

North Bethesda Middle School
May 18, 2025
News and Notes

Monday, May 19, 2025	Social Studies MCAP testing for 8th graders Special Schedule
Tuesday, May 20, 2025	Social Studies MCAP testing for 8th graders Special Schedule Boys Soccer home v. Frost (girls away)
Wednesday, May 21, 2025	Social Studies MCAP testing for 8th graders Special Schedule
Thursday, May 22, 2025	Social Studies MCAP testing for 8th graders Special Schedule Cupcake Wars 6-8 PM
Friday, May 23, 2025	Regular Schedule - Period 5 Phoenix Time

Dear North Bethesda Families:

This week our students worked hard to complete the MAP R and MAP M assessments. Next week, Social Studies MCAP will be administered to eighth graders through social studies classes.

I have spoken about this before but I am asking again for your support in addressing the recent “Chromebook challenge” with your children. A recent trend known as the "TikTok Chromebook Challenge" encourages students to misuse or intentionally damage school-issued Chromebooks. This “Chromebook Challenge” encourages students to purposefully cause their devices to short out or catch fire by inserting metal or lead into the charging or USB port, or even piercing the device’s battery.

Please remind them that:

- Our school-issued Chromebooks are not just devices, they are valuable educational tools that significantly contribute to their learning. It's crucial that they are handled with care and respect.
- Participating in harmful social media challenges is unsafe and may carry serious consequences. Respect for school property, peers, and learning spaces is not just an individual responsibility but a shared expectation that we all must uphold.

- All Chromebook damage will be thoroughly investigated, and appropriate consequences will be assigned in accordance with the MCPS Student Code of Conduct. Please also note that families may be responsible for the repair or replacement costs for student-issued devices that are deliberately damaged.

We appreciate your help as we work together to encourage safe, responsible, and respectful behavior both in and outside the classroom for our students. We have already had to issue disciplinary consequences and in one case, a family is paying for a Chromebook because their child irreparably damaged it by partaking in the Chromebook challenge.

In this week's *News and Notes*, you'll find details on the following topics:

- Update on required district and state testing
- The recording from the PTSA meeting on 5.13.2025
- Cupcake Wars on May 22nd, 2025
- Seventh Grade Color Wars and how to order a commemorative tee shirt
- Ms. Rice's counseling update about what to do when students hear about or witness physical or verbal altercations
- Important Information about 8th Grade End-of-Year Activities
- Montgomery County Public Schools Family Climate Survey
- Information for WJ Rising 9th Graders Interested in trying out for WJHS football.
- How to support your child on the upcoming Math MCAP and MAP M assessments using IXL
- Yearbook Ordering Information
- Other Helpful Information

We appreciate your continued support and engagement!

2024-2025 SCHOOL HOURS: 8:15 – 3:00 p.m.

[Bell Schedules 2024-2025](#)

[MCPS CALENDAR](#)

To report Bullying and Harassment, please use this [Bullying and Harassment Form](#)
[Bus Route Links](#) – scroll down to North Bethesda Middle School for the most up to date bus routes. If you have any questions, please contact the Department of Transportation Bethesda Bus Depot at 240-740-6580.

Reminder - there are no after school activity buses for the rest of the year!

Administrators

Grade 6 Daniel_E_Werbeck@mcpsmd.org

Grade 7 Katherine_B_Rudd@mcpsmd.org
Grade 8 tirza_carmichaelcollins@mcpsmd.org
Principal Annemarie_e_smith@mcpsmd.org

Upcoming NBMS School-wide State Testing Schedule:

Date	Test	Audience/Venue
Wednesday, 4/2/25 COMPLETED	Maryland School Survey	All Grades, AM Homeroom
April 23, 25, 28, 29, 2025 COMPLETED	MCAP English Language Arts	All Grades, AM Testing Group
May 5 - 6, 2025 COMPLETED	MCAP Math	All, Morning and Afternoon Testing Groups
May 12 - 15, 2025 COMPLETED	MAP M/R	All, English and Math classes
May 19 - 22, 2025	MCAP Social Studies	8th Grade only - taken in Social Studies classes

PTSA Meeting

Thank you so much to our outgoing board members for all they have done to support the school. Please join me in congratulating our the PTSA Board for the 2025-2026 Academic School Year:

- President: Ray Azarm
- Secretary: Dana Dirker
- Treasurer: Nisha Rastogi
- VP of Membership: Isaac Wedin
- VP of Student Enrichment: Sreya Mukherjee
- VP of Communications: Regan Kelly

The PTSA is still in need to fulfill the VP of Social Activities (grade level socials! cupcake wars! March Madness!). If you read this email and are willing to help, please reach out to yamiletc.rivera@gmail.com ASAP.

Here is the recording of the PTSA meeting [LINK TO RECORDING](#)

2025 CUPCAKE Wars - Teams need to register by 5.19.2025

This is a great annual event sponsored by the PTSA. Please review [this linked flyer](#)

May 22nd 6-8. Teams of up to 4 students each. Information and **registration closes May 19th.**

Who: 35 teams of 1-4 students per team

You will need 18 regular non-iced cupcakes, + any extra "just in case" and any decorating tools of your choice brought from home. NO outside decorations are allowed.

****If you want to purchase your cupcakes from local pastry chef and judge: Annie Chapman: <https://chapmansdc.com/pages/about-chapmans> at \$36 for 18 cupcakes (\$2 each) please indicate below and Annie who will be judging that night will bring the cupcakes the night of the Cupcake Wars. (\$2.50 each for gluten free) *see the bottom of this form.****

What: Competing in 3 timed rounds to be judged by local pastry chef and three NBMS teacher judges

How: Decorating cupcakes based on themes announced during the event; judged on presentation and appearance with PTSA providing decorating supplies.

When: 6pm – 8pm on Thursday, May 22, 2025

Where: NB Cafeteria – Space is limited to a max of 35 teams

Why: PRIZES and FUN!!!

WE PROVIDE ALL DECORATIONS FOR THE NIGHT FOR FAIR AND LEVEL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL STUDENTS

REGISTRATION: <https://forms.gle/UB2VfZoY63bLhecB8>

MCPS FAMILY CLIMATE SURVEY

Your Voice Matters: Share Your Experience!

We hope you are doing well! At NBMS, we value our partnership with families and know that your voice plays a vital role in helping us create the best possible learning environment for all students.

We invite you to share your feedback by participating in the **Family Survey**. This short survey gives you the opportunity to share your experiences and opinions about our school and the broader school district. Your honest input will help us understand what's working well and where we can improve.

The survey is easy to complete, takes only a few minutes, and your responses are completely confidential. The results will be used to guide our efforts in strengthening programs, services, and support for students and families.

The survey is open from May 12, 2025, through June 9, 2025.

To participate, simply click the link below:

<https://parentsurvey.mcpsmd.org/>

We deeply appreciate your time and commitment to our school community. Your feedback makes a difference!

Warm regards,
North Bethesda Middle School Administration

Ms. Rice's Counseling Update

"What's going on over there?" "Wait, is that what I think it is?" "Where?" "Come on, let's go see!" "It's a fight." "Oh, this is going to be good..." "F-I-G-H-T!"

These are some natural middle school age student reactions to conflict. Students want to get in on the action and watching it makes them a part of things. Recording it gives them even bigger credit because they can show others later. These are the actions of a bystander, but we want our students to be upstanders.

An upstander is a person who speaks up or acts on behalf of a cause or another person, someone who finds a way to intervene. A bystander is just present in the moment and while they may think they aren't taking any part in the action, by standing there doing nothing, or just whooping and hollering on the sidelines, these actions are saying, I'm on board with this and I'm okay with this happening.

Recently there was a fight outside at lunch time, and for the first time all year students pulled out their phones to video. When students video a fight they prolong the conflict and the drama surrounding the conflict. Conflict occurs, in school, in homes, in life. We want to teach our children how to handle conflict in healthy ways, how to defuse conflict, and move on quickly from conflict. I was asked for some tips, so here goes. I hope you'll use these talking points to have a healthy conversation with your child(ren.)

1. **When you hear about conflict brewing, tell an adult.** When adults in the school building are notified in advance of a conflict, we can step in to defuse the situation before a fight occurs. There are many ways to notify an adult - tell the teacher in your class, ask to see an administrator or counselor, tell security when they walk by you in the hallway, put a note in the "request to see your counselor" form.
2. **If you see a fight break out, move away and tell an adult.** By moving away you are signaling that you are not going to stand by and let this happen and you are helping to de-escalate the fight. When a crowd gathers to watch, fights often intensify

because those fighting feel they have to prove something to the crowd. By telling an adult you are trying to help intervene before things get worse.

3. **Many middle school conflicts are verbal**, just an exchange of unpleasant comments.
 - a. You can try to pull a friend away from the interaction.
 - b. You can remind your friends (if those fighting are friends) why they are friends.
 - c. Whatever you do, don't join the verbal exchange with the intention of defending your pal - this pulls you into the fight too.
4. **When fights are physical, don't try to break the fight up with your own voice or body.** This is a good time to tell an adult before things get worse.
5. As enticing as it may be, **don't record a fight.** While videoing in a public place is not a violation of the law, distributing the video can be, especially if it's proven that the distribution was with malicious intent. Besides, if it were you, would you want to be recorded for the world to see? Remember that when we record, the evidence is out there, forever.
6. Read some more [tips from Kaiser Permanente](#) on violence at school, how to handle things, and how to feel safe.

While the content of this newsletter may be about verbal and physical conflict, please remember that overall school is a safe place. We have numerous protocols established to manage a large number of students and violence. However, conflict is a part of life and tends to happen when there are adolescents who are still learning how to make good choices and decisions. Hopefully we learn as we age better ways to manage conflict when it's brewing, whether within ourselves or others. May these tips serve as talking points you can use to begin or deepen the conversation with your adolescent.

Webinars, Seminars, Announcements, and things...

- [Parent Child Journey](#) with Dr. Shapiro & colleagues
 - **Free Parent Support Group EVERY Monday at 1:00pm:** May 19th - When Children Ask, "Is the World Falling Apart?"; [register in advance for zoom link](#)
 - May Excursion: [Medication for Struggling Children](#) - Thursdays in May from 8:00-9:00pm on Zoom
- Georgetown Psychology's Parent Education Series -
 - May 29 12:00-1:00pm, [How EMDR Therapy Can Help Children & Teens with Anxiety, Depression, and Negative Core Beliefs](#)

Summer Happenings

- Is there a particular area or subject your student loves or could use to improve in? A tutor can help your child gain, improve, or hone some skills this summer. Here are a few ideas we've come across:

- Hone your **critical reading** and **writing** skills with a veteran Certified English Teacher and local legend - www.robertguisetutoring.com
- How to Survive Middle School! 5-day online summer course focusing on **time management, study skills, and organization** strategies, for more information or to sign up visit EnhancingYourStrengths.com
- “Want to get ahead on math over the summer? Bethesda Scholars, a local peer tutoring program, is offering five **summer math classes ranging from Algebra I to Calculus**. These in-person, small group classes are designed with help from **MCPS teachers and curriculums**, and are taught by high-achieving college students. Please visit bethesdascholars.com/details or reach out to services@bethesdascholars.com for more information.”
- Looking for **support in math**, reach out to your child’s counselor for a focused list of certified MCPS math tutors.
- Looking to be active - check out one of the local **basketball** camps run by our very own teachers and coaches.
- [Montgomery Can Code](#) - free summer camp for MCPS rising 6th, 7th and 8th graders - campers will learn to code with Swift, an Apple programming language
- The Verizon Innovative Learning STEM Achievers Program at Uniformed Services University is hosting a no-cost summer STEM camp for middle school students, June 23-July 11, no prior STEM experience needed. For more information email stem@usuhs.edu or to [apply, click here](#).
- [Growing Minds Social-Emotional Enrichment Camps](#) at St. Andrews
 - Transitioning to Middle School Through Art - setting the stage for navigating nerves and socializing - for Rising 6th Graders, July 28-Aug 1
 - Empowered Black Girls: A Safe Space for Connection and Growth - for 6th-8th graders, July 21-25
- [Expressive Therapy Center Week-Long Specialty Summer Camps](#) (9:30am-12:30pm)
 - Transition to Middle School - July 21-25
 - Art and Mindfulness - July 28- August 1 (Grades 6-8)

WJHS Football Team Information

Do you have an 8th grader interested in trying out for football in the Fall? The document linked below has information about workouts and the summer camp experience and how to register.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1R-pu6wgb2MGQSLsI7_jT_S2WJsZ8_H8_IZ6MYuBa6ji_Y/edit?usp=sharing

7th GRADE COLOR WARS

At the end of the year, NBMS 7th graders have a blast participating in “Color Wars” Students are divided into groups and compete against each other in a variety of Field Day activities. Students may purchase a commemorative t-shirt. Thank you to all the fabulous seventh

graders who submitted their amazing designs. Congratulations to designer Elijah Sangano for winning the contest. Use the link below to order your t-shirt today. They will be available May 2-May 20 for \$9. **Please use the link below to order your student's tee shirt. Check out the design [here](#)**

<https://mcpsmd.schoolcashonline.com>

YEARBOOKS FOR SALE!

Yearbooks are selling out! If you would like to order a yearbook this year, please use this link to place your order <https://yearbookforever.com/>

Enter "North Bethesda Middle School" in the search bar and it will take you to the order page. Yearbooks cost \$40 and orders will only be done online this year. There are a LIMITED AMOUNT of yearbooks. Please get your order ASAP to reserve your copy!

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Lui at Jemi_J_Lui@mcpsmd.org.

****8th GRADE INFORMATION - End of Year Activities****

8th Grade SOCIAL

Please read all you need to know about the 8th grade social at the link below!

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1kF-sRB9vzrpOS4gFG2tm2Cy7T3NhvHhG/view?usp=sharing>

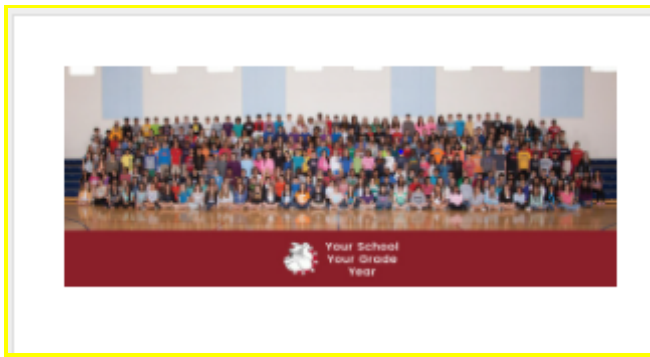
- ***Use this sign-up genius link to volunteer.***
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040C49AFAF2E5-56151588-8thgrade#/>

8th Grade Panoramic Picture IS ON LINE

Your School's Eighth Grade Panoramic photo is now online.

Any student who has not had a chance to order a Panoramic photo, it's not too late! All orders using the link below will direct ship to a home address entered at checkout.

<https://vando.imagequix.com/s1484639921>



Please use your student ID as your online code

For questions or about ordering, please contact Victor O'Neill Studios
underclass@vosphoto.com

The team at Victor O'Neill Studios would like to thank your school for a great Picture Day!

8th Grade End of Year Field Trip to Hershey Park

The date for this field trip is Thursday, June 12, 2025 8:15 a.m. to 7:45 p.m. [Link to field trip form.](#) Please review as there is important information regarding logistics and behavioral expectations before and during the trip.

8th Grade Staff- Student Promotion Ceremony

Due to our large student population and space constraints at North Bethesda Middle School, our tradition involves hosting a staff-student only promotion celebration. This event is recorded and shared with families for their convenience. The celebration includes speeches from both students and staff, recognition of academic and extracurricular achievements,

special awards, musical performances, student slides, and messages from teachers. This year, the celebration is scheduled for **Friday, June 13, 2025, from 9:00 - 10:30** due to the MCPS revised schedule of this date being an early release.

HELPFUL RESOURCES and Information

ATTENDANCE

Our attendance secretary is Maria Stefanias. The best way to reach her for questions or updates about attendance is to send her an email at Maria_Stefanias@mcpsmd.org

TO REPORT AN ABSENCE Call the Attendance Line at 240-740-2101 by 9 a.m. or send an excuse note by email.

Upon return to school, send a note to the main office: include the student's full name, grade, dates, and reason for absence. You can use this [Attendance Note](#) template for Absences, Tardies, or Early Dismissals. MCPS requires a doctor's note for absences of 5 days or more. For an absence of 3 days or longer, homework may be requested by calling the Counseling Office at 240-740-2110.

Teachers enter attendance for each period into Synergy, the attendance system. All class absences generate an automated call/email to parents. If you believe there is an error, please contact the teacher and the attendance office.

School Meal Viewer

Here is the NBMS MealViewer [link](#).

<https://schools.mealviewer.com/school/NorthBethesdaMS>

Here is a [link](#) to the MCPS Division of Food and Nutritional Services where you can find more information in different languages.

STUDENT HANDBOOKS

Updated online versions of A Student's Guide to Rights and Responsibilities, the Student Code of Conduct in MCPS, Guidelines for Respecting Religious Diversity and Guidelines for Student Gender Identity are available on the [MCPS website](#).

STUDENT SERVICE LEARNING (SSL)

[NBMS Student Service Learning \(SSL\) Website](#)

Resources: [SSL Information and FAQ flyer](#); hard copies are available in the Counseling Office. For SSL forms, guidelines, resources, and much more click on the MCPS SSL Hub => <https://bit.ly/SSLHubMCPS>

All students should check their SSL hours quarterly, step-by-step directions for checking SSL hours => <https://bit.ly/SSLonVUE>

Students, please check your StudentID@mcpsmd.net Gmail account daily for SSL emails (and of course other important emails)

Make sure to join the NBMS SSL MyMCPS Classroom.

To join, click on the NBMS SSL MyMCPS Classroom link =>
<https://mcpsmd.instructure.com/enroll/FC6DG7>. Please share this link with students, family,
and friends.

If you have any questions, after reviewing the SSL information above, please send an email
to Carla.A.Jurewicz@mcpsmd.net. Thank you!

Sincerely,
AnneMarie K. Smith, Ed.D.
Principal
North Bethesda Middle School