



April 14, 2024
North Bethesda Middle School
News and Notes



North Bethesda Middle School Upcoming Events

- April 15** Regular Schedule Phoenix Time Period 4
April 16 Regular Schedule Phoenix Time Period 5
April 17 Regular Schedule Phoenix Time Period 5 SEL
Boys Soccer away at Tilden
Girls Soccer home v. Tilden
April 18 Regular Schedule Phoenix Time Period 6
8th Grade Panoramic Photo 11:30 a.m.
April 19 Regular Schedule Phoenix Time Period 7
Sixth and Seventh Grade Social 6-8 PM

Regular Schedule

2023-2024 SCHOOL HOURS: 8:15 – 3:00 p.m.

Parents, please drop off students in the drop off loop.

(Entrance on Bradmoor Drive – note: Johnson Drive is for buses only)

Administrators

Grade 6 Katherine_B_Rudd@mcpsmd.org

Grade 7 tirza_carmichaelcollins@mcpsmd.org

Grade 8 Daniel_E_Werbeck@mcpsmd.org

Principal Annemarie_e_smith@mcpsmd.org

GRADE LEVEL UPDATES/QUARTERLY VOCABULARY

Please click on this [link](#) to go to the NBMS webpage where you can find the weekly grade level updates and quarterly vocabulary lists. The grade level updates can be found under the Academics tab on our school webpage.

MCPS Calendar

To report Bullying and Harassment, please use this [Bullying and Harassment Form](#)

Dear North Bethesda Families:

We had a strong start to the fourth quarter! Unfortunately, due to the inclement weather, our soccer season start has been postponed, but we're looking forward to cheering them next week as they play in their season opening games against Tilden Middle School.

Our NBMS Spring Book fair is this week! All funds raised from the Book Fair will go to buying new books for our NBMS Media Center. The Book Fair will be open from 7:45 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. on Monday thru Thursday. On Friday, the Book Fair will be open from 7:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Thursday, our 8th graders will have their panoramic photo taken during 5th period. You can find the ordering information below.

Friday, the PTSA hosts the spring 6th and 7th grade social from 6 - 8 p.m. More information below.

In this week's news and notes, you can find information on the following topics:

1. Sixth and Seventh Grade Social April 19th, 2024 - Learn how to order tickets and volunteer
2. Courtyard Heroes - Learn how you can volunteer to supervise lunch in our courtyard
3. NBMS Model UN achievements.
4. 8th Grade Panoramic ordering information
5. 8th Grade End of Year Activities
6. PTSA Sponsored Fee Based Extracurricular Activity opportunities
7. SIXTH GRADE Outdoor Education Information - Turn in your child's permission slip now!
8. April 22nd Asynchronous Learning Day
9. Mrs. Rice's Counseling Update recognizing Autism Acceptance Month with information on our Autism Resource Services program.
10. Opportunities for students:
 - Free Montgomery Can Code Summer Camp for middle school students.
 - Robocamps and FalconCamps for students to learn robotics.
 - Future Vote program for students grades 6-12; earns SSL hours.
11. General NBMS and MCPS Information: Find additional details about NBMS and MCPS including the latest MCPS communication update.

SIXTH AND SEVENTH GRADE SOCIAL

SAVE THE DATE for the 6TH and 7TH GRADE SOCIAL

Friday, April 19th, 6-8 pm @ NBMS

Dear 6th and 7th Grade Families,

It's time to PARTY together! 6th and 7th graders, please join the NBMS PTSA on Friday, April 19th from 6-8 pm at North Bethesda Middle School for a night filled with music, friends, and lots of fun!!

Tickets are \$5.00 and are available for purchase

at the [following link](#), or at the below button:

<https://nbmsptsa.membershiptoolkit.com/store/12381>

Tickets will not be sold at the door.

A live DJ will be playing great music, with giveaways all night, and yummy food at the cafeteria, plus card games and a fortune teller in the library. So put on your dancing shoes and join us Friday, April 19th!!

COURTYARD HERO

Now that the weather is better, we'd love to open the courtyard for lunches again. Please consider signing up to supervise the courtyard using the link below!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080448AFAA2CA1F85-49075754-courtyard>

MODEL UN

The Model UN team had another exceptional showing at the DistrictMUN conference at Georgetown University on Saturday. Based on the combined strength of all of its delegates, the full team earned the **Best Large Delegation Award**. In addition, the following team members earned individual recognition:

Best Delegate Gavel Winners:

- **Bridget Clark** (portraying Vice President Kamala Harris on the Smithsonian Board of Regents and considering the repatriation of stolen antiquities)
- **Chika Ojima** (portraying Senator John Coryn in a Joint Crisis Committee considering the Texas power crisis)
- **Dani Puvak** (representing Greece in UNEP and considering the preservation of Arctic Ecosystems)
- **Hailey Robinson** (representing North Korea in UNEA and considering environmental damage, overconsumption, and unethical labor practices in the fast fashion industry)

Outstanding Delegate Winners:

- **Amelia Wegner** (representing Sweden in UNEP)

- **Chloe Baczkowski** (representing Cuba in UNEP)
- **Veena Kannan** (representing the United Kingdom in UNEA)
- **Hannah Parrett** (representing Sweden in UNEA)

Honorable Delegate Winners:

- **Abby Marlowe** (portraying Vice President Kamala Harris in the Texas Energy Joint Crisis Committee)
- **Dylan Grocki** (portraying U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack in the Texas Energy Joint Crisis Committee)
- **Jonathan Kim & Karmaan Saxena** (representing North Korea in DISEC and considering the ethical use of armed drones)
- **Masha Dolgopyat** (representing Canada in UNEP)

Verbal Commendation Winners:

- **Juhi Maheshwary** (representing Russia in UNEA)
- **Kaya Le Boudier** (portraying Denise O’Leary on the Smithsonian Board)
- **Catalina Navas Porras** (portraying U.S. Representative Adrian Smith on the Smithsonian Board)
- **Jay Clark and Jamy Lyons** (representing Belgium in DISEC)

Congratulations to our students and their amazing sponsor, Ms. Steimer.



8th GRADE PANORAMIC PHOTO DAY IS COMING TO NBMS

Victor O’Neill Studios looks forward to photographing North Bethesda Middle School’s Panoramic Photo on Thursday, April 18t, 2024 @ 11:30 a.m. Preorder the 8th Grade Panoramic here

<https://vando.imagequix.com/g1001086967#login> All orders placed before photo day will be shipped home with no shipping charge!

8th Grade End of Year Events

8th Grade Social and Celebration - May 31, 2024 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Most students have submitted their permission slips. Please do so as soon as possible so we can ensure we have enough buses for all students who want to participate.

8th Grade Trip to Hershey Park - June 11, 2024 8:15 a.m. to 7:45 p.m.

Here is the link [to the Hershey Park permission slip](#)

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PvMm-SZeDK4eeY6xYBJzG2JLkomP0gpO/view?usp=sharing>

8th Grade Promotion:

Due to 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 Wednesday, June 12, 2024, at 1:00 PM.

PTSA SPONSORED EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

I hope this message finds you well. This spring, we are thrilled to continue offering enrichment programs that have previously seen great success. Much like last session, which included Debate, Entrepreneurship, and the Finance Club, we are excited to present two engaging opportunities for all students, all facilitated by Spark Business Academy.

Debate Club: Dive into the art of argumentation every Tuesday from 4/16-6/4 (note: no class on 5/14). Students will learn and practice the skills of debate in a supportive environment, enhancing their public-speaking abilities and self-confidence.

Sports Management: Starting 4/18 and running through 6/6 on Thursdays, this program is perfect for students with a passion for sports and an interest in the business aspects of the sports industry. * Please note there are no after school activity buses after May 9th.

For those interested in continuing with these enriching activities or exploring them for the first time, please find more information and registration links here:

[Debate Club Registration](#)

[Sports Management Registration](#)

These programs have been designed to build on the skills learned in previous sessions while welcoming new participants to join in the fun and learning. We encourage you to sign up soon as spaces are limited. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Best Regards,

Ray Azarm

VP, Student Enrichment

North Bethesda Middle School PTSA

SIXTH GRADE OUTDOOR EDUCATION INFORMATION

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR 6th GRADE FAMILIES - This is a reminder that Outdoor Education permission slip packets went home last week. They are due May 1st. If you cannot locate your child's copy, it is all posted on the NBMS website. Please email Jennifer Byrd at jennifer_a_byrd@mcpsmd.org with any questions. Thank you.

APRIL 22nd Asynchronous Learning Day

Students will be sent home with assignments to complete independently. Asynchronous learning describes educational activities and assignments that engage students in learning without live instruction or use of technology. Students must complete assignments to count towards their attendance for the day. Additional time for students to complete assignments will be granted for any challenges or unforeseen circumstances.

At NBMS, students will find their assignments in their Canvas classroom and will have ten days to complete. Once the assignments for a class are completed, the student is considered present. If they fail to complete the assignments within 10 days, they will be marked absent for April 22nd. Students must complete the assignments by May 3rd in order to be considered present on April 22nd.

MS. RICE'S COUNSELING UPDATE



April is Autism Acceptance Month. As home to Autism Resource Services (ARS), North Bethesda is proud to support students with autism. ARS serves a group of students with autism working toward a high school diploma who may have difficulty mastering some aspects of grade-level curriculum. The program offers them a smaller setting within a very large middle school, with teachers who adjust the pace of the curriculum, teach social skills, and meet individual needs through individualized accommodations. We are so lucky to have this program inside our walls! I should have done this sooner, but this month also seems an apt time to throw out a big hug to our ARS students and their families.

Autism is a neurodevelopmental condition of variable severity that is characterized by challenges with social skills, repetitive behaviors, speech and nonverbal communication (Autism Speaks). Even before we housed ARS, we had many students walking our hallways on the spectrum. As someone who has been working in the field of education for over 22 years, I have been building my understanding of what autism looks like for a long time. I've worked with students who were incredibly brilliant but struggled to find a peer group. I've worked with students who shut down at the first sign of difficulty. I've worked with students who experienced sensory challenges that made the halls, cafeteria, and even classrooms a challenge. I've worked with many students in these places and beyond on the autism spectrum, and I'm still always learning. Every student with autism is different.

Autism is a spectrum disorder. Children are born with autism, and the average age of diagnosis is age five. Scientists are constantly studying what causes autism and have so far pointed at some genetic markers; that's as much as we've got. Autism Speaks reports that, in 2023, the rate of autism diagnosis had increased to 1 in 36 children in the United States. Boys are four times more likely to be diagnosed with autism, and the prevalence is lower among white children than other racial and ethnic groups.

Individuals with autism have their own unique combination of strengths and challenges in these five core areas: language, motor skills, sensory skills, perception, and executive functioning. Early intervention is known to make a big difference in the lives of people on the autism spectrum. All individuals with autism have so much to offer! They may bring any combination of these skills to school, to relationships, to life:

- Attention to detail - thoroughness and accuracy
- Deep focus - the ability to really concentrate on something
- Keen observational skills - they look and listen first
- Absorb and retain facts - excellent long term memory and recall
- Visual skills
- Expertise - in depth knowledge on a specific topic
- Methodical - they can find patterns and repetition, very analytical
- Unique thought processes and innovative solution thinkers
- Creative - distinctive imagination and expression of ideas
- Tenacity and resilience - determination, comfortable challenging opinions
- Accepting of differences - less likely to judge others, more likely to question norms
- Integrity - a sense of honesty, loyalty and commitment

Just like our students with autism may be more accepting of differences, all students should work toward being accepting of differences and limiting judgment. Use this opportunity to talk about differences and this unique community within our NBMS community. If you need some tips, refer back to my [“pathway to empathy”](#) article from earlier this year. After all, doesn’t everyone want to be accepted for who they are? Middle schoolers should know this better than anyone.

Thank you to Leigh Mayfield, Resource Teacher for Special Education, for your collaboration on this article.

Be well,
Ashley

Webinars, Seminars, Announcements, and things...

- [Parent Child Journey](#) with Dr. Shapiro & colleagues
 - **Free Parent Support Group EVERY Monday at 1:00pm:** *April 15th - Relationship Boundaries; [register in advance for zoom link](#)*
 - [Spring Parent Child Excursions](#), Tuesday mornings from 10:00-11:00 am on Zoom beginning April 9th with Dr. Dan Shapiro, “pick what you like, pay what you can” - April - Medication for ADHD, May 7,14 - Helping Your Anxious Child, and May 21, 28 - Helping Your Child Experience Social Success

- May Parent-Adolescent Journey - for parents of challenging adolescents, four Wednesdays from 12-1:00 pm including topics like: Understanding Adolescence, Avoiding Power Struggles, Working with Your Adolescent and Behavioral Strategies; [More information here!](#)
- PEP Webinar: [Parenting Strategies for Building Executive Functioning Skills in Children](#) - for parents of children in elementary through middle school, Thursday, April 18th from 8:00-9:00 pm, \$25
- Thrive Emerge Parent Support Group for parents of Neurodiverse Teens and Young Adults: [Addictions: How to Manage Screen and Substance Overuse for Families with Neurodivergent Kids](#), Thursday, April 18th from 6:30-8:00pm, Free
- MCPS Parent Academy Upcoming webinars:
 - Communicating with Teens - April 24 from 6:00-7:00 pm
 - Active Parenting Now! (Part 1 of 6) - May 2 from 6:30-8:00pm (Parts 2-6: May 16, 23, 30, June 6)
 - Positive Discipline - May 7 from 6:00-7:00 pm
 - What's Narcan? - May 21 from 6:00-7:30 pm
 - Mindfulness: Managing Stress During Difficult Times - May 22 from 6:00-7:00 pm

OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

MONTGOMERY CAN CODE STUDENT CODING CAMP

Registration is OPEN for the 2024 Montgomery Can Code Summer Camp! A free summer Coding camp for MCPS Middle School Students.

Montgomery Can Code is an annual free and fun summer camp held in July and August for any MCPS rising 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students. Campers in the program will learn to code with Swift, Apple's easy-to-understand programming language used by professional developers to create world class apps. Students will complete creative projects with an established curriculum to learn Swift from coding experts.

Families have the choice to participate in a full day, in-person camp Weeks 1 and 2 at Montgomery College or a virtual camp Week 3. The Camp is free to any Montgomery County Public School middle school students.

This initiative is made possible through a partnership with Montgomery County Public Schools, Montgomery College, Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation, Montgomery County Government and Apple, Inc..

REGISTER NOW <https://www.montgomerycancode.com/>

For more information, learn more at [montgomerycancode.com](https://www.montgomerycancode.com) or email montgomerycancode@mcpsmd.org

SPANISH

¡La inscripción está ABIERTA para el campamento de verano Montgomery Can Code 2024! Un campamento de codificación de verano gratuito para estudiantes de escuela intermedia en MCPS.

Montgomery Can Code es un campamento de verano anual gratuito y divertido que se lleva a cabo en julio y agosto para todos los estudiantes de MCPS que ingresan a 6.º, 7.º y 8.º grado. Los participantes del programa aprenderán a codificar con Swift, el lenguaje de programación fácil de entender de Apple utilizado por desarrolladores profesionales para crear aplicaciones de clase mundial. Los estudiantes completarán proyectos creativos con un plan de estudios establecido para aprender Swift de la mano de expertos en codificación.

"Las familias tienen la opción de participar en un campamento presencial de día completo durante la primera y segunda semanas en las 3 instalaciones de Montgomery College, o en un campamento virtual durante la tercera semana. El campamento es gratuito para cualquier estudiante de escuela intermedia de las Escuelas Públicas del Condado de Montgomery."

Esta iniciativa es posible gracias a una asociación con las Escuelas Públicas del Condado de Montgomery, Montgomery College, la Corporación de Desarrollo Económico del Condado de Montgomery, el Gobierno del Condado de Montgomery y Apple, Inc.

REGÍSTRESE AHORA <https://www.montgomerycancode.com/>

Para obtener más información, obtenga más información en [montgomerycancode.com](https://www.montgomerycancode.com) o envíe un correo electrónico a montgomerycancode@mcpsmd.org

SSL:

The Montgomery County Board of Elections is seeking school-age students, grades 6-12, to participate in its "Future Vote" program.

The Future Vote program is available to County students grades 6-12. Students must be able to speak, read and write the English language.

Students with bilingual and American Sign Language skills are encouraged to apply. The initiative combines civic participation and the

opportunity to observe democracy in action. Volunteers will earn Student Service Learning (SSL) hours for their service.

Training is required for both students and guardians. Details and volunteer expectations are provided at training.

To apply online, or for more information, visit 777vote.org and select the “Future Vote” tab, then select “FV FAQs”.

Guardians must register their children by April 21, 2024.

- Future Vote Registration Instructions: [2024_FV_Registration_Instructions.pdf \(montgomerycountymd.gov\)](https://montgomerycountymd.gov/2024_FV_Registration_Instructions.pdf)
- Future Vote Registration Portal: [Sign in · Starter Portal \(powerappsportals.us\)](https://powerappsportals.us)
- U.S. Election Assistance Commission Award: [Montgomery County MD 2018 Clearinghouse Award Winner | U.S. Election Assistance Commission \(eac.gov\)](https://eac.gov/Montgomery-County-MD-2018-Clearinghouse-Award-Winner)

ROBOCAMP and FalconCamps

FIRST Robotics Team 4099 is hosting two summer camps this year: RoboCamps and FalconCamps!

RoboCamps is a week-long summer camp held at Clarksburg High School where students ages 8-14 learn how to design, build, and code their own robot. This interactive camp culminates in a final competition on the last day, where campers can show off their robots and compete for a special prize!

FalconCamps is a virtual one-week camp where experienced members of Team 4099 will teach robotics-focused mechanical design and/or programming. Middle or high schoolers living anywhere in the world can participate!

Visit <https://www.team4099.com/programs/camps/> to take a look at our programs' website. If you or someone you know might be interested in either of these programs, registration is open! If you have any questions, feel free to email Team 4099 at robocamps@team4099.com or falconcamps@team4099.com

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Click [here](#) to review extracurricular activities and start dates offered by the school.

Click [here](#) for activity bus routes.

- **Buses end of Friday, May 9th**

MCPS PARENT RESOURCES

[MCPS Communication Update for 4.4.2024](#)

[Parent Academy](#)

[Pathway to College, Career, and Community Readiness](#)

[MCPS News Center](#)

Webpage featuring the latest MCPS news and press releases updated regularly.

Ask MCPS / Spanish Hotline

General information about MCPS

Call: 240-740-3000 | Spanish Hotline: 240-740-2845

E-mail: ASKMCPS@mcpsmd.org

PARENTVUE ACCESS

Instructions for getting started with ParentVue can be found at <http://bit.ly/synergyparent>. If you need an activation code, please contact our registrar, marybeth_turska@mcpsmd.org

In the counseling office or ask our main office staff.

NBMS HELPFUL 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. Upon return to school, send a note to the main office: include 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.**

If you have any questions, please contact the Department of Transportation Bethesda Bus Depot at **240-740-6580**.

STUDENT SERVICE LEARNING (SSL)

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


Resources:

[SSL Information and FAQ flier](#); 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)

	<p>Make sure to join the NBMS SSL MyMCPS Classroom.</p> <p>To join, click on the NBMS SSL MyMCPS Classroom link => https://mcpsmd.instructure.com/enroll/FC6DG7.</p> <p>Please share this link with students, family, and friends.</p>
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If you have any questions, after reviewing the SSL information above, please send an email to Carla.A.Jurewicz@mcpsmd.net. Thank you!

Warmly,

AnneMarie Kestner Smith, Ed.D. (She, Her, Hers)

Principal

North Bethesda Middle School

[North Bethesda Middle School Website](#)