

Mr. Levine's Message

Greetings Bulldog Families,

MCAP testing is over!

We still have **MAP Testing** (*for all grades*) coming up. **MAP–M** will take place on **Wednesday, June 3**, and **MAP–R** will take place on **Friday, June 5**. Please see page 4 for the bell schedule. Students report directly to their testing location on these days.

The MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) assessment is designed to measure a student's academic achievement and growth over time in reading and mathematics. Together with other classroom-based information, MAP results can help teachers make instructional decisions that match the needs of each child.

Please make sure that on assessment days your child comes to school on time, well-rested, and having consumed a nutritious breakfast. If possible, please avoid scheduling appointments that would pull your child out of school during the testing blocks.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have. Thank you for your continued support!

Best,
Sam Levine

Kudos to the Music Department!

On Friday, May 15, the **Concert Band, Symphonic Band, Concert Orchestra, Symphonic Orchestra, Concert Chorus, and Chamber Singers**, participated in the **HersheyPark Music Showcase**. **Every single ensemble received Superior Ratings and earned First Place!**

Section Awards were presented to **French Horns, Cello, and Bases**.

Mason Barrett and **Mary VanRavenswaay** were presented with **Solo Awards**.

We are so proud of the students for these honors and want to thank **Ms. Ehrenspeck, Mrs. Fell, and Mrs. Liuzzi** for all their efforts in leading the ensembles to these great achievements!

We extend our **appreciation to all the parent chaperones** for helping to make this a successful event!

Important SSL News

Attention students and families:

It's time to turn in those **Student Service Learning (SSL)** hours! If you completed service anytime between **June 1, 2025, and May 28, 2026**, please submit your reflection sheets no later than **Friday, May 29, 2026**. **FORMS FROM THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AFTER MAY 29, 2026**

Get those forms in early so you can head into summer with your hours fully updated!

8th Grade End-of-Year Dates

- June 4 — Adventure Park Field Trip (all day)**
- June 12 — Celebration Dance (6:30–8:30 p.m.)**
- June 16 — Promotion Rehearsal (P7 & P8)**
- June 17 — Promotion Ceremony and Awards
9:00–10:00 a.m. at Baker Middle School**



Looking Ahead

May —

Asian American/Pacific Islander Month
Jewish American Heritage Month

Monday, May 25 — Memorial Day
Schools and offices closed



Wed., May 27 — Non-Instructional Day
No school for students and teachers

Thursday, May 28
SGA Spirit Day: Throw it back to childhood (dress up as baby you!)

Friday, May 29
Mile Challenge (*see page 3*)

June —
LGBTQ+ Pride Month
National Caribbean Heritage Month
National Immigrant Heritage Month

Wednesday, June 3
MAP–M Testing (*see page 4*)
Wellness Wednesday

Thursday, June 4
8th Grade Field Trip to Adventure Park

Friday, June 5
MAP–R Testing (*see page 4*)

Tuesday, June 9
PTA Meetings
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

Wednesday, June 10
8th Grade Yearbook Distribution

Thursday, June 11
7th Grade Yearbook Distribution

Friday, June 12
6th Grade Yearbook Distribution
8th Grade Celebration Dance

Tuesday, June 16
SGA Spirit Day: Beach Day (Dress up as your favorite summer activity)
8th Grade Promotion Rehearsal (P7 & P8)

Wednesday, June 17
8th Grade Promotion

Thursday, June 18 — Last Day of School
MP4 and S2 End
Early Release — Baker dismisses at 12:30

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PRIORITIES AT BAKER MS



WELLNESS GOAL

TRUSTED ADULT

- Our goal is for every student to have at least one trusted adult at Baker MS.
- Can be any staff member who you feel comfortable accessing for support.

WELLNESS GOAL

CONSISTENT SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

- We value your attendance and want students in school on time, every day, whenever possible.
- Consistent attendance builds positive habits and sets the stage for learning!

INSTRUCTIONAL GOAL

ANSWERING QUESTIONS WITH A CLAIM

- Clearly answer questions with a statement that can be supported by evidence.

INSTRUCTIONAL GOAL

CITING EVIDENCE IN YOUR RESPONSES

- To support your claim, use specific evidence from the provided content such as the text, data table, or graph.
- Include more than one piece of evidence when possible.

INSTRUCTIONAL GOAL

EXPLAINING YOUR THINKING AND REASONING

- Explain how and why the evidence supports your answer.
- Connect the evidence to content you learned in class or found in the provided content (reading, graph, chart, etc).

MILE CHALLENGE SCHEDULE- MAY 29

Bells	GRADE 6	GRADE 7	GRADE 8
8:15-8:59	Period 1/Announcements	Period 1/Announcements	Period 1/Announcements
9:03-9:46	Period 2	Period 2	Period 2
9:50-10:33	Period 3	Period 3	Period 3
10:37-11:20	Period 4	Period 4	(Adv 9 Mins) Period 4 - LUNCH
11:24-12:07	Period 5	(ADV 9 Mins) Period 5 - LUNCH	Period 5
12:11-12:54	(ADV 9 Mins) Period 6 - LUNCH	Period 6	Period 6
12:58-1:41	Period 7	Period 7	Period 7
1:45-2:00	Period 8	Period 8	Period 8
2:00 - 2:45	Period 8/MC	Period 8/MC	Period 8/MC
2:45-3:00	Period 8	Period 8	Period 8

****Students participating in the mile challenge will report to the gym at 2:00 PM (they will have passes).**

****Classes should report to the back field at 2:15 and sit in the designated area (with teacher supervision, no cell phones please)****

**** Students will return to 8th period at the conclusion of the mile challenge****

2026 MAP Testing Bell Schedule

Wednesday, June 3 and Friday, June 5

Wednesday, June 3, 2026 Math MAP

Bells	GRADE 6	GRADE 7	GRADE 8
8:15 - 10:43	MAP Math		
10:47 - 11:14	Period 1/Announcements	Period 1/Announcements	Period 1/Announcements
11:18 - 11:48	Period 4	Period 4	Period 4 - LUNCH
11:52 - 12:22	Period 5	Period 5 - LUNCH	Period 5
12:26-12:56	Period 6 - LUNCH	Period 6	Period 6
1:00-1:27	Period 2	Period 2	Period 2
1:31-1:58	Period 3	Period 3	Period 3
2:02 - 2:29	Period 7	Period 7	Period 7
2:33 - 3:00	Period 8	Period 8	Period 8

Friday, June 5, 2026 MAP ELA

Bells	GRADE 6	GRADE 7	GRADE 8
8:15 - 10:43	MAP ELA		
10:47 - 11:14	Period 1/Announcements	Period 1/Announcements	Period 1/Announcements
11:18 - 11:48	Period 4	Period 4	Period 4 - LUNCH
11:52 - 12:22	Period 5	Period 5 - LUNCH	Period 5
12:26-12:56	Period 6 - LUNCH	Period 6	Period 6
1:00-1:27	Period 2	Period 2	Period 2
1:31-1:58	Period 3	Period 3	Period 3
2:02 - 2:29	Period 7	Period 7	Period 7
2:33 - 3:00	Period 8	Period 8	Period 8

Traffic Flow Information:

To ensure the safety of all stakeholders and in an effort to increase efficiency of traffic flow during morning and afternoon drop off/pick up times, the Montgomery County Department of Transportation has installed signage requiring right turn only out of the drop off/pick up loop onto Oak Drive (7:45 a.m.–8:30 a.m. and 2:45 p.m.–3:30 p.m.) along with signage prohibiting U-Turns on Oak Drive. The signage is now posted under the stop sign as you exit the loop and on the right side of Oak Drive. We recognize that this traffic flow may be a change in routine and procedure, but we really appreciate the support and understanding as the safety of all stakeholders remains our top priority.

Update to ParentVUE and StudentVUE Apps

The ParentVUE and StudentVUE apps are being updated. Updates will be available starting May 15. Parents will be prompted to update their ParentVUE mobile app. There is a new feature assist that explains all the new features in the various languages. This will show parents the different features in their selected language. Please see [UTube video](#) and [Flyer](#)

FY26 Traditional School Year Ends June 18

MSDE approved MCPS's request to waive three days of student attendance. What this means for you:

- Monday, June 15 (full day)
- Tuesday, June 16 (full day)
- Wednesday, June 17 (full day)
- Last Day of School – Thursday, June 18 (early release day)

Friday, June 19 (Juneteenth) remains a systemwide closure for the federal and state holiday (schools and offices are closed).

Student Opportunities

Maryland Center for School Safety's [Prepare 2026 Art Showcase](#): This year's theme, Future Ready Schools, calls on student artists in Grades 3-12 to share their perspectives on what school safety means to them. **Deadline: Sunday, May 31**

Students in Grades 3–12 are invited to celebrate America's 250th birthday by entering the [American Heroes Student Art Contest](#). Participating students can choose a hero from this [list](#) and create original, handmade two-dimensional artwork and a 200-word artist statement (100 words for elementary students). **Submissions are due Monday, June 1. [Learn more.](#)**

[Montgomery History Art Exhibit](#): As part of the county's 250th anniversary on Sept. 6, Montgomery County student artists (8th grade through high school) are invited to submit work to "MoCo at 250: Then and Now." **Deadline: Sunday, August 2, 2026.**

[Montgomery Can Code](#): A free weeklong summer camp for MCPS rising 6th, 7th and 8th grade students. **Learn more:** [English/](#) [español/](#) [中文/](#) [français/](#) [Português/](#) [한국어/](#) [tiếng Việt/](#) [አማርኛ](#)

KID Museum is offering upcoming opportunities for students, including summer camps and a free Invent the Future Expo. [Summer camps](#) are available for K–8th grade students from June 22–Aug. 21, 9 a.m.–4 p.m. The **Invent the Future Expo** will be held from 10 a.m.–2p.m. on Sunday, May 31, at 3 Bethesda Metro Center. [Register.](#)

Amended Gender Identity Guidelines

The [2025-2026 Gender Identity Guidelines](#) have been amended, effective April 27, 2026, to align with a recent Supreme Court case, *Mirabelli v. Bonta*, where the court decided that the parental right to "direct the upbringing and education of their children" is fundamental. Thus, with respect to "gender dysphoria - a condition that has an important bearing on a child's mental health" the parents shall be told when their child exhibits symptoms of gender dysphoria at school. Our former gender identity guidelines limited disclosure of a child's gender dysphoria to parents without consent of the student or unless legally required to do so. We have clarified the guidelines to explicitly state that we are now legally required to disclose this information when parents request it, regardless of whether the student consents. Additionally, MCPS staff are not required to conceal this information from parents. However, staff must consult with the principal before releasing such information, particularly when doing so may pose a significant risk of harm to the student.

Middle School Summer School

Registration for [middle school summer school](#) is open. The IGNITE Middle School Academy will help students feel confident and ready for the next school year in math, English and STEM. Families whose students would benefit most will receive an invitation to register through [ParentVUE](#). The program runs Monday–Thursday from July 7–August 6.

DHS Fall Meet the Coaches Night

Any incoming 9th graders interested in playing a fall sport at DHS should attend a **Fall Meet the Coaches Night on June 1**. The informational meeting will begin **at 6:30 p.m.** in the DHS auditorium. Come and learn about summer workouts, tryout information, and more for the following fall sports: Cheerleading, Cross Country, Field Hockey, Girls' Flag Football, Football, Golf, Pom Poms, Boys' and Girls' Soccer, Girls' Volleyball.

Damascus High School Preschool Lab Program Now Accepting Applications for 2026–2027

The DHS Preschool Lab Program is enrolling children for the 2026–2027 school year. The program runs from early October through mid-May and follows the MCPS calendar. A morning session is offered Monday–Thursday (and some Fridays) from **7:50–10:50 a.m.**

Children must be **4 years old by September 1, 2026**, toilet trained and have all required health forms submitted. A **\$100 non-refundable deposit** and completed application are required to reserve a spot. Enrollment is first-come, first-served; younger children may be considered if space allows.

To apply, please complete the [Preschool Application & Lab Procedure forms 26-27](#) and submit them to [Kimberly A. Krill@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Kimberly_A_Krill@mcpsmd.org).



UPCOMING PTA MEETING DATES:

BOARD ELECTIONS

Tuesday, June 9

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 Volunteers Needed!



Scan the QR code to link to our online membership form — we look forward to seeing you at our next meeting!

Only Two Volunteers for 2026-2027 PTA Board Needed!

- ◆ **We are still in need of volunteers to fill two important positions – Treasurer and 8th Grade Committee Chair.**
- ◆ Our President-elect and Secretary-elect are experienced PTA board members, and our outgoing Treasurer will be able to provide support to our incoming Treasurer.
- ◆ Please email BakerPTA@yahoo.com if you may be interested!

End of Year 8th Grade Activities!

- ◆ Thursday, 6/4 – Adventure Park Field Trip!
 - ◇ Popsicles & Sharpie markers are needed!
- ◆ Friday, 6/12 – 8th Grade Dance, 6:30 to 8:30 pm!
 - ◇ Volunteers, decorations, & snacks needed!
- ◆ Wednesday, 6/17 – Promotion Ceremony at 9 am!
 - ◇ Donations for decorations needed!
- ◆ Please see the [SignUp Genius](#) to sign up for any or all of the 8th Grade needs!

Have an 8th Grade Student?

- ◆ The Committee is asking for \$35 per student to help defray the costs of all of the activities.
- ◆ If you haven't donated just yet, please scan the QR code below for the form.
- ◆ Donations can be made via check (student's name in the memo line) or via PayPal @BakerMSPTA or scan the QR code below.



Fechas y Contactores de la PTA:

PRÓXIMAS FECHAS DE REUNIONES DE LA PTA:

¡ELECCIONES DE LA JUNTA DIRECTIVA!

Martes 9 de junio

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!



Visita nuestra página de Facebook!



¡Se necesitan voluntarias de la PTA!



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

¡Solo se necesitan dos voluntarias para la junta de la PTA 2026-2027!

- ◆ **Todavía necesitamos voluntarios para cubrir dos puestos importantes: Tesorero y Presidente del Comité de 8.º Grado.**
- ◆ Nuestro presidente electo y nuestra secretaria electa son miembros experimentados de la junta directiva de la AMPA, y nuestro tesorero saliente podrá brindar apoyo a nuestro tesorero entrante.
- ◆ ¡Envíe un correo electrónico a BakerPTA@yahoo.com si está interesado!

¡Actividades de fin de año para los alumnos de octavo grado!

- ◆ Jueves, 4 de junio: ¡Excursión al parque de aventuras!
 - ◇ ¡Se necesitan paletas heladas y marcadores Sharpie!
- ◆ Viernes, 12/6 – ¡Baile de 8.º grado, de 18:30 a 20:30!
 - ◇ ¡Se necesitan voluntarios, decoración y refrigerios!
- ◆ Miércoles, 17 de junio: ¡Ceremonia de ascenso a las 9 de la mañana!
 - ◇ ¡Se necesitan donaciones para la decoración!
- ◆ ¡Visite [SignUp Genius](#) para inscribirse en cualquiera o en todas las necesidades de 8.º grado!

¿Tienes un estudiante de octavo grado?

- ◆ El Comité solicita 35 dólares por estudiante para ayudar a sufragar los gastos de todas las actividades.
- ◆ Si aún no has donado, escanea el código QR que aparece a continuación para acceder al formulario.
- ◆ Las donaciones pueden realizarse mediante cheque (indicando el nombre del estudiante en el concepto) o a través de PayPal @BakerMSPTA o escaneando el código QR que aparece a continuación.



BAKER 8TH GRADE
DANCE

PARENTS -
WE NEED YOUR HELP

HELP US ROLL OUT THE RED CARPET AND MAKE THE
HOLLYWOOD DANCE A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

SET UP CREW 3 TO 6 PM
CHAPERONE/GAMES/FOOD 6 TO 830 PM
CLEAN UP CREW 830 TO 930 PM

**HELP BEFORE THE DANCE MAKE GAMES AND
DECORATIONS**

JOIN US ON MAY 30 5 TO 9 PM
email baker8thgrade@yahoo.com for more info



DONATIONS:



SIGN UP

FRIDAY

JUNE


12

2026

630 PM

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.
To Do:	8th Grade Committee meetings are from 6 -7 pm before PTA meetings. 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!

<p>¿Qué cubre su donación?</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Contribución</p>	<p>Pedimos que las familias contribuyan con \$35 o más por cada estudiante — ¡vea lo que cubre arriba!</p>
<p>¿Quiere hacer más?</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Pendiente:</p> 	<p>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.</p>
<p>Opciones de Pago Digital</p>	<p>Los pagos digitales pueden hacerse a través de PayPal usando @BakerMSPTA o escaneando el siguiente Código QR:</p> 

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."

March 16, 2026

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are excited to share that our students will soon participate in a special lesson to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States.

This milestone is often called the "Semiquincentennial". Since the actual anniversary is on July 4th during summer break, the lesson will be taught in June so that all students can celebrate together before the school year ends. The lessons will be available on the MCPS Social Studies webpage.

The theme of the lesson is "Many Voices, One Nation". Your child will learn about:

- The Declaration of Independence and how the United States became its own country.
- The different people who have shaped our nation's history from the past to the present.
- How diverse voices help make our country what it is today.

Our goal is to help students understand the birth of our nation and celebrate the many different people who are part of it.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to your child's teacher.

Sincerely,



Tracy Oliver-Gary
Supervisor, Pre-K-12 Social Studies

16 de marzo de 2026

Estimados padres y tutores:

Nos entusiasma compartir que nuestros estudiantes pronto participarán en una lección especial para celebrar el 250.º aniversario de Estados Unidos.

Este hito a menudo se conoce como "semiquincentenario". Dado que el aniversario real es el 4 de julio durante las vacaciones de verano, la lección se impartirá en junio para que todos los estudiantes puedan celebrar juntos antes de que termine el ciclo escolar.

El tema de la lección es "Muchas voces, una nación". Su hijo aprenderá sobre:

La Declaración de Independencia y cómo Estados Unidos se convirtió en un país independiente.

Las diferentes personas que han dado forma a la historia de nuestra nación desde el pasado hasta el presente.

Cómo las voces diversas ayudan a que nuestro país sea lo que es hoy.

Nuestro objetivo es ayudar a los estudiantes a comprender el nacimiento de nuestra nación y celebrar a las muchas personas diferentes que forman parte de ella.

Si tiene alguna pregunta, no dude en comunicarse con el docente de su hijo.

Atentamente,



Tracy Oliver-Gary
Supervisora de estudios sociales desde Pre-K hasta el 12.º grado