



# WELCOME BOBCATS!



**Benjamin Banneker  
Middle School  
BACK-TO-SCHOOL  
SUMMER  
NEWSLETTER  
August 2025**

[www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/  
schools/bannekerm](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/bannekerm)

## Principal's Message...

Hello Benjamin Banneker Middle School Families,

I hope this communication finds you well. It is with great pleasure that we welcome our school community back to school for an exciting year of teaching, learning, and student well-being. I am looking forward to our continued collaboration on behalf of our students and staff to ensure that we have a positive educational experience as we work to help students become the best version of themselves. The BBMS staff are working hard to ensure that the learning environment will be warm, welcoming, and conducive to learning and wellness upon entering Benjamin Banneker Middle School.

As we embark on this journey, we want to encourage our Bobcat families to actively shape our school's future. Whether you are a student, parent, or community member, your contributions and ideas are valuable and necessary to make our school the best it can be. A continued goal for this year is to cultivate a partnership with families and the Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA). We encourage you to engage in the BBMS community through the PTSA.

This summer, the BBMS community has begun re-imagining our core values and their impact on the mission and vision of BBMS for the years to come. To ensure that learning is our top priority, BBMS is adopting a **new cell phone policy in which students will keep phones "Away all Day."** Please see the [linked article](#) regarding the impact of cell phones on student learning and well-being. Our teachers are dedicated to providing a high-quality education that will empower our students to become lifelong learners and leaders. We believe that a solid educational foundation is the key to success, and we are committed to providing our students with the tools they need to achieve their goals. We are excited to see our students grow and flourish.

The BBMS Bobcat Bulletin will be emailed home every Friday evening and posted in the principal corner on our school [website](#). Please do not hesitate to contact me at 240-740-6250.

## Key Staff at BBMS:

We know there will be times when you must contact your student's teacher, content specialist, team leader, counselor, or administrator. Please see the charts below:

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## Important Dates:

### Transition Day for 6th Grade and 7th and 8th Graders New to Banneker MS

Monday, August 25  
8:15-3:00 p.m.

### First Day of School

Tuesday, August 26  
8:15-3:00 p.m.

### Labor Day—Holiday

Monday, September 1

### Back to "Health" Night

Thursday, September 9  
5:15 pm.

### Back to School Night

Thursday, September 9  
6:00 p.m.

### Welcome Back Cook-out

Thursday, September 9  
4:30 pm

### No School for Students & Teachers

Tuesday, September 23

### Early Release for Students

Friday, September 26

### No School for Students & Teachers

Thursday, October 2

**Principal's Message...continued**

Department	Content Specialist	Supervising Administrator
Math	Ms. Jessica Coates	Ms. Saanura James
Literacy(English, EML, and Reading Classes)	Mr. Tony Harrison	Ms. Rochelle Hawes
World Studies	Ms. Colleen De Jong	Ms. Rochelle Hawes
Science and Technology	Ms. Kathryn Spivey	Ms. Saanura James
World Languages	Ms. Elizabeth Guerrero	Ms. Rochelle Hawes
Physical Education,	Ms. Danielle Prietz	Ms. Saanura James
Special Education	Ms. Emily Carpenter	Ms. Saanura James
Counseling	Ms. Taryn Richards	Ms.

Grade	Administrator	Counselor	Team Leaders
6	Ms. Saanura James	Ms. Wilma Benjamin Drakes	Ms. Shanee Satchell
7	Ms. Saanura James (A-M) & Rochelle Hawes (N-Z)	Ms. Cheryl Taylor (A-M) Ms. Taryn Richards (N-Z)	Ms. Allison Baisey
8	Ms. Rochelle Hawes	Ms. Mitra Ghandeharizadeh	Ms. Tanya Cain
Student Engagement Team Leader		Ms. Marian Bromell	
Instructional Specialist		Ms. LaCreacia Oakley	
Resource Counselor		Ms. Taryn Richards	

**First Day of School:**

The first day of school is Tuesday, August 26th, from 8:15 AM to 3:00 PM. When students arrive at school, they will report to their homerooms, where they will receive their schedules and move to their first-period class.



## Principal's Message...continued

### Key Dates:

**August 25<sup>th</sup>:** Student Transition Day 8:15 AM

**August 26<sup>th</sup>:** First Day of School

**September 9<sup>th</sup>:** Back to School Night and Cookout:

Back to School Cookout at 4:30 PM

Back to Health Night for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Caregivers at 5:15 PM

Back to School Night at 6:00 PM

I am looking forward to a wonderful school year. Please enjoy the remainder of the summer.

Kind regards,

Panagiota Tsonis

Acting Principal

## Arrival Procedure

Students will enter the building at 8:00am. 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Students report to the cafeteria and 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students report to the gym. Students will be served breakfast from 8:00am-8:15am. Breakfast will stop at 8:15am. Therefore, it is very important that your child arrives at school promptly at or before 8:00am.

## September 9 @ 6:00—Back to School Night



## SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

There is a school nurse and health technician assigned to Benjamin Banneker Middle School. The health room hours are 8:00am-3:00pm. The priorities for school health personnel are: emergency care for students who are seriously ill or injured, communicable diseases and control; health appraisal and follow-up with the establishment of health care plans and crisis intervention.

It is important to note that prescriptions and over-the-counter medications are subject to strict guidelines. Students are not allowed to bring to school, carry or self-administer medication without written authorization from a physician, parent and the school nurse. Prescriptions and over-the-counter medications must be ordered by the physician utilizing one of the MCPS Forms. The forms to use are *MCPS Form 525-13* for administration of medication, *MCPS Form 525-14* for Epipen administration, and *MCPS Form 525-12* for administration of treatment. The forms can be obtained in the health room, school office, school website, or MCPS website. Carefully follow the instructions when completing the forms and for the proper labeling of the medications. Contact the health room at 240-740-6252 if you have any questions or other health care concerns.

**7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade immunization requirements** Maryland immunization requirements for students entering 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade this August (SY25-26). Students entering the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade must provide documentation of Tetanus-diphtheria-acellular pertussis (Tdap) and Meningococcal meningitis (MCV) immunizations. Students not in compliance with the new requirements will be excluded from attending school until they are in compliance with the State law. MCPS DOES NOT want to exclude students due to a lack of these immunizations. Students may receive these immunizations through their health care provider **or** through Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services Clinics (schedule of clinics will be posted on our website [www.montgomerycountymd.gov](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov)). There will be other clinics once schools are open, but scheduling for those clinics are still in the planning stages. Please watch our website and phone calls home with more information.

**ADMINISTRATION**

Ms. Panagiota Tsonis, Acting Principal  
Ms. Rochelle Hawes, Assistant Principal  
Ms. Saanura James, Assistant Principal

**CONTENT SPECIALISTS:**

Ms. Emily Carpenter—Resource Teacher, Special Education  
Ms. Jessica Coates—Mathematics  
Ms. Colleen De Jong—World Studies  
Ms. Elizabeth Guerrero—World Languages  
Mr. Tony Harrison—Literacy & EML  
Ms. Danielle Prietz—PE/Health & Electives  
Ms. Taryn Richards—Resource Counselor /Alternative Programs  
Ms. Kathryn Spivey—Science & Technology

**TEAM LEADERS**

In addition to contacting counselors and/or administrators for information regarding your child, it is recommended that you contact the team leader. These individuals have overall responsibility for working with students assigned to their teams. For 2025-2026, the team leaders are:

6th Grade Team Leader—Ms. Shanee Satchell  
7th Grade Team Leader—Ms. Allison Baisey  
8th Grade Team Leader—Ms. Tanya Cain  
EML Team Leader—Ms. April Hayden  
Student Engagement Team Leader—Ms. Marian Bromell  
Instructional Specialist—Ms. LaCreacia Oakley

**COUNSELING DEPARTMENT**

Please contact the counselors below at 240-740-6260 if you have questions, need information or have concerns regarding your child:

Ms. Wilma Benjamin Drakes	Grade 6
Ms. Cheryl Taylor	Grade 7 (A-M)
Ms. Taryn Richards	Grade 7 (N-Z)
Ms. Mitra Ghandeharizadeh	Grade 8
Ms. Taryn Richards	Resource Counselor
Ms. Patricia Reidy	Registrar/Secretary

If you moved during the summer, or if you move during the school year, you will be required to bring a new proof of residency to Ms. Reidy in order for your child to continue attending Banneker Middle School.

**USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS**

Main Office/Attendance	240-740-6250
FAX#	301-879-1032
Counseling Office	240-740-6260
Health Room	240-740-6252
Media Center	240-740-6266
MCPS Transportation	240-740-7361

**WEB SITES AND E-MAIL**

A wealth of information is available on the Web site listed below. Many links are available via Banneker's Web page, including the main MCPS home page.

**BANNEKER'S WEB SITE ADDRESS:**

[www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/bannekerms](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/bannekerms)

**TEACHER'S E-MAIL ADDRESS:**

In most instances, the teacher's e-mail address is the teacher's first name, middle initial and last name followed by @mcpsmd.org

**SAMPLE:** John\_A\_Doe@mcpsmd.org

**BANNEKER'S LISTSERV:**

Parents are invited to join the PTSA listserv to get daily school announcements. Information about activities, test schedules, fundraisers, etc. is also communicated through the PTSA listserv. Go to Banneker's website at [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/bannekerms](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/bannekerms) to join. Once your e-mail address has been added, you should start receiving daily announcements within a week. Please remember to keep your e-mail address updated.

**BANNEKER'S STUDENT DIRECTORY**

The Annual Notice for Directory Information and Student Privacy form (MCPS Form 281-13) is attached. If you do not want Banneker to release your directory information you should complete the "[Annual Notice for Directory Information and Student Privacy](#)" form (attached to this newsletter) and return it to the school main office no later than **September 12, 2025**. Banneker will assume you agree to the release of the directory information, unless this form is returned by September 12, 2025.

All students will bring home a [Notification of Rights Under the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment](#) during the first week of school. Parents must understand that if they withhold directory information, the decision affects all lists of or references to students distributed or used outside MCPS, whether prepared by the school, PTSA, central services, or other school organizations.

Return this form to your school **ONLY** if you do not want directory information released.





## TRANSITION DAY

The MCPS countywide **Transition Day** for incoming 6th graders and also 7th and 8th graders new to Banneker MS will be held on **Monday, August 25, 2025 from 8:15am to 3:00pm**. Buses will run their regular routes (refer to attached MCPS bus information pg. 20) and will pick students up at their regular pick-up times and locations. Throughout the day students will follow a schedule to meet their teachers and become familiar with the building. Buses will return students to their regularly scheduled afternoon bus stop.

We strongly encourage all incoming 6th graders and new 7th and 8th graders to attend this transition day. Also as part of our transition day, we will be hosting an orientation for 6th grade and new 7th and 8th grade parents and caregivers in the gymnasium from 8:05am-8:35am. We look forward to meeting you and your students soon!



## FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

The first day of school for students will be **Tuesday, August 26, 2025**. Buses will run their regular schedules that day (refer to attached MCPS bus information pg. 20). Please remember that it takes a few days to stabilize the pick-up times. Therefore, it is wise to be at the bus stops at least ten minutes early for the first several days of school.

When students arrive at school on August 26, they should check the lists posted in the front hall to locate their homeroom. Students are assigned to administrative homerooms alphabetically by grade level. The list will show the last name of the first and last student in each group. As an example, Grade 7 HR 1 Abel-Brown. Each student must be able to determine if their last name falls between the two names shown. Teachers will be available to assist students but it will go much faster if parents will work with their children to make sure they understand how to read this list and identify their homeroom. Sixth grade students who attend the Student Transition Day on August 25 will go to the homeroom assigned to them on that day. **Schedules are distributed in homeroom classes.**

## BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT AND BACK TO HEALTH NIGHT

Banneker's Back to Health Night will be **Tuesday, September 9, 2025, 5:15 p.m.** followed by our Back to School Night, **6:00 p.m.** Please reserve this date on your calendar so you can come to meet your child's teachers and join the PTSA. Parents will follow their child's schedule to meet his/her teachers. (Please contact the main office as soon as possible if you need any special accommodations or interpreting services for Back to School Night.)

## BACK TO SCHOOL COOK-OUT

Parents, Guardians, and Students! Please join the Benjamin Banneker Middle School Staff on **Thursday, September 9th, 4:30-5:45 p.m.** at Banneker MS for the annual Welcome Back Cook-Out. This is a perfect opportunity for you and your students to meet the principal, assistant principals, the staff, see your friends and get acquainted with other students. More information to come.



## Benjamin Banneker Middle School

A Northeast Consortium School

14800 Perrywood Drive • Burtonsville, MD 20866-1899 Phone: 240-740-6250 • Fax: 301-879-1032  
[www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/bannekerms/](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/bannekerms/)

### **BBMS CHROMEBOOK POLICY**

The purpose of this communication is to provide families with information regarding MCPS Chromebook and technology policies. The [MCPS Chromebook Acceptable Use Policy](#) is to be adhered to in school year of 2025-2026 of Benjamin Banneker Middle School as it relates to Chromebooks. Each time a student logs on to a device, it is an agreement to the MCPS policies and outlined in the [IGT-RA regulation](#). Each student at Benjamin Banneker Middle School will be issued a Chromebook for the 2025-2026 school year.

In summary, the policy states, "Each student is financially responsible for damaged caused or loss of any Chromebook and charger that is checked out to the student. The device is loaned and for instructional purposes only. No cost is associated for a student to borrow, possess, or use and MCPS Chromebook. A family is only financial responsible when there is avoidable damage to the device. There is a charge for any lost or stolen devices or chargers." Charges range from \$26 to \$346.

Computers are for educational use only. Educational refers to actions related to assignments given to students by teachers or other staff at Benjamin Banneker Middle School. Students may only use approved software, web resources, and online resources provided by MCPS and BBMS. Activities on any device, network, or electronic communication device may be monitored by the MCPS district authorities. Inappropriate use of the technology can result in *limited or banned computer use* and/or disciplinary consequences.

Montgomery County Public Schools retains sole right of possession of the Chromebooks. The Chromebooks are LOANED to the students for educational purposes. MCPS administrative staff and faculty retain the right to collect, inspect, or retrieve Chromebooks at any time, including via electronic remote access and to alter, add, delete installed software or hardware. For more information, please see the Chromebook Acceptable Use Policy: [English](#) | [Spanish](#). If you have any questions regarding the Chromebook policy please do not hesitate to contact the BBMS main office.

Sincerely,

Ms. Panagiota Tsonis  
Acting Principal





# DAILY BELL SCHEDULE



6th Grade		7th Grade		8th Grade	
Period	Time	Period	Time	Period	Time
1	8:15-9:08	1	8:15-9:08	1	8:15-9:08
2	9:12-10:00	2	9:12-10:00	2	9:12-10:00
3	10:04-10:52	3	10:04-10:52	3	10:04-10:52
Lunch A	10:56-11:26	4	10:56-11:44	4	10:56-11:44
4	11:30-12:18	Lunch B	11:48-12:18	5	11:48-12:36
5	12:22-1:10	5	12:22-1:10	Lunch C	12:40-1:10
6	1:14-2:02	6	1:14-2:02	6	1:14-2:02
7	2:08-3:00	7	2:08-3:00	7	2:08-3:00

\*Announcements will be held during the last 5 minutes of period 1.

\*Breakfast is before period 1 begins.

# FRIDAY BELL SCHEDULE



6th Grade		7th Grade		8th Grade	
Period	Time	Period	Time	Period	Time
1	8:15-9:00	1	8:15-9:00	1	8:15-9:00
P.A.W.S.	9:00-9:32	P.A.W.S.	9:00-9:32	P.A.W.S.	9:00-9:32
2	9:36-10:21	2	9:36-10:21	2	9:36-10:21
3	10:25-11:10	3	10:25-11:10	3	10:25-11:10
Lunch A	11:14-11:44	4	11:14-11:59	4	11:14-11:59
4	11:48-12:33	Lunch B	12:03-12:33	5	12:03-12:48
5	12:37-1:22	5	12:37-1:22	Lunch C	12:52-1:22
6	1:26-2:11	6	1:26-2:11	6	1:26-2:11
7	2:15-3:00	7	2:15-3:00	7	2:15-3:00

**Objective:** Students will engage in social-emotional learning, self-monitoring through data plotting, setting actionable academic and behavioral goals, and organizational strategies for weekly planning.

\*Breakfast is before period 1 begins. \*Announcements are during the last 5 min of period 1.



## EARLY RELEASE BELL SCHEDULE

6th Grade		7th Grade		8th Grade	
Period	Time	Period	Time	Period	Time
1	8:15-8:43	1	8:15-8:43	1	8:15-8:43
2	8:47-9:15	2	8:47-9:15	2	8:47-9:15
3	9:19-9:47	3	9:19-9:47	3	9:19-9:47
Lunch A	9:51-10:21	4	9:51-10:21	4	9:51-10:21
4	10:25-10:55	Lunch B	10:25-10:55	5	10:25-10:55
5	10:59-11:29	5	10:59-11:29	Lunch C	10:59-11:29
6	11:33-12:01	6	11:33-12:01	6	11:33-12:01
7	12:05-12:30	7	12:05-12:30	7	12:05-12:30

\*If the early release schedule lands on a Friday, P.A.W.S. Day is canceled.

\*Breakfast is before period 1 begins. \*Announcements are during the last 2 min of period 1.

## 2 HOUR DELAY BELL SCHEDULE

6th Grade		7th Grade		8th Grade	
Period	Time	Period	Time	Period	Time
1	10:15-10:49	1	10:15-10:49	1	10:15-10:49
2	10:53-11:27	2	10:53-11:27	2	10:53-11:27
3	11:31-12:05	3	11:31-12:05	3	11:31-12:05
Lunch A	12:09-12:39	4	12:09-12:39	4	12:09-12:39
4	12:43-1:13	Lunch B	12:43-1:13	5	12:43-1:13
5	1:17-1:47	5	1:17-1:47	Lunch C	1:17-1:47
6	1:51-2:25	6	1:51-2:25	6	1:51-2:25
7	2:29-3:00	7	2:29-3:00	7	2:29-3:00

\*If a 2 hour delay has been issued on a Friday, P.A.W.S. Day is canceled.

\*Breakfast is before period 1 begins. \*Announcements are during the last 2 min of period 1.





## **Benjamin Banneker Middle School**

### **Bell Schedules 2025-2026**

<b>After School Activities</b>	
3:15	All students participating in activities report to the cafeteria
3:20	Beginning of afternoon activities
4:25	Dismissal bell to buses



## ATTENDANCE

Banneker's instructional day begins at 8:15 a.m. and concludes at 3:00 p.m. All students have a responsibility to attend their scheduled classes and required activities throughout the school day.

- **Full-day Absence**—Student is present less than two hours during the day.
- **Half-day Absence** -  
Student *arrives* more than two hours late = a.m. absent  
or  
Student *leaves* more than two hours before the end of the day = p.m. absent  
or  
Student leaves school for more than two hours during the day = a.m. or p.m. absent
- **Tardy**—Student *arrives* within the first two hours of the day.
- **Early dismissal**—Student *leaves* within the last two hours of the day.

All absences must be explained in a written note signed by the parent/guardian. If a student is out sick for more than 3 days, a doctor's note is required. This note must be turned in to the main office, within three school days following the absence. Absence notes can also be emailed to Ms. Joseph at Marilyn\_Joseph@mcpsmd.org. If an absence note is not received, the absence will be considered illegal under Maryland law. **Family vacations are not considered legal absences.**

Parents/guardians are encouraged to call the school office 240-740-6250, between 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. to report student absence. It is the student's responsibility to make up the work missed. For the safety of our students, we will not release students during the school day to anyone without prior approval of the parent.

**The school is not permitted to release students to anyone not indicated on the emergency form.**

## Cellphone & Electronic Device Policy SY25-26

### AWAY ALL DAY

- Before and After School: Students in all grade levels may use their personal mobile devices before the school day begins and after it ends.
- During the school day—including class time, lunch and transitions between periods—students will need to keep their personal devices turned off and stored away.
- On School Buses: Students are permitted to use their devices while riding MCPS buses.
- Student Responsibility: Students are expected to manage their devices responsibly, making sure they are turned off and out of sight when use is not permitted.
- Discipline and Expectations: If a student misuses their device, consequences will follow a progressive approach outlined in the Student Code of Conduct.
- Principals have the authority to allow limited cell phone use during class time if the use supports instruction.
- Medical and Learning Accommodations: Students will continue to have access as documented in the 504 or Individualized Education Plan (IEP) that allows for personal mobile device use.

## Student Code of Conduct

A detailed description of the Student Code of Conduct MCPS discipline policy can be found on the MCPS website at <https://www2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/students/rights/>.



## **StudentVUE**

The StudentVUE is a central location for students and their parents, guardians, or other authorized adults to access MCPS student information such as grades, assignments, attendance and class schedule. Contact information can also be reviewed and updated in the ParentVUE account. Please contact the Banneker counseling office with any questions or concerns regarding StudentVUE or ParentVUE.

## **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

Banneker will be offering a large number of extracurricular (afterschool) activities. Activities will begin sometime in late September. A list of the offerings will be distributed to students to take home sometime in mid or late September. Activity buses will be available, leaving Banneker at approximately 4:35. Students not taking the activity bus home after extracurricular activities are to be picked up promptly by 4:30 p.m.

All RecXtra activities are free to students.

## **INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS PROGRAM**

The middle school interscholastic sports program will continue a modified sports program. More information will be shared about this in the upcoming weeks. It consists of softball and cross-country in the fall, basketball in the winter and soccer in the spring. Only seventh and eighth grade students can participate.

**“STUDENTS MUST HAVE A CURRENT PHYSICAL ON  
FILE IN THE HEALTH ROOM  
PRIOR TO TRYING OUT for a sports team.”**



## **LOCKERS**

### **Hall lockers:**

All students will be assigned a locker during the first week of school. Students will visit lockers before school, before and after lunch, and after school.

Backpacks and coats should be kept in the lockers during the school day.

## **LOST AND FOUND ALERT!**

Each year Banneker donates boxes and boxes of clothes, eyeglasses, shoes, purses, wallets and other belongings to charity. You are asked to label all of your child's personal belongings. Most lost items are stored in the hall near the cafeteria. Lost books/notebooks are kept in the media center and smaller items (glasses, keys, wallets) in the main office. If your child does not find the missing article, you might want to come in and check yourself. **Students are not to bring valuable items to school.**



## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Students are not required to change clothes for Physical Education, however are required to wear safe attire to allow for physical activity.

### Below are suggestions of what students can wear:

- T-shirt
- Shorts
- On colder days, students may wear sweatshirts and sweatpants.
- Socks and a pair of tennis shoes with either laces or Velcro fasteners

### Online Store

We will open an online store in September which will offer Banneker PE attire. This store allows us to raise money for new PE equipment.

### Towels and personal hygiene items

Towels and personal hygiene items will not be provided by the school. Students will need to bring these items from home. These items should be stored in their assigned gym locker, along with their physical education clothes.

Students are responsible for making sure their clothing, uniform and other belongings are securely locked in their assigned P.E. locker. Theft can occur if students do not properly secure their belongings. The school is not responsible for stolen belongings.

### **BACK TO HEALTH NIGHT**

All parents are invited to attend **BACK TO HEALTH NIGHT** on Thursday, September 9, 2025, 5:15p.m., in the Room 236. An overview of the Health Program will be presented.

## INTERIM REPORTS

All Banneker students will receive a school wide progress report midway through each quarter.

Each teacher will complete the progress report with the current grade in each class. Progress reports must be accessed through Synergy StudentVUE.

## SAFE ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE OF STUDENTS

Parents are reminded that the circular driveway in front of the school is a bus loop only and the lower lot is for staff parking only. If you drive your child to school or pick him/her up after school, you must use the student drop off area closest to the tennis courts. This area has been designed to simplify this process. Signs are posted showing where students can be dropped off and picked up. For safety, please follow staff directions in the parent loop.

A number of Banneker students walk to school on the sidewalks along Old Columbia Pike. Walkers are required to use the designated cross walks located at the traffic circle. Students should also use caution when crossing the teacher entrance driveway.

## SAFE BUS PROCEDURES

Riding the bus is a privilege, not a right. Parents are requested to discuss appropriate behavior for riding the school bus. Reinforce the importance of students remaining in their seats, keeping their arms inside the bus, refraining from throwing objects from the bus, etc. Bus privileges can be denied to students not following bus rules. Food and drinks are not permitted on the buses.

Parents should be aware that while students are closely supervised throughout the school day and on the bus, there is usually no adult supervision once students leave the bus. We strongly recommend that each community consider having parents present at each bus stop. Adult presence at the bus stops will go a long way toward curbing inappropriate behavior.

Students **MUST** ride their assigned bus to and from school. Students who wish to ride home on a friend's bus or get off of their own bus at a friend's stop must bring a note from their parent. Once approved and signed by the principal or designee, the student should give this note to the operator of the bus they will be riding. This practice will normally be approved where space permits. Students who ride a bus other than their assigned one without prior approval can lose bus riding privileges. This applies even if two buses serve the same community.



## SCHOOL SAFETY AND SECURITY

In order to provide a safe school environment, we will be conducting practice fire drills throughout the school year and six (6) Shelter and Lockdown drills. Please retain the paragraph below "In Case of Emergency" and post it on your refrigerator or other similar location in the event of a real situation requiring evacuation to another site.

Banneker employs security assistants. They serve to monitor student behavior as well as assist administration in conducting school investigations. Security is highly visible and they are available to assist students with all school safety concerns.

CLIP AND SAVE...CLIP AND SAVE...CLIP AND SAVE ...



### IN CASE OF EMERGENCY!!!!

In the event of a situation that would require moving Banneker students from the school campus, students would be walked to Paint Branch High School. Announcements would be made on radio and television. Should this occur, only emergency personnel would be able to access the Banneker and Paint Branch sites. To obtain the most up-to-date information, parents should contact Liberty Grove Methodist Church, 15225 Old Columbia Pike, at (301) 421-9166. The church site is for parents or family members only. The media will be directed to Fairland Library or Resurrection Church.

CLIP AND SAVE...CLIP AND SAVE...CLIP AND SAVE...



## STUDENT SERVICE LEARNING

All MCPS students are required to earn a total of 75 Student Service Learning (SSL) hours before graduating from high school. SSL is an unpaid activity within the curriculum, school or outside community that provides service to an individual or group to address a school or community need. Students may begin earning SSL credit the summer after finishing 5th grade.

- All community service does not qualify for Student Service Learning. Check the SSL Web site [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/ssl](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/ssl) to see if the organization/event has been approved, or see the Student Service Learning Coordinator. If the activity is not pre-approved, then a special activity approval form must be filled out in advance.
- Service must be performed with a non profit organization, under the supervision of an adult who is not a relative. Activities must be secular (non-religious) in nature.
- SSL verification forms must be completed and submitted to Student Service Learning Coordinator by specific dates. The verification forms are available on the SSL Web site, main office and counseling office. The specific deadline dates are noted on the school calendar.

### SYSTEMWIDE STUDENT DOCUMENTATION TIMELINE

Time Frame of Service	Documentation Due Date
Service completed during the summer	9/26/25
Service completed during the summer and 1st semester	1/9/26
Service completed during the summer, 1st semester, and 2nd semester	5/29/26

**SSL Activity Verification Forms** (<https://bit.ly/SSLReflection>) for service completed **on or after June 1, 2025**, should be turned into your school's SSL coordinator when schools resume in the fall.

**All opportunities (including in-person):**  
<https://bit.ly/SSLOpportunities>

**Virtual/remote opportunities:**  
<https://bit.ly/VirtualSSL2020>

For additional tips on how to **search for opportunities**, please go to <https://bit.ly/SSLSearchTips>

To view the **MCPS SSL guidelines for virtual/remote service**, please visit <https://bit.ly/VirtualSSLGuidelines>.

Students may also continue to earn SSL hours for **traditional in-person opportunities under direct supervision of a nonprofit representative or MCPS staff member in a public space.**



## Signs of Suicide (SOS)

MCPS is enhancing its suicide prevention curriculum using the Signs of Suicide® (SOS®) Prevention Program. The SOS® Program is a youth suicide prevention program that has demonstrated an improvement in students' knowledge and adaptive attitudes towards suicide risk and depression, as well as a reduction in actual suicide attempts. Listed on the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices, the SOS® Program showed a reduction in self-reported suicide attempts by 40 to 64 percent in randomized control studies (*Aseltine, et al., 2007; Schilling, et al., 2016*).

Our goals for participating in this program are straightforward:

- To help students understand that depression is a treatable illness,
- To explain that suicide is a preventable tragedy that often occurs as a result of untreated depression,
- To provide students with the education and skills to recognize the signs of serious depression and potential suicidality in a friend, and
- To impress upon teens that they can help themselves or a friend by taking the simple step of talking to a responsible adult about their concerns.

We encourage you to visit [www.sosignsofsuicide.org/parent](http://www.sosignsofsuicide.org/parent) for information on warning signs for youth suicide, useful resources, and some of the key messages students will learn. More information will come before the delivery of these lessons.

## Personal Body Safety Lessons (PBSL)

Montgomery County Public Schools is taking an active role in the prevention of child abuse and neglect through early prevention and intervention education.

School Counselors and Health Education teachers will be presenting lessons on the topic of child abuse and neglect. The lessons are known as *Personal Body Safety Lessons* (PBSL) and their purpose is to help students to:

- Develop knowledge, decision making skills, and behaviors which promote safe living in the home, school, and community;
- Learn skills for self-protection and identifying child abuse and neglect;
- Learn skills for asking for help for self and others and practice reporting to a trusted adult; and
- Engage in positive and appropriate interactions with peers and adults.





## Suggested School Supply List 2025-2026

### Required:

- MCPS will provide a Chromebook, charger, and case for each student.
- All items must be brought to school daily.

### Recommended School Supplies:

- 1" or 2" Binder
- Pocket Folder
- Lined Paper / Notebook
- Pencil Pouch
- #2 Pencils with Erasers
- Highlighter
- Blue/Black Pens



Please Note: Teachers may advise students of any additional supplies needed during the first week of school.  
Please consider donating supplies for classrooms.



***School Colors: BLUE & ORANGE***  
***School Mascot: BOBCAT***



MCPS

# Back-to-School Fair



All MCPS students and families are invited to

## KICK OFF THE 2025–2026 SCHOOL YEAR!

2025 MCPS Back-to-School Fair  
@ Westfield Wheaton

*Westfield*

WHEATON

**Saturday, Aug. 23, 2025 • 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

Learn about the school system, and county  
programs and services.

**Enjoy free music, entertainment, giveaways and youth activities!**

Free immunization clinic and more.

**Scan the QR code**

for additional information  
including **FREE** shuttle bus schedules  
from 5 area high schools.

**Taking Metro?** Westfield Wheaton is within  
walking distance of the Wheaton stop.



## Highlights

### **Bike Rodeo!**

Don't miss this fun interactive session designed to teach students essential bike safety skills. All bikes, scooters, helmets and instruction provided by the Montgomery County Department of Transportation – Pedestrian Safety (MCDOT).

### **COPE (Community Opioid Prevention Education) Trailer**

Set up like rooms in a home, this demonstration – available in both English and Spanish – **provides parents and the general public with drug education tips.** The COPE Trailer assists loved ones with the ability to **identify “red flags” and “signals”** that might be indicators of an **opioid problem.**

Led by the Community Engagement Division of the Montgomery County Police Department, and created in collaboration with the Montgomery County Police Foundation and Montgomery County Public Schools.

### **Free School Immunization Clinic**

Student vaccines administered onsite by the Montgomery County Government School Health Services.

**...and much more!!!**

**CALENDAR 2025-2026****AUGUST**

- 25 MCPS – Student Transition Day for 6<sup>th</sup> grade  
& 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Graders New to Banneker  
26 First day of school for students

**SEPTEMBER** (Hispanic Heritage Month)

- 1 Holiday – Labor Day  
9 Back to School Night @ 6:00pm /Back to Health @ 5:15pm  
9 Back to School Cookout- 4:30pm  
23 No school for students and teachers  
26 Early Release for students @ 12:30 p.m.  
26 SSL Verification forms due (for service done over the summer)

**OCTOBER**

- 2 No school for students and teachers  
17 Professional Day - No school for students  
20 No school for students and teachers  
31 End of 1<sup>st</sup> marking period

**NOVEMBER** (Native American Heritage Month)

- 3 Professional Day - No school for students  
12 Report Cards distributed  
24 Early Release for students @ 12:30 p.m.  
25 Early Release for students @ 12:30 p.m.  
26 Systemwide Closure-Schools and Offices Closed  
27&28 Holiday – Thanksgiving

**DECEMBER**

- 24-31 Winter Break  
24&25 Holiday- Schools and Offices Closed  
30&31 Systemwide Closure-Schools and Offices Closed

Some calendar dates are subject to change

**JANUARY 2026**

- 1-2 Winter Break  
1 Holiday-Schools and Offices Closed  
5 Students return from Winter Break  
9 SSL Verification forms due (for service done 1<sup>st</sup> semester)  
19 Holiday–Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day  
23 End of 2<sup>nd</sup> marking period  
26 Professional Day – No school for students

**FEBRUARY** (African American Heritage Month)

- 4 Report Cards distributed  
16 Holiday - Presidents' Day  
17 No school for students and teachers  
27 Early Release for students @ 12:30 p.m.

**MARCH** (Women's History Month)

- 20 Professional Day - No school for students  
30-31 Spring Break

**APRIL** (Arab American Heritage Month)

- 1-6 Spring Break  
1&2 Systemwide Closure-Schools and Offices Closed  
3&6 Holiday  
7 Students return from Spring Break  
14 End of 3<sup>rd</sup> marking period  
15 Professional Day – No school for students  
23 Take Your Child to Work Day  
24 Report Cards distributed

**MAY** (Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month)

- 25 Holiday - Memorial Day  
27 No school for students and teachers  
29 SSL Verification forms due (for service done 2<sup>nd</sup> semester)

**JUNE**

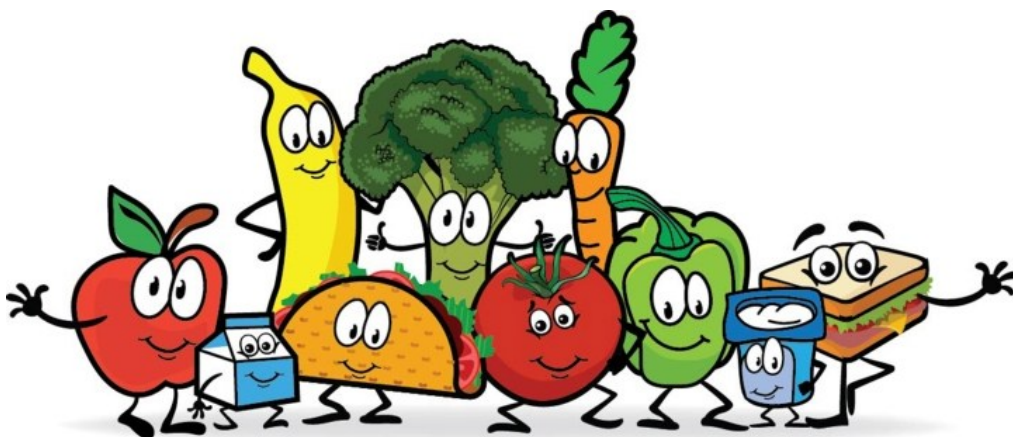
- 17 End of 4<sup>th</sup> marking period  
17 Last Day of School – Dismissal @ 12:30  
18 Professional Day for teachers  
19 Systemwide Closure-Schools and Offices Closed  
29 Report Cards Mailed Home



## **MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2025-2026 CAFETERIA NEWS & MEALS INFORMATION For Schools Participating in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)**

**Free Breakfast and Lunch for the 2025-26 school year:** Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) will be providing free breakfast and lunch at Benjamin Banneker Middle School in the 2025–2026 school year. Households do NOT need to complete Free And Reduced-price Meal (FARMS) applications in order to receive free meal benefits at our school\*. We encourage students to enjoy breakfast and lunch at school.

**\*Households with students at other MCPS schools should check directly with those schools to determine if a FARM application is needed.**





## Annual Notice for Directory Information and Student Privacy

MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Rockville, Maryland 20850  
[MCPS Regulation JOA-RA, Student Records](#)

**See Reverse Side for Annual Notification of Your Rights under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), (20 U.S.C. §1232g; 34 CFR Part 99)**

### DIRECTORY INFORMATION

Schools provide *directory information* for public listings such as honor roll, awards, and other notices in the newspaper or on the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) website. A student's name, address, and telephone number may also be released to organizations of any combination of parents/guardians, teachers, and students of a school. **Unless you tell them not to**, schools can release the information without your prior consent.

Teachers may also record virtual lessons for future viewing by students in the same class. If you do not want your student's image and voice captured in such recordings, please indicate below.

*Directory Information* includes the following items: student's and/or parent's/guardian's name, address, email address, and telephone number; student's date of birth; major field of study; grade level; participation in officially recognized activities and sports; degrees and awards received (including honor roll); most recent school attended; dates of attendance; photograph, or other likeness; the weight and height of members of athletic teams; and other similar information.

If you do not want your school to release your directory information, complete the information below and return this notice to your school **by September 12, 2025**.

Additional copies of this notice can be found on the MCPS website, and are available in Spanish, French, Vietnamese, Chinese, Korean, Amharic, and Portuguese.

This form must be completed every year.

Your school **will assume you agree** to the release of the directory information, unless this form is returned by Thursday, **September 12, 2025**.

If you need to change your decision at a later date, just contact your school directly.

If you enroll after September 12, 2025, you can complete this form at the time of enrollment.

### Montgomery County Public Schools

Request to Withhold Directory Information for the 2024–2025 School Year

Choose ONE of the following categories:

- ☐ Please **do not** release any directory information. (See definition above)
- ☐ Please **do not** release the following **part or parts** of directory information. (check all that apply)
- ☐ Name ☐ Phone number(s) ☐ Photograph ☐ Address ☐ Date of Birth
- ☐ Email address(es) ☐ Parent/Guardian names ☐ Grade Level

### EXCEPTIONS TO WITHHOLD REQUEST MARKED ABOVE:

- ☐ Release to organizations of any combination of parents/guardians, teachers, and students of a school
- ☐ Release for Honor Roll publication ☐ Release photo for yearbook
- ☐ Do not include my student's image and voice in the recording of virtual lessons for future viewing by students in the same class

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ ID# \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian/Eligible Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

*If you do not restrict the release of certain information about your child, you are giving the school system and local schools the ability to perform daily operations and routine tasks without obtaining parental permission to release each piece of directory information every time it is released.*





# Student Bus Information



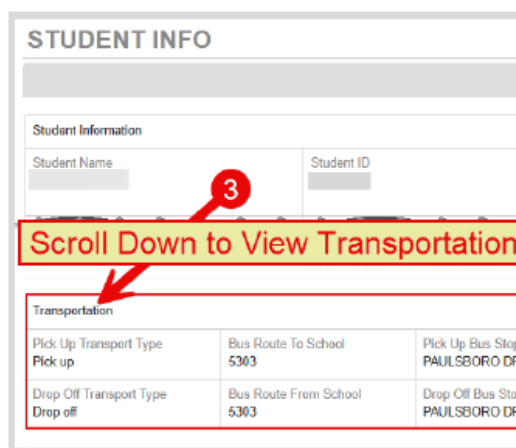
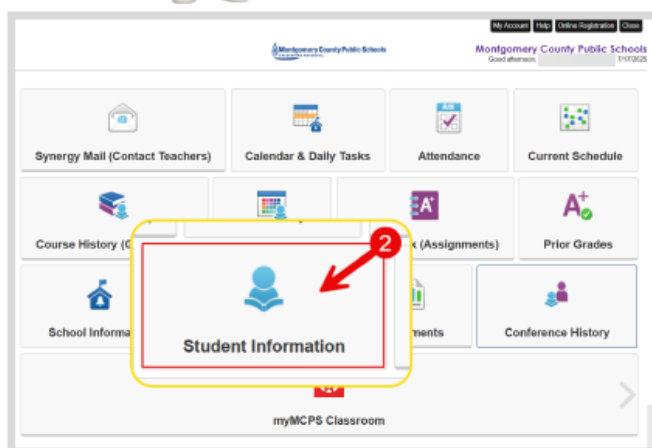
Student Bus Routes Will Appear on August 15 in



Finding your child's bus info is as easy as 1, 2, 3!



- 1) Login to **ParentVUE** or **StudentVUE**
- 2) Select **Student Information**
- 3) Scroll down to **Transportation**



## Nightly Updates

The Division of Transportation Services (DOT) updates are delivered to Synergy nightly and viewable the **next day!** Bus data includes active Student Transportation Action Request (STAR) plan information too.

## Online Bus Schedules

Bus schedules will be posted on the MCPS Transportation webpage.

## Eligibility or Other Questions?

MCPS provides bus service for students: 1) Living further than 1.0 mile (es), 1.5 miles (ms), or 2.0 miles (hs) from school (*plus 0.1 mi for boundaries*); 2) Facing hazardous walking conditions as determined by MCPS; 3) Receiving special education transportation per IEP; 4) Enrolled in Magnet, Immersion, IB, Enriched, or vocational/educational programs as defined by MCPS policies.\*

\*Students in Magnet, Immersion, IB and Choice Programs will not have bus information in VUE.

Use the **QR code to visit DTS for more information about bus services:**

