



WELCOME BOBCATS!



**Benjamin Banneker
Middle School
BACK-TO-SCHOOL
SUMMER
NEWSLETTER
August 2026**

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

Principal's Message...

Dear Benjamin Banneker Families,

It is finally time to welcome you back to the new school year! I am excited and honored to begin this school year as the Principal of Benjamin Banneker Middle School. This summer, I have already had the opportunity to meet many of you, and I am grateful for the warmth and excitement you have shared. Thank you to the more than 150 community members who joined us for our Meet & Greet. It was wonderful to see our Banneker community come together. We are now looking forward to Transition Day and, soon after, welcoming our entire student body for the first day of school.

As we begin this year, I want us to be intentional about what it means to carry the name of Benjamin Banneker. His legacy calls us to be curious and committed to excellence. Our theme this year reflects that responsibility: ***Becoming Banneker: Rooted in Legacy. Growing Through Excellence.*** I am learning about the richness of the Banneker community, and I believe our children are fortunate to be part of a community that cares deeply about them. One parent who came to visit me this summer reminded me that our school and families are partners. I was inspired as we discussed each of our roles in creating the conditions for our children to learn, grow, and thrive.

- We know that this starts with **safety**. Our administrative team and Instructional Leadership Team (ILT) have developed plans to strengthen our procedures. Administrative offices have been moved so we are now visible and accessible on both floors, lunch procedures have been strengthened, we have plans for increased security presence throughout the hallways, and we will review our safety procedures with our On-Site Emergency Team and all staff members.

- We are also committed to a focused **learning environment**. Personal Mobile Devices (PMDs), including cell phones, headphones, earbuds, iPads, and other non-MCPS devices, will remain away throughout the school day. Our students deserve classrooms where they can engage fully in their learning.

We will also have **high expectations** for our students. We expect students to attend school every day, arrive to class on time and prepared, participate in their learning, and take responsibility for their education. At home, we ask families to reinforce these habits by creating time for reading, reviewing assignments, and practicing skills.

The Banneker staff is also committed to building strong relationships among the adults who support and care for our students. When something isn't right, please reach out to us. Talk with your child's teacher, counselor, or administrator. We want to partner with you, listen to you, and work together to ensure your child is successful. I am proud to be the Principal of Benjamin Banneker, and I am excited about what we will accomplish together. This year, we will

Inside this issue:

Principal's Message	1, 2, 3
Bell Schedules	7, 8, 9
Bus Route Info	20
Cafeteria Information	18
Calendar	17
Chromebook Policy	6
Supply List	15
Web sites	4
Withhold Info	19

Important Dates:

Back To School Bash

Thursday, August 20
3:00-5:00 pm

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

Monday, August 24
8:00-3:00 p.m.

First Day of School

Tuesday, August 25
8:00-3:00 p.m.

Labor Day—Holiday

Monday, September 7

Back to "Health" Night

Thursday, September 17
5:15 pm.

Back to School Night

Thursday, September 17
6:00 p.m.

Early Release for Students

Friday, September 18

No School for Students & Teachers

Monday, September 21

No School for Students & Teachers

Friday, October 16



Principal's Message...continued

not simply talk about Benjamin Banneker's legacy, we will step into it! I look forward to a wonderful school year with you and your children.

Becoming Banneker: Rooted in Legacy. Growing Through Excellence.

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:

Department	Content Specialist	Supervising Administrator
Math	Ms. Jessica Coates	Ms. Rochelle Hawes
Literacy(English, EML, and Reading Classes)	Mr. Tony Harrison	Mr. Nasser Muhammad
World Studies	Mr. Patrick Van Scyoc	Ms. Rochelle Hawes
Science and Technology	Ms. Kathryn Spivey	Ms. Lisa Shorts
World Languages	Ms. Elizabeth Guerrero	Ms. Kathy Lertora
Physical Education, Health, and Electives	Ms. Danielle Prietz	Mr. Nasser Muhammad
Special Education	Ms. Emily Carpenter	Ms. Kathy Lertora

Grade	Administrator	Counselor	Team Leaders
6	Ms. Kathy Lertora	Ms. Mitra Ghandeharizadeh	Ms. Hajur El-Haggan
7	Mr. Muhammad	Ms. Wilma Benjamin Drakes	Ms. Allison Baisey
8	Ms. Rochelle Hawes	Ms. Taryn Richards	Ms. Tanya Cain
Student Engagement Team Leader		Ms. Marian Bromell	
Instructional Specialist		Ms. LaCreacia Oakley	
EML Team Leader		Ms. April Hayden	



Principal's Message...continued

First Day of School:

The first day of school is Tuesday, August 25th, from 8:15 AM to 3:00 PM. Students will report to their homerooms, where they will receive their schedules and move to their first-period class.

Key Dates:

August 20th: Back to School Bash 3:00-5:00 PM

August 24th: Student Transition Day 8:15 AM

August 25th: First Day of School

September 17th: Back to Health Night for 7th and 8th Grade Caregivers at 5:15 PM

September 17th: Back to School Night at 6:00 PM

With pride in the legacy we carry,

Lisa Shorts

Principal

Arrival Procedure

Students will enter the building at 7:50am. 6th Grade Students report to the cafeteria and 7th and 8th Grade Students report to the gym. Students will pick up breakfast at kiosks from 8:05am-8:15am. Breakfast ends at 8:15am. Therefore, it is very important that your child arrives at school promptly at or before 8:00am.

September 17 @ 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.

7th and 8th grade immunization requirements Maryland immunization requirements for students entering 7th and 8th grade this August (SY26-27). Students entering the 7th and 8th 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). 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/letters home with more information.

If you need assistance in getting immunizations, please call one of the listed clinics below:

- Dennis Avenue health center, 2000 Dennis Avenue, Silver Spring, Call 240-777-1050
- Rocking Horse Rd center, 4910 Macon Rd, Rockville, Call 240-740-4430

**ADMINISTRATION**

Ms. Lisa Shorts, Principal
Ms. Rochelle Hawes, Assistant Principal
Ms. Katherine Lertora, Assistant Principal
Mr. Nasser Muhammad, Assistant Principal

CONTENT SPECIALISTS:

Ms. Emily Carpenter—Resource Teacher, Special Education
Ms. Jessica Coates—Mathematics
Ms. Elizabeth Guerrero—World Languages
Mr. Tony Harrison—Literacy & EML
Ms. Danielle Prietz—PE/Health & Electives
Ms. Kathryn Spivey—Science & Technology
Mr. Patrick Van Scyoc—World Studies

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. Hajur El-Haggan
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. Mitra Ghandeharizadeh	Grade 6
Ms. Wilma Benjamin Drakes	Grade 7
Ms. Taryn Richards	Grade 8
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

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 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 11, 2026**. Banneker will assume you agree to the release of the directory information, unless this form is returned by September 11, 2026.

All students will bring home a the form 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 24, 2026 from 8:00am 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 8:20am-8:50am. 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 25, 2026**. 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 25, they should check the lists posted in the front hall to locate their homeroom or refer to StudentVUE before reporting to school. 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. Encourage your student to check their homeroom in StudentVUE before they arrive. Students will not be allowed to refer to cellphones once they are in school. Sixth grade students who attend the Student Transition Day on August 24 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 **Thursday, September 17, 2026, 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 BASH

Parents, Guardians, and Students! Please join the Benjamin Banneker Middle School Staff on **Thursday, August 20th, 3:00-5:00 p.m.** at Banneker MS for the Back To School Bash. 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**
Respectful, Responsible, and Ready to Learn **MIDDLE SCHOOL**14800 Perrywood Drive • Burtonsville, MD 20866-1899 Phone: 240-740-6250 • Fax: 301-879-1032
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 2026-2027 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 2026-2027 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 financially 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. 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. Lisa Shorts
Principal



DAILY **BELL SCHEDULE**

6TH GRADE	
PERIOD	TIME
1	8:15–9:08
2	9:12–10:00
3	10:04–10:52
LUNCH A	10:56–11:26
4	11:30–12:18
5	12:22–1:10
6	1:14–2:02
7	2:08–3:00

7TH GRADE	
PERIOD	TIME
1	8:15–9:08
2	9:12–10:00
3	10:04–10:52
4	10:56–11:44
LUNCH B	11:48–12:18
5	12:22–1:10
6	1:14–2:02
7	2:08–3:00

8TH GRADE	
PERIOD	TIME
1	8:15–9:08
2	9:12–10:00
3	10:04–10:52
4	10:56–11:44
5	11:48–12:36
LUNCH C	12:40–1:10
6	1:14–2:02
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	
PERIOD	TIME
1	8:15–9:08
P.A.W.S.	9:00–9:30
2	9:34–10:19
3	10:23–11:08
LUNCH A	11:12–11:42
4	11:46–12:31
5	12:35–1:20
6	1:24–2:09
7	2:15–3:00

7TH GRADE	
PERIOD	TIME
1	8:15–9:08
P.A.W.S.	9:00–9:30
2	9:34–10:19
3	10:23–11:08
4	11:12–11:57
LUNCH B	11:48–12:18
5	12:22–1:10
6	1:14–2:02
7	2:08–3:00

8TH GRADE	
PERIOD	TIME
1	8:15–9:08
P.A.W.S.	9:00–9:30
2	9:34–10:19
3	10:23–11:08
4	11:12–11:57
5	11:48–12:36
LUNCH C	12:40–1:10
6	1:14–2:02
7	2:08–3:00



*ANNOUNCEMENTS WILL BE HELD
DURING THE LAST 5 MINUTES OF PERIOD 1.



*BREAKFAST IS BEFORE
PERIOD 1 BEGINS.





EARLY RELEASE BELL SCHEDULE



PERIOD	TIME
1	8:15–8:42
2	8:46–9:13
3	9:17–9:44
LUNCH A	9:48–10:18
4	10:22–10:52
5	10:56–11:26
6	11:30–11:57
7	12:03–12:30

PERIOD	TIME
1	8:15–8:42
2	8:46–9:13
3	9:17–9:44
4	9:48–10:18
LUNCH B	10:22–10:52
5	10:56–11:26
6	11:30–11:57
7	12:03–12:30

PERIOD	TIME
1	8:15–8:42
2	8:46–9:13
3	9:17–9:44
4	9:48–10:18
5	10:22–10:52
LUNCH C	10:56–11:26
6	11:30–11:57
7	12:03–12:30



*ANNOUNCEMENTS ARE DURING
THE LAST 2 MINUTES OF PERIOD 1.



*BREAKFAST IS BEFORE
PERIOD 1 BEGINS.



2 HOUR DELAY BELL SCHEDULE



PERIOD	TIME
1	10:15–10:48
2	10:52–11:24
3	11:28–12:00
LUNCH A	12:04–12:34
4	12:38–1:08
5	1:12–1:44
6	1:48–2:20
7	2:26–3:00

PERIOD	TIME
1	10:15–10:48
2	10:52–11:24
3	11:28–12:00
4	12:04–12:34
LUNCH B	12:38–1:08
5	1:12–1:44
6	1:48–2:20
7	2:26–3:00

PERIOD	TIME
1	10:15–10:48
2	10:52–11:24
3	11:28–12:00
4	12:04–12:34
5	12:38–1:08
LUNCH C	1:12–1:44
6	1:48–2:20
7	2:26–3:00



*ANNOUNCEMENTS WILL BE HELD
DURING THE LAST 5 MINUTES OF PERIOD 1.



*BREAKFAST IS BEFORE
PERIOD 1 BEGINS.





Benjamin Banneker Middle School
Bell Schedules 2026-2027

After School Activities	
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 Marylyn_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 SY26-27

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 all day.
- **Discipline and Expectations:** If a student misuses their device, consequences will follow a progressive approach outlined in the Student Code of Conduct.
- **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. Case Managers should provide a pass indicating the accommodation.

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.

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.

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.

“Lockers are available in the locker room if you would like one. If you want a locker, sign up with a PE teacher. Once assigned, you are responsible for keeping it locked and taking care of your 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 17, 2026, 5:15p.m., in the Room 234. 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.



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 (5) emergency 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.

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 service-learning activity embedded into the curriculum, facilitated by school staff, or completed with an outside community organization that provides service 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 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 to determine whether the activity qualifies for SSL.
- Service must be performed with a non profit organization, under the supervision of an adult who is not the student's parent/guardian or relative.
- 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	9/25/26
Service completed during the summer and 1st semester	1/8/27
Service completed during the summer, 1st semester, and 2nd semester	5/28/27

SSL Activity Verification Forms (<https://bit.ly/SSLReflection>) for service completed **on or after June 1, 2026**, 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>

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

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



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 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 2026-2027

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.



School Colors: BLUE & ORANGE
School Mascot: BOBCAT



MCPS will host a regional Back-to-School Fair for the kickoff of the 2026–2027 school year on Saturday, Aug. 22. The fair will be held in the morning. The host high school and the fair time for Benjamin Banneker is:

- **Eastern Region:** Paint Branch, 9 a.m.–noon

The regional fairs are designed to make it easier and more fun for families to get connected and ready for the first day of school. The fair will feature easy-to-navigate zones where families can find exactly what they need, whether it's student registration, technology support, school meal information, communication tools, school supplies, schedules, or an opportunity to meet school staff and learn more about their school community.

Families will also have direct access to knowledgeable MCPS staff from transportation, technology, special education, multilingual services, mental health, and other central offices who can answer questions and provide support all in one convenient location. In addition, community organizations, government agencies and after-school providers will be on hand to share resources, opportunities and services available throughout the year. To make the day more enjoyable and memorable, each fair will feature family-friendly activities, giveaways and fun!

Get your questions answered. Make connections. Start the school year with confidence.

See you at the fair!

**CALENDAR 2026-2027****AUGUST**

- 20 Back to School Bash- 3:00-5:00pm
- 24 MCPS – Student Transition Day for 6th grade
& 7th/8th Graders New to Banneker
- 25 First day of school for students

SEPTEMBER (Hispanic Heritage Month)

- 7 Holiday – Labor Day
- 17 Back to School Night @ 6:00pm /Back to Health @ 5:15pm
- 18 Early Release for students 12:30 p.m.
- 21 No school for students and teachers
- 25 SSL Verification forms due (for service done over the summer)

OCTOBER

- 16 Professional Day - No school for students
- 30 End of 1st marking period

NOVEMBER (Native American Heritage Month)

- 2 Professional Day - No school for students
- 3 Election Day – No school / Offices Closed
- 12 Report Cards distributed
- 23 Early Release for students @ 12:30 p.m
- 24 Early Release for students @ 12:30 p.m
- 25 Early Release for students @ 12:30 p.m
- 26&27 Holiday – Thanksgiving

DECEMBER

- 23 Early Release for students @ 12:30 p.m
- 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 2027

- 1 Holiday-Schools and Offices Closed
- 4 Students return from Winter Break
- 8 SSL Verification forms due (for service done 1st semester)
- 18 Holiday–Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- 22 End of 2nd marking period
- 25 Professional Day – No school for students

FEBRUARY (African American Heritage Month)

- 3 Report Cards distributed
- 15 Holiday - Presidents' Day
- 26 Early Release for students @ 12:30 p.m.

MARCH (Women's History Month)

- 9 Professional Day - No school for students
- 26-31 Spring Break
- 26&29 Holiday

APRIL (Arab American Heritage Month)

- 1-2 Spring Break
- 1&2 Systemwide Closure-Schools and Offices Closed
- 5 Students return from Spring Break
- 9 End of 3rd marking period
- 12 Professional Day – No school for students
- 21 Report Cards distributed
- 22 No school for students and teachers
- 22 Take Your Child to Work Day

MAY (Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month)

- 17 No school for students and teachers
- 28 SSL Verification forms due (for service done 2nd semester)
- 31 Holiday - Memorial Day

JUNE

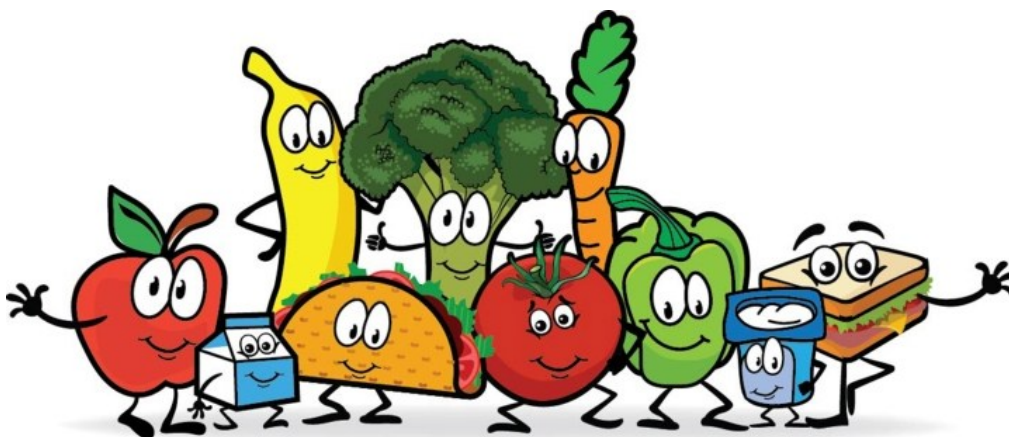
- 11 End of 4th marking period
- 11 Last Day of School – Dismissal @ 12:30
- 14 Professional Day for teachers
- 18 Systemwide Closure-Schools and Offices Closed
- 23 Report Cards Mailed Home



MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2026-2027 CAFETERIA NEWS & MEALS INFORMATION For Schools Participating in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)

Free Breakfast and Lunch for the 2026-27 school year: Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) will be providing free breakfast and lunch at Benjamin Banneker Middle School in the 2026–2027 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*

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 no**, schools can release the information without your prior consent.

Teachers may also record classroom lessons (whether in-person or virtual) for educational purposes, including instructional improvement or 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, e-mail 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 11, 2026**.

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 Friday, **September 11, 2026**.

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

If you enroll after September 11, 2026, you can complete this form at the time of enrollment

Montgomery County Public Schools

Request to Withhold Directory Information for the 2026–2027 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 -- Choose One --

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

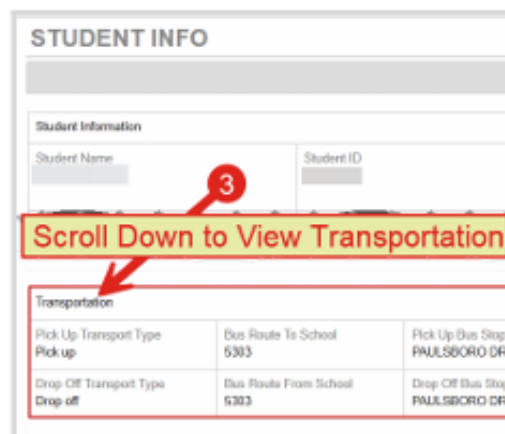
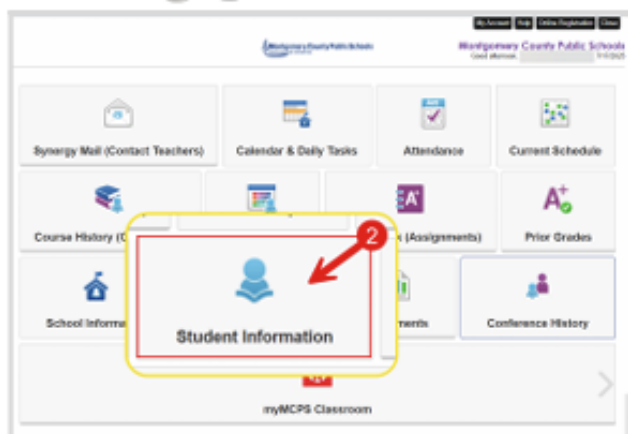
is Now Available in



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:

