

October 31, 2025

Dear Benjamin Banneker Middle School Staff and Community,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to share an important update regarding the leadership of Benjamin Banneker Middle School. Principal DeyJah Chappell is currently on leave. During this time, it is essential that the school continues to move forward with strong leadership and a clear commitment to its vision and goals.

Effective November 3, 2025, Ms. Panagiota (Penny) Tsonis will serve as acting principal of Banneker Middle School. Ms. Tsonis is a seasoned educator and administrator with a long-standing commitment to Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS). She previously supported Banneker as acting principal this past summer and brings a wealth of experience as a retired MCPS middle school principal. Her leadership and familiarity with the Banneker community will ensure continued stability and support for students and staff.

Thank you, as always, for your partnership and support of Benjamin Banneker Middle School.

Sincerely,



Jewel Sanders
Director, Division of School Leadership and Improvement