- ♦ Meeting ID: 856 0156 9113
Passcode: 908892

Have an 8th Grade Student?

- ♦ Please fill out the attached form
- ♦ Donations cover - DHS Class of 2030 t-shirt, 8th Grade Dance and Promotion Ceremony in June
- ♦ Donations can be made via check (Baker PTA with student's name in the memo line) or via PayPal @BakerMSPTA or scan the QR code below.



PTA Dates & Contacts

PRÓXIMAS FECHAS DE REUNIONES DE LA PTA:

Martes 11 de noviembre

6 pm – comité de octavo grado
7 pm – reunión de la PTA

Martes 9 de diciembre

6 pm – comité de octavo grado
7 pm – reunión de la PTA

Martes 13 de enero

6 pm – comité de octavo grado
7 pm – reunión de la PTA

Martes 10 de febrero

6 pm – comité de octavo grado
7 pm – reunión de la PTA

JUNTA EJECUTIVA DE LA PTA:

Amy Bartosch, Presidenta –
BakerPTA@yahoo.com

Shannon West, Tesorera –
BakerPTATreasurer@yahoo.com

Stacy Smith, Secretaria –
BakerPTASecr@yahoo.com

Jaime Kemp, comité de 8 grado –
Baker8thGrade@yahoo.com

Visita nuestra página web!



Visit nuestra página de Facebook!



ACTUALIZACIONES DE LA PTA

¿Sigues pensando en unirse a nosotras? Si crees que no tienes energía para dedicarte a la PTA, ¡no te preocupes, tenemos buenas noticias! La PTA de secundaria no requiere mucha dedicación de tiempo. Tenemos algunos eventos durante el año que requieren personal, pero sobre todo necesitamos ideas y comentarios de nuestras familias durante nuestras reuniones mensuales (¡por Zoom o en persona!).

Si cree que puede estar interesado (¿o tal vez todavía tiene preguntas?) envíe un correo electrónico a BakerPTA@yahoo.com!



¿Quieres ser miembro?

¡Escanee el código QR para vincularlo a su formulario de membresía en línea!

¡La reunión del PTA es el martes 11 de noviembre!

- ◆ El comité de octavo grado se reúne a las 6pm
- ◆ El comité general se reúne a las 7 pm
- ◆ En persona en el Centro de Medios
¿Quieres llamar? [Enlace de llamada de Zoom](#)
- ◆ ID de reunion: 856 0156 9113
Código de acceso: 908892

¿Tienes un estudiante de octavo grado?

- ◆ Por favor, rellene el formulario adjunto
- ◆ Las donaciones cubren:
- ◆ Camiseta de la clase 2030 de DHS para todos los estudiantes, ceremonia de baile y promoción de octavo grado y junio
- ◆ Las donaciones se pueden hacer mediante cheque (Baker PTA con el nombre del estudiante en la línea de notas) o mediante PayPal @BakerMSPTA o escanee el código QR a continuación.



◆

John T Baker Middle School PTA

8th Grade Promotion and End of Year Activities

Lets Celebrate our Middle School Graduates!

What does your donation cover?	Your donation covers a DHS Class of 2030 t-shirt for each student, the 8th grade dance that includes food and drinks , a DJ , and photo booth , as well as decorations for the promotion ceremony .
Contribution	We ask that families contribute \$35 or more for each child – see what it covers above!
Want to do more?	We would love if families consider signing up to help with the various events and activities for our 8 th graders. We appreciate both your financial contributions and your time and efforts to help create wonderful memories for our children. 8th Grade Committee meetings are from 6 -7 pm before PTA meetings.
To Do: 	Please complete the form below and return to Baker's main office along with your contribution. Checks should be made payable to "BAKER PTA" with a note in the memo AND on the envelope: "8 th Grade Promotion." Return to: Baker Middle School PTA, 25400 Oak Drive, Damascus, MD 20872. You can also use this link to fill out the form online or use the QR code to the right.
Digital Payment Options	Digital payments may be made through PayPal using @BakerMSPTA or by scanning the following QR code: 

Stay connected so you know what the plan is and to see how you can help. Email questions to the 8th Grade PTA Committee at Baker8thGrade@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
T-Shirt Distribution

Promotion Ceremony
Fundraising

Class Gift

Name: _____

Email: _____ Phone Number: _____

Enclose your \$35 check payable to Baker PTA, and mark in the memo "8th Grade Promotion"

John T Baker Middle School PTA

8th Grade Promotion and End of Year Activities

¡Celebremos a nuestros Graduados de Escuela Intermedia!

¿Qué cubre su donación?	Su donación cubre una camiseta de la Clase DHS de 2030 para cada estudiante, el baile de octavo grado que incluye comida, bebidas, un DJ y una cabina de fotos, así como decoraciones para la ceremonia de promoción.
Contribución	Pedimos que las familias contribuyan con \$35 o más por cada estudiante — ¡vea lo que cubre arriba!
¿Quiere hacer más?	Nos encantaría que las familias consideraran inscribirse para ayudar con los diversos eventos y actividades para nuestros estudiantes de octavo grado. Agradecemos tanto sus contribuciones financieras como su tiempo y esfuerzo para ayudar a crear recuerdos maravillosos para nuestros niños. Las reuniones del Comité de Octavo Grado son de 6 a 7 p.m. antes de las reuniones del PTA.
Pendiente: 	Por favor complete el formulario a continuación y devuélvalo a la oficina principal de Baker junto con su contribución. Los cheques deben hacerse a nombre de "BAKER PTA" con una nota en el memo Y en el sobre: "8th Grade Promotion" (Promoción de Octavo Grado). Envíelo a: Baker Middle School PTA, 25400 Oak Drive, Damascus, MD 20872. También puede usar este enlace para completar el formulario en línea o escanear el código QR a la derecha.
Opciones de Pago Digital	Los pagos digitales pueden hacerse a través de PayPal usando @BakerMSPTA o escaneando el siguiente Código QR: 

Así sabrá cuál es el plan y cómo puede ayudar. Envíe sus preguntas por correo electrónico al Comité de Octavo Grado del PTA a: Baker8thGrade@yahoo.com. ¡Agradecemos mucho su apoyo!

Nombre completo de su estudiante: _____

¡Háganos saber cómo puede ayudar! Marque una o más opciones

Baile/Celebración

Ceremonia de Promoción

Regalo de Clase

Distribución de Camisetas

Recaudación de Fondos

Nombre: _____

Correo electrónico: _____ Teléfono: _____

Adjunte su cheque de \$35 a nombre de Baker PTA y anote en el memo "8th Grade Promotion."

Brookeville Avenue (now Georgia Avenue) looking south near Silver Spring Avenue. Photo taken June 21, 1917 by Willard R. Ross (1860-1948). From "Historic Silver Spring" by Jerry A. McCoy and the Silver Spring Historical Society. Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2006.



Zoom Webinar:

The Impact of Montgomery County's Urban Renewal Programs on African American Communities

November 24, 2025
7:30 PM – 8:30 p.m.



**Learn about the impact
of Montgomery
County's urban renewal
programming on
African American
communities!**

bit.ly/MoCoUrbanRenewalPrograms

Earn 1 SSL Hour!

November 7, 2025

Dear Staff, Parents, and/or Guardians:

We are pleased to inform you of an opportunity to purchase a piano for your family. Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) has an agreement with Schaeffer's Piano Company, Inc., to provide MCPS with new grand, upright, and digital pianos to be used in schools. Schaeffer's Piano Company, Inc., located in Rockville, Maryland, is the area's oldest piano store. This agreement also provides MCPS families and staff an opportunity to purchase these and other in stock pianos for considerably reduced prices at an annual piano sales event.

This year's liquidation sales event will take place November 15–23, 2025, at 105 North Stonestreet Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20850. Sales will be by appointment only to provide an opportunity for you to purchase these pianos before they are offered for sale to the public. All pianos will carry a 15-year transferable warranty. Each piano will come with a bench and one free in-house tuning.

For additional information, you may visit the Schaeffer's Piano Company, Inc., website at www.schaefferspiano.com. To make an appointment for the sale, between November 15–23, 2025, please call the Schaeffer's Piano Company appointment desk at 301-424-1147.

We are grateful to be working with Schaeffer's Piano Company, Inc., to support our school music programs and help MCPS keep new and well-maintained instruments in our schools each year. If you have any questions, please contact Schaeffer's Piano Company, Inc., at 301-424-1144.

Sincerely,

Adnan Mamoon

Adnan Mamoon
Chief Operations Officer

AM:RCD:ar

2025 Annual Speak Up, Save a Life Video Contest



The poster features a film strip background. At the top left is the seal of the Office of the State's Attorney, Montgomery County, Maryland. To its right is a green speech bubble with 'SPEAK UP' and a red heart with 'Call 911'. Below these is a blue banner with 'SAVE A LIFE' and the text 'Silence KILLS Good Samaritans SAVE LIVES'. The main text reads: 'Students! Create an original video promoting awareness of the dangers of illicit opioids, overdose and fentanyl among teens.' Below this is 'Video Contest!' in large red script. Further down, it says 'MCPS students earn 10 SSL hours for participating' and 'Contest OPENS October 9, 2025' and 'Entries DUE ON December 7, 2025'. A clapperboard graphic shows '1st place: \$5,000'. Three film strip frames show '2nd place: \$3,000', '3rd place: \$1,000', and 'Fan Favorite \$1,000'. A QR code is labeled 'SCAN TO ENTER AND UPLOAD YOUR VIDEO!' with a red arrow. A photo shows three students filming with a camera. On the right, logos for sponsors are listed: 'SPONSORED BY', 'MAGNOLIA 75th Anniversary', 'Montgomery County Public Schools', 'MCCPTA', and 'DHHS MONTGOMERY COUNTY Department of Health and Human Services'.

Office of the State's Attorney
Montgomery County, Maryland

SPEAK UP **Call 911**

SAVE A LIFE
Silence **KILLS** Good Samaritans **SAVE LIVES**

Students! Create an original video promoting awareness of the dangers of illicit opioids, overdose and fentanyl among teens.

Video Contest!

MCPS students earn 10 SSL hours for participating

Contest OPENS October 9, 2025
Entries DUE ON December 7, 2025

1st place: \$5,000

2nd place: \$3,000

3rd place: \$1,000

Fan Favorite \$1,000

SCAN TO ENTER AND UPLOAD YOUR VIDEO!

SPONSORED BY

MAGNOLIA 75th Anniversary
Planting • Housing • Cooking

Montgomery County Public Schools
UNLEASHING POTENTIAL

MCCPTA
every child survives

DHHS
MONTGOMERY COUNTY
Department of Health and Human Services

Contest Opens, October 9, 2025 - Entries Due on December 7, 2025 [Video Contest Registration Page](#)

First Place Winner Receives \$5,000 Second Place Winner Receives \$3,000 Third Place Winner and Fan Favorite Winners Receive \$1,000
An additional \$5,000 to be split among Honorable Mention Winners

This contest is not just a competition; it's a platform for your voice to be heard. It challenges teenagers to create an original video to promote awareness about the dangers of illicit opioids, fentanyl, and the risk of overdose. Your video could make a difference. The video contest is open to all 6th - 12th-grade students living in, or attending school in, Montgomery County. The top prize is \$5,000; second place is \$3,000; third place and fan favorite winners will receive \$1,000.00.

Sponsored by: The Good Samaritan Fund and [The Magnolia Companies](#), in honor of two young Montgomery County residents lost to fentanyl: Michael Pizarra and Matthew Loudon. The Magnolia Companies is a local organization dedicated to promoting health and wellness in our community, and is also in partnership with [MCPS MCCPTA DHHS](#), all of whom are committed to supporting initiatives that raise awareness about opioid dangers and fentanyl.