



# The Goshen Link

*Connecting Home and School*

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/goshenes/>

## Goshen Elementary School

Yolanda R. Allen, Principal  
Giavanna D'Angelo, Assistant Principal

January/February 2019

*From Your Principal ... Yolanda R. Allen*

Greetings Goshen Families

I would like to take this time to thank everyone for their amazing support of our students and programming at Goshen. I know that this unwavering support will continue with the new administrative team. Thank you for all that you do and continue to do for our Goshen community.

We would also like to remind families about family vacations, trips, etc. According to MCPS policy, when students are absent for vacations, family celebrations, etc., these are considered unexcused absences. Excused absences for students are usually related to medical issues, bereavement for immediate family members, etc. In regards to unexcused absences, students are not provided classwork or homework ahead of time, prior to their departure. Students are given ample time upon their return to school to complete any missed work however this is infused into the regular school day. Therefore, students will be learning new content while trying to catch up on old material that they missed. When students are absent for 15 consecutive school days, they are automatically withdrawn from school, and need to be reenrolled upon return. Students are not guaranteed the same homeroom assignment upon their return if they have been withdrawn from school. Please keep this in mind as you plan family trips.

I would like to remind you about the safety concerns with dropping off and picking students in the front parking lot. If you enter the parking lot in the morning or afternoon, we ask that you kindly find an appropriate parking space then exit your vehicle and walk up to the front circle where there is a staff member on duty. Students entering the parking lot unaccompanied by an adult is a huge safety concern with cars back out or entering spaces. In addition, please be mindful of the signage by parking in appropriate spaces. Thank you for your attention to this.

Lastly, please consider participating in and attending our annual PTA Sponsored Heritage Night. This is a great opportunity to learn about the rich cultures represented in our community. We look forward to seeing you there.

*---Mrs. Yolanda Allen, Principal and  
Forever a Grizzly*

## Our Mission

Goshen Elementary School will ensure that every student will meet their academic promise by:

- Promoting a safe and positive climate
- Engaging students with high expectations
- Providing opportunities for collaboration, innovative thinking, and creative problem solving
- Embracing and celebrating our cultural and academic differences
- Partnering with families and community members



## January

- 1/25 **Flyer Distribution**  
Early Release – Dismissal at 1:20 p.m.  
Clothing and Book Extravaganza 2:00-6:00 p.m.  
Chuck E Cheese Dine Out 6:30 p.m.
- 1/28 **No School for Students**  
Clothing and Book Extravaganza 9:00-11:00 a.m.

## February

- 2/5 **PTA meeting @ 7:00 p.m.**
- 2/6 **Forest Oak Middle School Information Meeting for 5<sup>th</sup> grade students**  
**Report Card Distribution**
- 2/7 **Heritage Night 6:30-8:30 p.m.**
- 2/11 **Family Life Community meeting – 5<sup>th</sup> grade parents only @5:30 p.m.**
- 2/13 **Forest Oak Middle School registration**
- 2/14 **Valentine's Day Parties**  
Kindergarten, 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade 2:45-3:45 p.m.  
1<sup>st</sup> grade 2:00-3:00 p.m.
- 2/18 **School is Closed in Observance of President's Day**
- 2/20 **Family Life Parent meeting – 5<sup>th</sup> grade parents only @5:30 p.m.**

# NEWSWORTHY

## **Student Transfer Application Season Scheduled from the First School Day in February 2019, Through the First School Day in April 2019**

ROCKVILLE, Maryland—Montgomery County parents/guardians who wish to request a Change of School Assignment (COSA) for their children from their home school may begin the process during the upcoming transfer season—the first school day in February 2019, through the first school day in April 2019.

Except for students in the Northeast Consortium (NEC), Downcounty Consortium (DCC), and Middle School Magnet Consortium (MSMC) areas, students in Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) are expected to attend the school within the established attendance area in which they reside (home school) or assigned in accordance with their Individualized Education Program (IEP). Students may apply for a COSA from the home school, or the school of assignment through the IEP process, based on the following criteria:

- When a documented unique hardship is shown. Problems that are common to a large number of families do not constitute a unique hardship.
- When a family moves within Montgomery County, preference to remain in the original school will be considered to complete the current school year only, with the exception that Grade 11 and Grade 12 students may be permitted to stay through graduation.
- When a younger sibling seeks to attend the school where an older sibling will be enrolled in the regular/general school program, or a special education program, during the year the younger sibling seeks to enroll. When an older sibling attends a magnet, language immersion, or other application program, a COSA may be approved to the regular school program for younger sibling on a case-by-case basis. Such approval requires consideration of available classroom space, grade-level enrollment, staffing allocations, or other factors that impact the schools involved.

*The criteria above regarding siblings does not apply if a boundary change has occurred.*

The transfer process begins in the home school where parents/guardians may request the *Change of School Assignment (COSA) Information Booklet* that contains the COSA form, describes the process, and provides useful information. Beginning the first week of February 2019, the COSA booklet will be available in schools and online at [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/transfers](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/transfers). The booklet will be available in English and translations in other languages. Exempt countywide programs that do not fall under the transfer guidelines are listed in the information booklet.

For information about assignments for students residing in the NEC, DCC, or MSMC areas, please contact the Division of Consortia Choice and Application Program Services, 240-740-2540, or visit the website at [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/schoolchoice](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/schoolchoice).

For more information about the transfer process, parents/guardians are encouraged to contact the principal at their home school. Non-English speaking students and parents/guardians who may require assistance may contact ASK MCPS to get the information they need by telephone at 301-309-MCPS (6277).

## **MCPS NEWS**

### **Fiscal Year 2020 Operating Budget Virtual Presentation**

In case you missed it, you can still watch the superintendent's virtual community conversation on the Fiscal Year 2020 recommended operating budget online at [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/budget/](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/budget/).

During the December 18 discussion, Superintendent Jack R. Smith, MCPS staff, and community partners answered questions on the budget and stressed the importance of its focus on student classrooms and schools, including the key bodies of work: improving programs; increasing access to strong academic and career opportunities; extending learning; providing language opportunities; focusing on physical, social and psychological well-being; hiring and retaining an effective and diverse workforce; and strengthening operational excellence.

Now that Dr. Smith has presented his recommendation, the timeline for the FY 2020 Operating Budget is as follows:

- January 9 and January 14, 2019: Board of Education holds operating budget hearings
- January 16, 2019: State releases budget
- January 17 and 24, 2019: Board of Education holds operating budget work sessions
- February 12, 2019: Board takes action on the recommended operating budget

For more information, visit [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/budget/](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/budget/).

### **Upcoming County Education Budget Meetings**

Parents/guardians and members of the community are invited to join Montgomery County Councilmember Craig Rice, Superintendent of Schools Jack R. Smith, and Montgomery College President DeRionne Pollard at upcoming Education Budget meetings scheduled for February and March. Attendees can find out how budget decisions are made, what the County is doing today to get ready for FY 2020 and beyond, and the opportunities residents have to influence budget decisions.

The meetings will take place from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the following locations:

**February 20**, Neelsville Middle School, 11700 Neelsville Church Road in Germantown

**February 27**, Col. E. Brooke Lee Middle School, 11800 Monticello Avenue in Silver Spring

**March 6**, Rockville High School, 2100 Baltimore Road in Rockville

**March 11**, Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School, 4301 East-West Highway in Bethesda

**March 27**, Montgomery College Takoma Park Campus, 7600 Takoma Avenue in Takoma Park (Cultural Arts Center Theater 1)

The county executive will announce his Recommended FY 2019 Operating Budget in March. In April, the County Council will hold public hearings and approve the operating budget at the end of May.

## **MCPS NEWS (CONTINUED)**

### **Winter 2019 Parent Academy Schedule**

The MCPS Parent Academy offers parents/guardians and community members the opportunity to attend workshops that provide information, resources, tools, and tips to support their children's success in school. The 2019 winter season of workshops has begun. You won't want to miss sessions on mindfulness, college and career planning, English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) resources and much more.

Parent Academy workshops are free. Childcare and interpretation services are provided at all sessions. A full list of courses is available on the Parent Academy website [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/parentacademy/](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/parentacademy/). Registration is available [here](#).

### **HBCU Fair Set for February 22**

The Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Fair will be held from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. on February 22 at the Universities at Shady Grove, Building 3, 9640 Gudelsky Drive in Rockville. All high school students and their parents/guardians are invited to participate. Dozens of colleges and universities will be present to talk to parents, guardians and students about their programs and several will conduct on-the-spot admissions interviews for high school seniors. You can register and view more information at [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/familysupport/hbcu/](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/familysupport/hbcu/).

### **Nominees Sought for Annual Distinguished Service to Public Education Awards**

The Montgomery County Board of Education is seeking nominations from the public for its 22nd Annual Awards for Distinguished Service to Public Education. The awards are sponsored by the Board to recognize and show appreciation to individuals (including students), groups and organizations that have made exemplary contributions to public education in Montgomery County. Visit [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/boe/community/awards/](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/boe/community/awards/) for more information. **Completed nomination forms must be received in the Board of Education office by 5:00 p.m. on March 1, 2019.**

### **Don't Be Distracted Contest Open to Elementary and Secondary Students**

A Safe Kids study demonstrated that one in four high school students and one in six middle school students walk distracted. These distractions were most often texting or wearing headphones. Research also indicates that for teen drivers, a single glance off the road for two or more seconds increases the risk of a crash or near crash by almost four times. When students are distracted while walking or driving, they are putting themselves and others in danger. The Montgomery County Department of Transportation is inviting all MCPS students to help raise awareness of this critical issue by participating in the 2019 Don't Be Distracted Contest.

Students are asked to create a 30- to 60-second public service announcement (PSA) video or artwork about one or both of the following topics:

1. Tell your peers the importance of not walking or driving distracted.
2. Tell adults the importance of not being distracted while driving, especially in school zones.

All entries are due Monday, March 4. For more information and to submit an entry, visit [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DOT-PedSafety/SRTS/creative-contest.html](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DOT-PedSafety/SRTS/creative-contest.html).