



## Mr. Levine's Message

Greetings Baker Bulldogs Families!

Join us tomorrow, **Monday, January 12**, for the **Baker Middle School and Damascus High School Cluster Choral Concert**. Choral students from grades 7–12, under the direction of Mrs. Kari Liuzzi (BMS) and Ms. Sarah Goldsmith (DHS), will showcase their voices and musicianship. The concert will be held in the DHS auditorium and starts at 7:00 p.m.

**Damascus High School** will hold **Parent Orientation** for parents of rising 9th graders attending DHS for the 2026–2027 year on **Wednesday, January 14**. Please contact Ms. Buffum if you have any questions.

**Semester 1 and Marking Period 2 end on Friday, January 23, 2026.** There's still time to turn in that last assignment or study for that final assessment before report card grades are submitted. Please be sure to ask your children if they are missing any assignments or assessments. You also may check ParentVue for updates.

Please let me know if you have any questions or if I can be of assistance in any way.

Thank you for your support and partnership!

Best,  
Sam Levine



## Looking Ahead

### Monday, January 12

Baker/DHS Cluster Choral Concert  
Grades 7–12, 7:00 p.m. at DHS

### Tuesday, January 13 — Activity Buses

Basketball vs. Hallie Wells,  
Boys Home/Girls Away  
eSports, Mr. Conner and Mr. McKay,  
Rooms 233 and 234  
FCA, Mrs. Paredes, Room 219  
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=Fd4X4T4qMIUcFN997gJFx1QQZG4MT.1>  
Meeting ID: 856 0156 9113 Passcode: 908892  
Phone: +1 301 715 8592 US

### Wednesday, January 14 — Activity Buses

Wellness Wednesday during Advisory  
Workout Club, Mr. Fisher, Weight Room  
DHS Orientation for Parents of Rising  
9th Graders, 7:00 p.m. at DHS

### Thursday, January 15 — Activity Buses

SGA Spirit Day: Adam Sandler Day  
(Dress up in basketball shorts,  
oversized t-shirt, and sneakers!)  
Bracelet Club, Ms. Walsh, Room 101  
Homework Club, Ms. Laraia, Room 131  
Jazz Band, Ms. Fell, Room 107  
Workout Club, Mr. Fisher, Weight Room

### January 17–25

#### MLK Jr. Week of Service

### Monday, January 19

MLK Jr. Day — schools and offices closed

### Tuesday, January 20 — Activity Buses

FCA, Mrs. Paredes, Room 219  
Baker/Feeder Elementaris Cluster Choral  
Concert, 7:00 p.m. at DHS

### Wednesday, January 21 — Activity Buses

Wellness Wednesday during Advisory  
Fidos for Freedom Therapy Dogs, in the  
Media Center

Basketball vs. Rocky Hill,

Boys Away/Girls Home

SGA, Ms. Blankenship, Room 208

Workout Club, Mr. Fisher, Weight Room

### Thursday, January 22 — Activity Buses

Bracelet Club, Ms. Walsh, Room 101  
Homework Club, Ms. Laraia, Room 131  
Jazz Band, Ms. Fell, Room 107

NJHS, Mr. Conner, Room 234

Workout Club, Mr. Fisher, Weight Room

Baker Articulation for Parents of Rising  
6th, 7th, and 8th Graders, 6:30 p.m.

### Friday, January 23

Marking Period 2 and Semester 1 end  
Locker Clean Out 2:45–3:00 p.m.

## Baker Middle School Parent Articulation Meeting

Thursday, January 22, 2026

Parents of [rising 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students](#)  
attending Baker Middle School for the 2026-2027  
school year, please join us from 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm to  
learn about course offerings and  
the registration process.

6:30 pm - 7:30 pm  
BMS Cafeteria



## Attention all Baker MS Students

If you are interested in serving as one of Baker's 5 delegates  
to help with the voting process for student member of the  
board, please email [angela.e.blankenship2@mcpsmd.net](mailto:angela.e.blankenship2@mcpsmd.net)  
by the end of 01/16.

This is first come, first serve.

# 7th Grade Field Trip: Volunteers NEEDED!

## WHERE ARE WE GOING?

Junior Achievement Finance Park is located at the Edison High School of Technology, next to the campus of Wheaton High School.



## WHY ARE WE GOING TO FINANCE PARK?

All 7<sup>th</sup> grade students in MCPS complete the Junior Achievement lessons on personal finance. This three week long curriculum will be taught in their World Studies classes beginning in early January. The students then get to put their new economic knowledge to use in a real life simulation at Finance Park!

## WHEN ARE WE GOING?

About half of the Baker MS 7<sup>th</sup> graders will attend Finance Park on Friday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, and the other half will attend on Monday, February 9th!



## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

In order to meet the expected ratios of adults to students, we need about 17 volunteers each day!

If you are interested in volunteering, please email Heather Sneddon at [Heather\\_M\\_Sneddon@mcpssmd.org](mailto:Heather_M_Sneddon@mcpssmd.org)!

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



Last month, Baker's Career Coach, Maricela Rodriguez, partnered with our school library media specialist on a biography lesson. The students learned a bit about the different traits of RIASEC and then applied their new knowledge to a famous person's biography book in the library.



Students worked in groups to create an awesome poster display during class where they shared some facts about the famous person and how they show the different traits of the RIASEC in their personality and life achievements. It was a great way to help students learn more about the RIASEC traits and which traits they can identify with for their future careers.

Ms. Friedman and Ms. Rodriguez also run our Student Career Advisory Club. This club works to promote career awareness throughout the school year and empowers students to take ownership of their futures.

👉 Calling All Community Members 👈: If you are interested in coming to Baker one day to share information about your job with our students, we'd love to have you! Email Ms. Friedman: [Bridget\\_K\\_Friedman@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Bridget_K_Friedman@mcpsmd.org) to get more information.



## STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

### [C-SPAN StudentCam Competition:](#)

Students in grades 6 through 12 are invited to create a video documentary on a topic that relates to the theme, "Exploring the American Story through the Declaration of Independence." Top prize is \$5,000.

Deadline: Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2026.

### [Choose Respect Video Contest:](#)

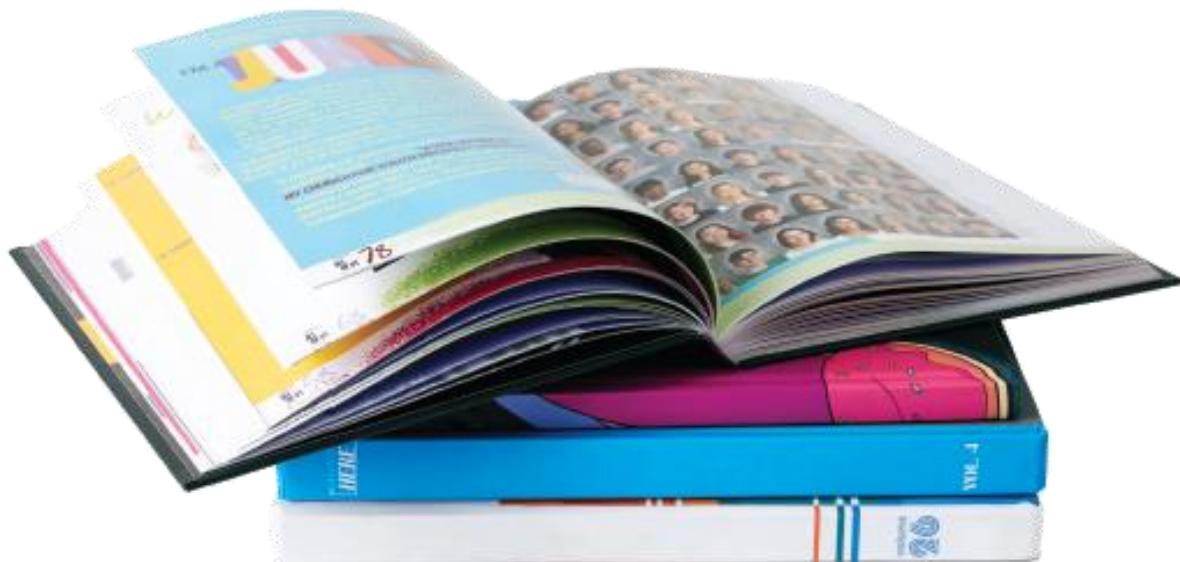
Open to secondary students, this contest challenges teens to create an original video promoting awareness of dating violence/abuse among teens. Videos can be in English or Spanish. Top prize is \$1,000. Deadline: Sunday, Feb. 15, 2026.

### [America's Field Trip:](#)

This contest invites students in grades 3-12 to submit writing or artwork in sharing their perspectives on what America means to them — and earn the opportunity to travel for field trip experiences at historic and cultural landmarks. Deadline: March 30, 2026.

# THE 2026 YEARBOOK

*Jostens*



Everyone belongs in the  
**BAKER MIDDLE SCHOOL** yearbook.

### ORDER NOW:



ONLINE

[JOSTENS.COM/BUYYEARBK](http://JOSTENS.COM/BUYYEARBK)



SCAN



CALL

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

**[JOSTENS.COM/BUYYEARBK](http://JOSTENS.COM/BUYYEARBK)**

# YEARBOOK RECOGNITION ADS ARE NOW FOR SALE!

## Baker Middle School

Dear Parent or Student,

Yearbook Recognition Ads are the perfect way to commemorate achievements and celebrate milestones. In addition, revenues from Recognition Ads help our school create a better yearbook. To purchase your ad online, follow the instructions listed below. Jostens is responsible for our school's yearbook ad sales. Please do not contact or send materials to the school. Please also consider our school's ad content guidelines below during the creation of your ad online. All orders must be placed by 01/30/2026.

**DEADLINE: 01/30/2026**

**ORDER BY 01/30/2026**

**COLOR AD**

1/4 Page \$155.00

1/8 Page \$100.00

Taxes, service fees, and shipping fees will be added, if applicable. Jostens payment plan available; minimum purchase requirements and eligibility restrictions apply.

## 3 EASY STEPS TO CREATE A YEARBOOK RECOGNITION AD!



### Step 1

Choose your ad size and layout  
(Options may vary by school.)



### Step 2

Add your photos



### Step 3

Enter your text

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**What are the guidelines for recognition ad content?**

Schools may review and edit ads per their guidelines. Jostens retains the right to remove any explicit text, graphic photos or copyright-protected imagery or photos.

**School Ad Content Guidelines**

Our school reserves the right to edit ads per our guidelines.

Please make sure all submitted materials are appropriate for school publication.

**How are the ad prices determined and what is the money used for?**

Recognition ad prices are determined by our school. Revenue from recognition ads helps the school create a better, more affordable yearbook.

**How is the ad deadline determined?**

The ad deadline is set by our school based on the production schedule for the yearbook.

**Can I create my student's ad on my mobile device?**

Yes, yearbook ads can be created online from both desktop and mobile devices.



(800) 358-0800

jostensadservice.com/student

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## PTA Dates & Contacts

### UPCOMING PTA MEETING DATES:

#### Tuesday, Jan. 13

6 pm – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Committee  
7 pm – PTA Meeting

#### Tuesday, Feb. 10

6 pm – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Committee  
7 pm – PTA Meeting

#### Tuesday, Mar. 10

6 pm – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Committee  
7 pm – PTA Meeting

#### Tuesday, Apr. 14

6 pm – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Committee  
7 pm – PTA Meeting

### PTA EXECUTIVE BOARD:

**Amy Bartosch**, President –  
[BakerPTA@yahoo.com](mailto:BakerPTA@yahoo.com)

**Shannon West**, Treasurer –  
[BakerPTATreasurer@yahoo.com](mailto:BakerPTATreasurer@yahoo.com)

**Stacy Smith**, Secretary –  
[BakerPTASecr@yahoo.com](mailto:BakerPTASecr@yahoo.com)

**Jaime Kemp**, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Comm –  
[Baker8thGrade@yahoo.com](mailto:Baker8thGrade@yahoo.com)

Visit our webpage!



Visit our Facebook Page!



# HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We ended the year with an amazing send-off for our teachers & staff! Thank you to everyone who provided a donation for staff appreciation week before the winter break. It was an amazing way to end the year!



Scan the QR code to link to our online membership form! We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting in January!

### PTA Meeting, Tuesday, January 13<sup>th</sup>!

- ◆ Please join us in the media center or on [Zoom](#)!
- ◆ Meeting ID: 856 0156 9113
- ◆ Passcode: 908892

### Krispy Kreme Fundraiser raised almost \$500!

- ◆ Our Krispy Kreme “Digital Dozens” wrapped up on January 4<sup>th</sup> & raised almost \$500 for our 8<sup>th</sup> grade!
- ◆ Thank you to everyone who purchased – hope you’re enjoying your donuts!

### Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Silent Auction coming soon!

- ◆ After a very successful inaugural Silent Auction, our 2<sup>nd</sup> one will be during International Night this Spring.
- ◆ Are you a local business willing to donate a service, lesson, or gift card? Do you have gift cards or presents from the holidays that you’re just not going to use?
- ◆ Keep our Silent Auction in mind – we can use it all!

### Have an 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Student?

- ◆ Please fill out the attached form
- ◆ Donations cover - DHS Class of 2030 t-shirt, 8<sup>th</sup> 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.



# ¡FELIZ AÑO NUEVO!

## PTA Dates & Contacts

### PRÓXIMAS FECHAS DE REUNIONES 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

#### Martes 10 de marzo

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

#### Martes 14 de abril

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

### JUNTA EJECUTIVA DE LA PTA:

**Amy Bartosch**, Presidenta –  
[BakerPTA@yahoo.com](mailto:BakerPTA@yahoo.com)

**Shannon West**, Tesorera –  
[BakerPTATreasurer@yahoo.com](mailto:BakerPTATreasurer@yahoo.com)

**Stacy Smith**, Secretaria –  
[BakerPTASecr@yahoo.com](mailto:BakerPTASecr@yahoo.com)

**Jaime Kemp**, comité de 8 grado –  
[Baker8thGrade@yahoo.com](mailto:Baker8thGrade@yahoo.com)

Visita nuestra página web!



Visit nuestra página de Facebook!



**¡Terminamos el año con una increíble despedida para nuestro personal!** Gracias a todos los que donaron para la semana de agradecimiento al personal antes de las vacaciones de invierno. ¡Fue una manera increíble de terminar el año!



Escanea el código QR para acceder a nuestro formulario de membresía en línea. ¡Esperamos verte en nuestra próxima reunión en enero!

### ¡Reunión del PTA, martes 13 de enero!

- ◆ Únase a nosotros en el centro de medios o en [Zoom](#).
- ◆ ID de la reunión: 856 0156 9113
- ◆ Código de acceso: 908892

### ¡La recaudación de fondos de Krispy Kreme recaudó casi \$500!

- ◆ ¡Nuestra recaudación de fondos finalizó el 4 de enero y recaudó casi \$500 para nuestro octavo grado!
- ◆ Gracias a todos los que compraron. ¡Espero que estén disfrutando de sus donas!

### ¡Subasta silenciosa esta primavera!

- ◆ Despues de una subasta silenciosa inaugural muy exitosa, nuestra segunda será durante la Noche Internacional de esta primavera.
- ◆ ¿Tiene un negocio local dispuesto a donar un servicio o una tarjeta de regalo? ¿Tiene tarjetas de regalo o regalos de las fiestas que no va a usar?
- ◆ Tenga en cuenta nuestra subasta: ¡podemos usarlo todo!

### ¿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!

<b>What does your donation cover?</b>	Your donation covers a <b>DHS Class of 2030 t-shirt</b> for each student, the <b>8<sup>th</sup> grade dance</b> that includes <b>food and drinks</b> , a <b>DJ</b> , and <b>photo booth</b> , as well as decorations for the <b>promotion ceremony</b> .
<b>Contribution</b>	We ask that families contribute \$35 or more for each child – see what it covers above!
<b>Want to do more?</b>	We would love if families consider signing up to help with the various events and activities for our 8 <sup>th</sup> graders. We appreciate both your financial contributions and your time and efforts to help create wonderful memories for our children.
<b>To Do:</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> Grade Committee meetings are from 6 -7 pm before PTA meetings.</b> 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 <sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion." Return to: Baker Middle School PTA, 25400 Oak Drive, Damascus, MD 20872. You can also use this <a href="#">link</a> to fill out the form online or use the QR code to the right.
<b>Digital Payment Options</b>	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 8<sup>th</sup> Grade PTA Committee at [Baker8thGrade@yahoo.com](mailto:Baker8thGrade@yahoo.com) . We greatly appreciate your support!

**Your 8<sup>th</sup> Grader's full name:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Dance/Celebration**

**Promotion Ceremony**

**Class Gift**

**T-Shirt Distribution**

**Fundraising**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

# John T Baker Middle School PTA

## 8th Grade Promotion and End of Year Activities

### ¡Celebremos a nuestros Graduados de Escuela Intermedia!

<b>¿Qué cubre su donación?</b>	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.
<b>Contribución</b>	Pedimos que las familias contribuyan con \$35 o más por cada estudiante — ¡vea lo que cubre arriba!
<b>¿Quiere hacer más?</b>	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. <b>Las reuniones del Comité de Octavo Grado son de 6 a 7 p.m. antes de las reuniones del PTA.</b>
<b>Pendiente:</b>	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: <b>Baker Middle School PTA, 25400 Oak Drive, Damascus, MD 20872.</b> También puede usar este enlace para completar el formulario en línea o escanear el código QR a la derecha.
<b>Opciones de Pago Digital</b>	Los pagos digitales pueden hacerse a través de PayPal usando <b>@BakerMSPTA</b> 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](mailto: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

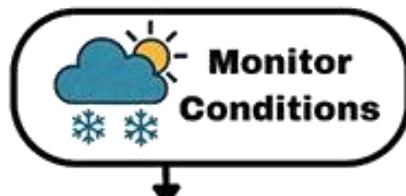
**Nombre:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Correo electrónico:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Teléfono:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

# Weather Decisions

How We Decide Whether to Open, Delay or Call a Snow Day



## Safety-First Approach to Weather Decisions

MCPS uses a practiced, safety-first process for weather decisions. We monitor forecasts, road conditions, and overall safety, and coordinate with county partners and neighboring districts. We assess transportation, staffing, and facility readiness countywide. Once a decision is made, we share it quickly across all MCPS channels.

### Gather Real-Time Intelligence



- National Weather Service
- Local Forecasts & Radar
- Emergency Management Alerts
- Reports from MCPS staff in the Field



### Assess Conditions across the entire county



- Main roads
- Neighborhood routes
- Sidewalks & Bus Stops
- Parking Lots



### Operational Readiness



- Assess School Facilities
- Walkways, Entrances
- Building Temperature & HVAC
- Power/Outages/Flooding
- Internet/Phones
- Can Staff Travel Safely to School
- Bus Fleet Readiness



### Making a Decision



One More Check of:

- Weather
- Nearby School Districts
- Neighboring Counties
- Regional Partners

**The Superintendent Makes the Decision**



### Inform the Community



- Email, Text and Website
- Alert MCPS
- Staff Email
- Media Partners
- Social Media
- MCPS-TV



**Frequently Asked Question: It's not snowing where I am—why close my school?**

Answer: Weather varies across our 500-square-mile county. Buses and staff travel through many areas, some of which may be icy or unsafe. Decisions must be made for systemwide safety, not individual neighborhoods.

## How to Receive MCPS Emergency Information

<https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/emergency/>