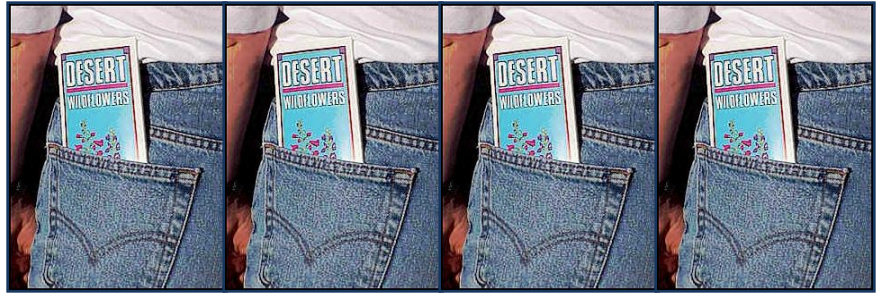


John Poole's **BACK POCKET**



September 7, 2012

A Thought for Today:

The really important kind of freedom involves attention, and awareness, and discipline, and effort, and being able truly to care about other people and to sacrifice for them, over and over, in myriad petty little unsexy ways, every day.

- David Foster Wallace

Come to Back to School Night!

The coming week brings us both the anniversary of the September 11 attack on New York (Tuesday) and our Back to School Night (Thursday.) Although the two events are not actually related, I have been thinking about the many ways in which the world has changed just in the short lifetimes of our students. Back to School Night is one tradition that continues fundamentally unchanged since long before I was a student – back in the second half of the previous century ☺.

Our nation has been involved in wars to protect American ideals for as long as our students can remember, but it is not only our soldiers who struggle to ensure our children's future. We are all called to sustain our way of life, as David Foster Wallace says, "in myriad petty little unsexy ways, every day."

When you end a long, and tiring day by coming to school to meet the teachers, learn about the year ahead, and volunteer to support your child's educational program, you are giving the great gift of your commitment to his or her success, now and in the future.

I'm looking forward to welcoming you to the new school year next Thursday night, and I hope you will bring your checkbook so you can join the PTSA while you're here. Our families are our essential partners.

Next Wednesday, September 12, students will bring home copies of their schedules so you can visit their classes Thursday night. Please check that backpack so you can come prepared to get the most out of the meeting. Thanks!

- Charlotte Boucher

Back to School Night Thursday, September 13!

- *Read 180 Parent workshop and dinner – 5:30 PM*
- *Review of Health materials & Edline help – 6:30 PM*
- *General Meeting – 7:00 PM.*

See you there!

Hallway Heroes

Hallway Heroes are students we honor for demonstrating exemplary **PRIDE** behaviors as they move from class to class, helping to keep our hallways safe and comfortable for everyone.

The students recognized below consistently demonstrate **Purpose, Respect, Integrity, Dedication** and **Effort** everywhere they go at JPMS. They are **Hallway Heroes** and we are proud to celebrate their high expectations and their Timberwolf PRIDE!

Michael Chilla

Haley Harkins

Emily Lewis

Perry Dominici

Demetrius Jackson

Maddie Magaha

Megan Grubb

Erin Larkin

Nicholas Spano



Congratulations, 6th Graders!



Our newest Timberwolves have done a great job settling in and feeling at home. Although they have all had to learn when and where their classes are in a new building, they are already arriving on time and ready to go. Throughout the day I tour the halls and consistently find the hallways empty when the bell rings to start each class.

Another task our new students have accomplished in record time is mastery of their lockers! It's not surprising when 6th graders need two or three weeks to be confident their lockers will open on

demand, especially when the Labor Day weekend gives them an extra day to forget their combinations, but this group stopped needing adult help very quickly. The lockers are not new, so some of them can be a little tricky, but our kids have tamed them all. Great job, 6th graders!

Check It Out

If you still have the magazine from last weekend's *Washington Post*, take a look at page 27 for a beautiful full-page photograph of JPMS student Taylor Byrd swimming at Cunningham Falls. If you've recycled the magazine, you can see the photo online at

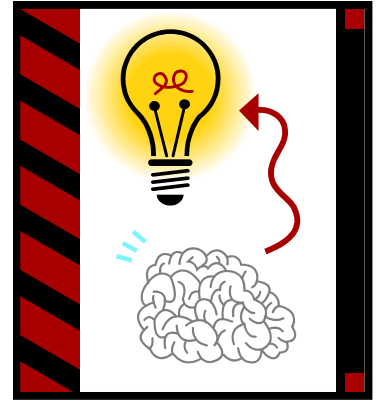
http://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/magazine/a-hole-in-time/2012/08/29/e6a4f6a6-f1de-11e1-892d-bc92fee603a7_gallery.html#photo=10

The picture is part of the magazine's cover story: "Swimming holes & State fairs: still holding on." I know you'll enjoy it!



Snack Time Comes to JPMS

- Brain research shows that being hungry can inhibit learning.
- Hungry students have trouble concentrating on their work.
- Being hungry can lead to poor behavior.
- Students who leave home by 7:00 AM will wait at least 4 – 5 hours before they eat lunch.



Our Plan...Provide an opportunity for a light, healthy mid-morning snack



- Move morning announcements to the end of period 2 (around 9:20 each day).
- During announcements, allow students to eat a snack they have brought from home or purchased before school in the cafeteria.

The Rules

- Students must bring their snacks to period 2 when they arrive to class; they will not be excused to their lockers to fetch forgotten snacks.
- Snacks are for the person who brings them; they must *not* be shared or given to someone else.
- Liquids or snacks that require a utensil to eat are not permitted.
- Students must clean up after themselves; otherwise, they can lose the privilege to eat at snack time.

GOOD SNACKS

Granola Bars
Fruit
Small packs of carrots,
apple slices, etc.
Power Bars

PLEASE DON'T SEND -

- Candy or other sweets
- Juice, soda or other drinks
- Empty calories like chips
- Yogurt
- Anything that requires a spoon or fork



Snack Time begins Tuesday, 9/4

Thanks for helping us ensure our kids get the nutrition they need to succeed!

Don't Miss Picture Day!

¡No te pierdas el Día de la Foto!



Watch for details
on your flyer or visit
lifetouch.com

*Busca los detalles en tu volante o visita
lifetouch.com*

66484 © 2012 Lifetouch National School Studios Inc.

Friday, September 14

Pick Your Pose!

¡Selecciona Tu Poso!



Pick Your Background!

Selecciona Tu Fondo!



Dear Parents & Guardians,

Volunteers are needed for picture day!

Lifetouch photography needs your outgoing personality, positive attitude, and organizational skills to assist the photographer for a successful picture day.

Volunteers will be asked to distribute camera cards, keep lines orderly; assist students with grooming needs and answer questions. We ask that each parent volunteers for a minimum of 4 hours. We estimate that two parent helpers for the morning and two parent helpers in the afternoon would be sufficient to keep students flowing to the camera efficiently.

In appreciation for giving your time we are offering a complimentary **Portrait Package B** to use for your student.

If you are interested in volunteering on picture day please call our office toll free at 1-800-445-1189. It will just take a few minutes to pre-register and receive a confirmation. All volunteers need to register with the Lifetouch office prior to picture day.

We appreciate your partnership in working together for a successful picture day.

Call Us Toll Free at 1-800-445-1189.

Thanks!

Questions About Edline?

Edline is a great way to keep on top of your child's academic progress.

We make sure our students know how to log into their accounts, and we hope every parent will become an active user of the system as well.

Help for parents is available in the media center on Back to School Night beginning at 6:30 PM.

For assistance before then, please email Mrs. Vega at krista_n_vega@mcpsmd.org. She can answer questions and troubleshoot problems with logins, passwords, combining accounts for more than one child, and other Edline features.

Don't wait – help is just an email away!

Safety First!

The beautiful fall weather we've had this week has made it pleasant for students to walk to and from school, so traffic has flowed smoothly. Once it gets cold and wet, we'll see more cars picking up and dropping off students.

Student safety is, of course, our primary concern. Here are three simple habits that will help ensure everyone can come and go safely, even in heavy traffic:

- When you arrive at school, please pull all the way forward to the Student Drop Off sign painted on the parking lot through lane. That leaves the maximum space for cars to come in behind you, and fewer cars will spill out onto Tom Fox.
- Please observe the No Left Turn sign when you leave the JPMS parking lot. Take a little more time to exit turning right and wait until you reach Hughes Road to make your left hand turn. It's *always* what drivers are supposed to do, but at arrival and dismissal times, you'll be traveling away from the school traffic instead of back into it, and that will really help.
- Remember that Tom Fox is a two-way street. Cars approaching from the direction of Halmos Road need to stay in the right hand lane, even if that means waiting in a line of cars. Waiting on the opposite side of Tom Fox blocks traffic and requires students to cross in front of moving vehicles to reach their rides.

Thanks for working with us to keep our kids safe!



Your PTSA –

“Every child, one voice”

- Jennifer Kasten - President
- Dawn Albert - Vice President
- Dreama Hemingway - Secretary
- Wendy Roldan – Treasurer
- Lori Kocur – Membership & Volunteers
- Anne Donovan & Jackie Gaddis – Staff Appreciation

Please contact Lori Kocur at kocurs@verizon.net for membership information or to register as a JPMS Parent Volunteer. Once you are a registered volunteer, you will receive emails when opportunities to help out at school arise. It's as easy as that!

Membership and volunteer forms are available at the JPMS website:

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/uploadedFiles/schools/poolems/parents/4.%20PTSA%20Membership%20Form.pdf>

Parents of 6th and 7th graders-

The Advisory to School Counseling Committee Needs You!

This important group is comprised of students, parents and school staff who work together to enhance our school's counseling program by making recommendations and planning and implementing activities such as Blue Ribbon Week, Red Ribbon Week, Career Day, bully prevention programming, HERO Club, and much more.

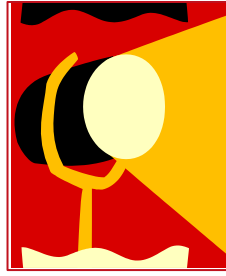
You can be a part of this great team. We have already signed up parents from our 8th grade (although interested workers are *always* welcome!) Now we are looking for additional members from Grades 6 and 7.

Committee meetings take place at JPMS one Friday a month from 8:00 until 9:30 AM. In this informal setting, we enjoy a breakfast snack, review what's going on at JPMS, and work on the excellent counseling activities that have earned us recognition as a Maryland Character Education School of the Year. Mrs. Arnold is famous for the breakfast treats she creates for these meetings, and committee members enjoy working together in a relaxed atmosphere.

If you have time to join, we want to hear from you! Please call the Counseling Office at 301-972-7980 to ask questions or add your name to the membership list. You will be glad you did!

Is it time to clear some space on your book shelves?

Mrs. Lindsay is seeking donations of Young Adult literature for a classroom library. Fall is a perfect time to clean off those dusty bookshelves and closets; please consider donating any middle school level books – even the dusty ones! – to Mrs. Lindsay in room 108.



Spotlight on...

Back to School Night

Thursday, September 13

Preview Health materials in the media center starting at 6:30.

Be in the auxiliary gym by 7:00 PM sharp so you don't miss anything!



SSL Opportunity

KID Museum (Kids International Discovery Museum) is organizing an International Village at the World of Montgomery Festival on **October 21, 2012 from 12:00 - 5:00pm**. The Festival is an annual event organized by Montgomery County with the mission of celebrating, exploring and sharing the diverse cultural heritages of County residents. The International Village will highlight prominent cultures of the people who have come to Montgomery County from around the world.

This year's International Village will focus on four countries El Salvador, Ethiopia, India and China. Not only can you learn about these foreign lands and societies, but there will also be a variety of entertainment including a film festival, cooking demonstrations and many other activities for the whole family.

Students can earn SSL hours by helping with the International Village.

Before the festival, students can help by creating and distributing posters and flyers or by helping to organize displays and activities.

On October 21, students can hand out programs, maps of the International Village and Passports for kids. There will also be opportunities to set up, clean up, and staff the various displays and activities.

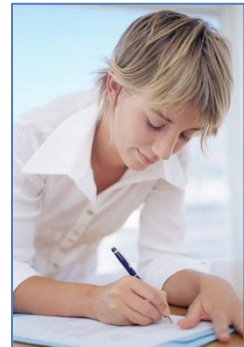
More information is available at: <https://volunteer.truist.com/mcvc/org/opp/10532974332.html>

Did you earn SSL hours this summer?

Don't let your summer hours get forgotten in a drawer or closet somewhere.

Get your SSL sheets completed with

- sponsor signature
- description of activity
- personal reflection answering all questions in full sentences
- Completed personal information including
 - ✓ first period teacher
 - ✓ student number

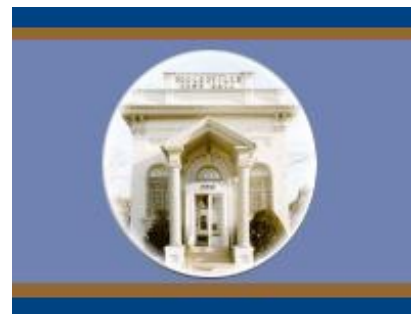


All hours are due on Friday, September 28th. This is a county deadline! SSL sheets can be handed into the main office, counseling office or directly to Mrs. Arnold.

Poolesville Day is September 15

If your child is interested in earning SSL hours during Poolesville Day, make sure he or she is volunteering with an MCPS pre-approved organization.

The best way to discover some of the Poolesville Day SSL opportunities is to stop by Town Hall and ask for more information.





Welcome back JPMS students and parents!

It is our goal to provide activities to meet the desires of all students. If you have any suggestions for programs or interests, please contact Mrs. Crutchfield at Winessa_R_Crutchfield@mcpsmd.org. Some of the programs offered this year are Books and Boxing, Babysitting Club, Jewelry Making, Zumba Class, Scrapbooking, Game Room, Book Club and much more. Keep checking the *Back Pocket* for upcoming classes.



Outdoor Education Medication Reminder

If your son or daughter needs medication for Outdoor Education, the medication and paperwork MUST be in the health room by 2:00 p.m. on September 14, 2012. In order to have the medications organized in a safe and orderly manner, they have to be processed by September 14, 2012. Medication cannot be accepted after September 14th. Thanks -

School Store Grand Opening

The School Store is open every day from 7:25-7:30. Before you leave for school, grab a handful of change and stop by the school store as you make your way to 1st period. We have lots of cool and inexpensive school supplies.

Softball

JPMS Softball tryouts start on Tuesday, September 11. They will be held Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday after school, for any 7th and 8th grader. Paper work must be completed and turned in before you can try out. Paperwork can be picked up in the PE office.

Coed Cross Country

JPMS Co-ed Cross Country information meeting will be held on September 11 and practice will begin on September 12. All paperwork must be turned in before practice. Paperwork can be picked up in the PE office.

Homework Help

Free homework help is available from MCPS-TV's *Homework Hotline Live* HHL). Students may contact the Hotline teachers Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday. HHL is available on the phone 4-6 pm, and online 4-9 pm. *Homework Hotline Live* service begins on September 12.

Here are six ways to contact *Homework Hotline Live*:

Phone: 301-279-3234

Text message: 724-427-5445 (7244-ASK-HHL) Web: AskHHL.org

Email: question@AskHHL.org

Facebook: [Facebook.com/AskHHL](https://www.facebook.com/AskHHL)

Twitter: [Twitter.com/AskHHL](https://twitter.com/AskHHL)

Watch *Homework Hotline Live*, on MCPS-TV (www.AskHHL.org, Comcast channel 34, Verizon FIOS 36, RCN 89) from 4 to 6 pm. Questions received after 6 PM will be answered online.

Parents can follow *Homework Hotline Live* on Twitter ([Twitter.com/AskHHL](https://twitter.com/AskHHL)) and "like" HHL on Facebook ([Facebook.com/AskHHL](https://www.facebook.com/AskHHL)), to receive program updates.

Yearbooks

Order your yearbooks online today! To place an order go to, www.jostens.com. Contact Kelly Aulls with any questions. [Kelly M Aulls@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Kelly_M_Aulls@mcpsmd.org).

Policy CNA

The Montgomery County Board of Education approved changes to Policy CNA, which guides the distribution of informational materials and flyers in schools. Under the revised policy, nonprofit organizations will be able to send printed materials home with students in elementary schools up to four times a year. However, such distribution no longer will be allowed in secondary schools. The revised policy will still allow MCPS, government agencies and Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs) to distribute printed materials in all schools at any time during the year.

Stay Connected

The new *Stay Connected* website serves as a one-stop shop for all the tools that students, staff, and parents may use to stay informed and connected with MCPS. Visit www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/stayconnected/ for more information.

Sign-up for *MCPS QuickNotes* and *Alert MCPS*

MCPS QuickNotes is a free e-mail service that provides subscribers with important news and information about MCPS programs and activities, plus emergency information. *MCPS QuickNotes* is offered in six languages: English, Spanish, French, Korean, Chinese, and Vietnamese. Visit www.mcpsquicknotes.org to subscribe. *Alert MCPS* allows you to receive text messages or e-mail from the school system during weather-related emergencies and other major events that impact school system operations. Signing up for *Alert MCPS* is free, but please check with your wireless provider about charges associated with text messages. Sign up at <http://alert.montgomerycountymd.gov>.

Suscríbese Para Recibir *QuickNotes* y *Alerta MCPS*

MCPS QuickNotes es un servicio gratuito por correo electrónico que ofrece a los usuarios noticias e información importante acerca de los programas y actividades de MCPS, además de información de emergencia. *QuickNotes* se ofrece en seis idiomas: inglés, chino, coreano, español, francés y vietnamita. Visite www.mcpsquicknotes.org para suscribirse. *Alerta MCPS* le permite recibir mensajes del sistema escolar por texto o por correo electrónico durante emergencias relacionadas a condiciones meteorológicas y otros sucesos de importancia que afectan las operaciones del sistema escolar. Suscribirse para recibir *Alerta MCPS* es gratis, pero por favor verifique con su proveedor de servicios inalámbricos para saber si hay cargos asociados al envío de mensajes de texto. Suscríbese ingresando a <http://alert.montgomerycountymd.gov>.

mcpssuper

mcpssuper is a video program hosted by Dr. Starr that provides viewers an in-depth look at the work of MCPS to engage and educate our more than 149,000 students. In the current episode of *mcpssuper*, Dr. Starr discusses Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) and takes viewers inside Montgomery Blair High School and Shady Grove Middle School to see PLCs in action. The program can be seen on MCPS TV (Comcast Ch. 34 and Verizon Ch. 36), and online at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/superintendent/mcpssuper/

Fall 2012 Parent Academy

The MCPS Parent Academy is back with an exciting lineup of free workshops for parents. The 2012 Fall session will begin on Thursday, August 30. The Parent Academy helps equip parents with the tips and tools they need to help their children succeed. Workshops are free and are held at schools and locations across the county. Find the schedule at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/parentacademy/schedule.aspx

Academia Para Padres Otoño 2012

La Academia Para Padres de MCPS regresa con una interesante serie de talleres gratuitos para los padres. La sesión del Otoño 2012 de la Academia Para Padres comenzará el jueves, 30 de agosto. La Academia Para Padres ayuda a equipar a los padres con los consejos prácticos y las herramientas que necesitan para ayudar a sus hijos a triunfar. Todos los talleres son gratis y se ofrecen en escuelas y otros lugares en todo Montgomery County. El horario de los talleres se encuentra a disposición en

www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/parentacademy/schedule.aspx

MCPS News Update

MCPS News Update and Noticias de MCPS (in Spanish) are weekly, five-minute news programs that are cablecast on MCPS TV and may be viewed online.

- News Update: www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/news/
- Noticias de MCPS: www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/es/news/

How to Raise a Reader

Common Sense Media has a great website I often explore looking for good ideas about how to help kids learn to manage the media and technology appropriately. Currently, they are featuring articles about turning kids into lifelong readers. It's well worth a few minutes to look over their recommendations, book lists for children from pre-school to Grade 12, and managing the apps devices that can link old-fashioned reading to new-fangled devices.

The web address is http://www.common sense media.org/new/how-raise-reader?utm_source=ExactTarget&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=08.21.12_standalone ; I think you'll find the site both informative and interesting.

Save the Date!

Important events you won't want to miss!



September 10-14	MAP-R Testing (during Science classes)
September 12	Outdoor Education Parent Chaperone Information Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
September 13	Back-to-School Night (7:00 p.m.)
September 14	Yearbook Portraits taken during PE
September 15	Poolesville Day
September 17	Rosh Hashanah (No School for Students and Teachers)
September 19-21	Outdoor Education at the Smith Center (6 th Grade)
September 24-28	Blue Ribbon Week
September 26	Yom Kippur (No School for Students and Teachers)
September 27&28	Vision and Hearing Testing
September 28	Early Release Day (students dismissed at 11:50 a.m.)

PHS NEWS

Go Falcons!



School Portraits: September 12 and 13 – Spirit Week: September 10-14

Athletic Schedule (partial)

Cross Country:	9/12/2012	3:30 PM	(A)	PHS vs. Richard Montgomery
	9/19/2012	3:30 PM	(H)	PHS vs. Walter Johnson and Einstein
	10/2/2012	3:30 PM	(A)	PHS vs. Magruder and Northwest
Boys Varsity Football:	9/14/2012	6:30 PM	(H)	PHS vs. Williamsport High
	9/21/2012	6:30 PM	(A)	PHS vs. Walter Johnson
	9/28/2012	6:30 PM	(H)	PHS vs. South Hagerstown High
Golf:	9/10/2012	3:00 PM	(A)	PHS, Einstein, Clarksburg, and Rockville at Little Bennett
	9/12/2012	3:00 PM	(A)	MCPS Girls Match #3 at Laytonsville
	9/13/2012	3:00 PM	(A)	PHS, Blake, Blair, and Rockville at Needwood
Girls Varsity Soccer:	9/11/2012	7:00 PM	(A)	PHS vs. Wheaton
	9/13/2012	7:00 PM	(A)	PHS vs. Walt Whitman
	9/19/2012	7:00 PM	(H)	PHS vs. Blake
	9/24/2012	5:00 PM	(H)	PHS vs. Seneca Valley
Boys Varsity Soccer:	9/11/2012	5:30 PM	(H)	PHS vs. Wheaton
	9/13/2012	7:00 PM	(H)	PHS vs. Walt Whitman
	9/19/2012	7:00 PM	(A)	PHS vs. Blake
	9/24/2012	7:00 PM	(H)	PHS vs. Seneca Valley
Girls Varsity Tennis:	9/7/2012	3:30 PM	(H)	PHS vs. Magruder
	9/11/2012	3:30 PM	(A)	PHS vs. Springbrook
	9/12/2012	3:30 PM	(A)	PHS vs. Damascus
	9/18/2012	3:30 PM	(H)	PHS vs. Clarksburg
	9/20/2012	3:30 PM	(A)	PHS vs. Richard Montgomery
Girls Varsity Volleyball:	9/11/2012	6:30 PM	(H)	PHS vs. Damascus
	9/13/2012	6:30 PM	(A)	PHS vs. Northwood
	9/18/2012	6:30 PM	(A)	PHS vs. Richard Montgomery
	9/20/2012	6:30 PM	(H)	PHS vs. Walt Whitman

PHS Magnet Calendar – more information is available at the PHS Website.

Magnet Information Night	Monday, October 8, 2012	5 pm: A – M	PHS Auditorium
		7 pm; N - Z	
Application Form Available	Mid to Late September 2012		
Application Deadline	Friday, November 2, 2012	Hand delivered by 3 pm or Postmarked	

Call John Poole!

Main Office 301-972-7979
Counseling 301-972-7980
Cafeteria 301-407-1037
Health Room 301-407-1029



And Ask for...

Principal - Mrs. Boucher	Assistant Principal - Ms. Lemon
Technology & Arts IRT & Grade Level Coordinator	- Mr. Grotenhuis
English IRT	- Mrs. Lindsay
Social Studies IRT	- Ms. Nachlas
Math IRT	- Mr. McKay
Science IRT	- Mrs. Callaghan
Counseling - (Ms. Kitts, Secretary)	Mrs. Arnold - Mrs. Hardy

JPMS
Timberwolves
live with
Purpose
Respect
Integrity
Dedication
Effort

Our Vision:

The Timberwolf community experiences joy in learning, celebrates excellence, and values positive relationships.

Our Mission:

At John Poole Middle School, our mission is to:

- **promote joy in learning through motivation and engagement**
- **celebrate excellence by acknowledging achievement foster a shared responsibility for academic and social success**
- **value positive relationships, thereby promoting a respectful and supportive learning environment**

