



October 14, 2018  
North Bethesda Middle School  
News and Notes



NORTH BETHESDA MIDDLE SCHOOL UPCOMING EVENTS

- 10/15 – 10/19 NBMS Food Drive  
10/16 NBMS Cross Country at Tilden MS  
10/16 NBMS Softball vs. Tilden MS Boys @ Tilden; Girls @ Home  
10/18 NBMS Cross Country at Westland MS  
10/18 NBMS Softball vs. Westland MS Boys @ Westland; Girls @ Home  
10/22 Bus Driver Appreciation Day  
10/29– 11/2 NBMS Spirit Week  
11/6 No school for students or teachers  
11/7 Early Release Day – End of Quarter  
11/14 PTSA Meeting 7:00 p.m. Media Center  
11/21 Early Release Day  
11/22–23 Thanksgiving – School Closed

Greetings North Bethesda Family,

We are thankful to the 515 parents and guardians for the opportunity to welcome them to the Open House on October 8. I am thrilled and amazed at the level of involvement and care in our NBMS community.

The PTSA meeting was well attended with over 40 participants. We look forward to seeing more members at the November meeting. The PTSA is working to arrange speakers who can address relevant topics for our members. More details to come about the November meeting!

### Spirit Week

The SGA has organized a spirit week to celebrate the end of the first quarter. Students show their spirit by dressing up in accordance with the daily theme:

*Monday, October 29 – Pajama Day*

*Tuesday, October 30 – Breast Cancer and Mental Health Awareness– wear pink and receive a green ribbon for mental health awareness*

*Wednesday, October 31 – Wear orange and black for Halloween! (no costumes)*

*Thursday, November 1 – Favorite sports team day*

*Friday, November 2– North Bethesda School Spirit day– wear GREEN, BLUE or YELLOW or NBMS gear!*

Book Fair

Thank you to Katrina Sukduang and her parent volunteers for hosting an amazing book fair supporting our Media Center. The students loved it and I got a head start on my holiday shopping☺



**IMPORTANT REQUEST:** Please update your parent portal emergency contact information as soon as possible. Information about the parent portal can be found below. After October 8, our main office staff will have to enter any changes.

## MYMCPS Parent Portal Resources

[MYMCPS Overview](#)

[MYMCPS PORTAL GUIDE](#)

[Portal Resources In Spanish](#)

## SGA Dance

The SGA's Dance was held Friday, October 12 from 3-5 in the gym. There were lots of happy faces as the students enjoyed pizza, treats, and the opportunity to dance and socialize with their peers. Here we all are doing the Cha Cha Slide!



## CARE CASH and the CARE STORE

Thank you to Sarah Cuneo for being our Care Cash Coordinator. Sarah has worked tirelessly to stock our Care Store so students may make purchases with their Care Cash! Thank you to her team of Care Cash store volunteers. They are supporting our students' demonstration of our core values,

Communication, Accountability, Respect, and a positive Environment Thank you to staff for contributing rewards! Thank you to our community for donating to the store! Keep those donations coming!



## Interscholastic Sports

### Cross Country

Coach McFeaters' shared that on Wednesday this week our NBMS Co-ed Cross Country team had their first race of the season against Silver Creek Middle School. Although our top boy runner, Niklas Avillo came in 4th place over all, we were unable to defeat the Silver Creek boys. Our girls' team, on the other hand, won convincingly over Silver Creek. Our top 5 girls finished in the top 6 places! Kate Achenbach took 1st overall, while Mackenzie Raue Raue, Emily Roberts, Emily Akpebu and Vivian Vendt took places 3-6.

### Boys' Softball

Coach Elmer shared, "On Wednesday, October 10th, the North Bethesda Middle School boys' softball team had their first game against Silver Creek Middle School here on home turf at NB. The weather was finally sunny and cool after having enough rain to drown a frog in the pre-season. Vance Bonior took the mound for North Bethesda to start off the game. The Huskies of Silver Creek got off to a hot start by knocking in 3 runs in the first inning. In the bottom of the same inning, not to be outdone, North Bethesda's Alex Chang scored on a RBI hit by Dylan Notley, making the score 3-1 in favor of Silver Creek. With golden glove-like skills in the field, Garrett Denney defended the outfield, snatching every ball hit out there. Also, a heads-up play by Ian Lopez, the Phoenix's catcher, at home plate ensured the score stayed tied 4-4 until the 6th inning. That's when a Silver Creek player blasted a shot over the heads of all the NB players to take the lead 5-4. Unfortunately, the 7th and final inning would have the same score resulting in the boys' softball team taking a hard first loss. Not a single worried look was seen on the players' faces as they look forward to playing two away games next week against Tilden (Tuesday) and Westland (Thursday.) Good luck Phoenixes!!!"

### Girls' Softball

Coach Markos will be reporting out on Girls' Softball in next week's news and notes!

## Extra-Curricular Activities

Enrichment Academies' session one classes will start this Tuesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please look at the activity bus routes on the afterschool activities tab on our website and make sure your student knows which bus to take home.

Please consult our website regarding our wonderful [Enrichment Academies](#) sponsored by the PTSA, as well as [NBMS sponsored extracurricular activities](#).

## Giant A+ School Rewards Program

Please sign up for Giant A+ School Rewards Program program to support our school

### How Do Parents/Guardians Community Members Sign Up

- Locate your 12-digit Giant card number found on the back of your card.
- Visit <https://giantfood.com/aplus> and select "register your card," located in the box at the top right of the webpage. Follow the prompts to complete the registration, or call the A+ School Rewards Hotline at 1-877-275-2758 for assistance.
- If you have a Giant card but do not know your 12-digit card number, call the Giant card hotline at 1-877-366-2668 and select Option #1.
- If you need a Giant card, please visit your local store or visit [giantfood.com](http://giantfood.com).

## Grade Level News

Here you will find links to grade level news posted under the Academics Tab on the website. As you know, I am now sending the grade level news as an e-mail by Friday morning. When possible, I will send it out Thursday evening. This is in response to parental request.

[6<sup>th</sup> Grade Team Update](#)

[7<sup>th</sup> Grade Team Update](#)

[8<sup>th</sup> Grade Team Update](#)

## NBMS Food Drive

Our school canned and boxed Food Drive begins Monday, October 15<sup>th</sup> and ends Friday, October 19<sup>th</sup>. Our food drive is no longer partnered with Red Ribbon Week this year. Also new this year, items will be collected through first period classes. The class with the most food will win donuts.

## Results of the 2018 Parent Engagement and School-based Staff Climate Surveys

The results of the system wide MCPS Parent Engagement Survey and the 2018 School-based Staff Climate Survey will be made available to the public on Friday, October 12, 2018, on the MCPS website at <http://sharedaccountability.mcpsmd.org/SurveyResults/>. As shared at the PTSA meeting on Tuesday, October 9, 2018, the administration and leadership team are taking steps to address areas of improvement.

## Parent Academy

Please take the time to look at opportunities for MCPS sponsored Parent Academy offerings. The Parent Academy is designed to inform and empower families as advocates and partners in their children's education. Workshops provide families Parent Academy useful information that will help them support their children's academic and social-emotional well-being, as well as helping them to be college and career ready.

Join us for one or more of our engaging and informative programs presented by our community partners and MCPS staff. Some workshops may be offered in different languages and interpretation and accommodation services are available upon request. Our workshops are conveniently held at schools and locations throughout Montgomery County. Workshops are FREE and preregistration is encouraged.

<https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/parentacademy/>

## Student Service Learning Hours

Give a Little Time...Make a Big Difference

SSL is a graduation requirement...but it is also an opportunity! Explore careers, learn new skills, expand understanding, and strengthen character. If you can make a difference... do it!

Learn about the SSL graduation requirement and how to meet it in MCPS by referring to the website <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/ssl/>.

Here is a video tutorial for SSL: <http://viewpure.com/l6OqfgqaKGI>

Please contact our school-based SSL coordinator, Carla Jurewicz [Carla\\_A\\_Jurewicz@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Carla_A_Jurewicz@mcpsmd.org) if you have any questions.

## Important Reminders for all Parents from the Main Office Staff:

We receive lots of calls from parents late in the day asking that we deliver messages to students. We frequently also have parents dropping by in the last 20 minutes of school wanting to pick up their children early.

Of course, we want to accommodate all requests. However, it can be difficult to get message to students on a moment's notice. It means looking up the schedules, then interrupting teachers during their planned lessons.

The school has some strategies in place for facilitating early dismissals. Please send a note with the student in the morning requesting that your child be in the office at the time that you get here. The student will then get a pass, which is then presented to the appropriate teacher at the appropriate time. The student comes to the main office without being contacted by the office. You sign your student out, and off you go!

The benefits are that you will not have to wait, the student will be retrieved in a timely manner, and the classroom and teacher are not interrupted during their lessons.

We recommend that you consider employing a similar strategy to help your student remember after school schedules and/or appointments. You might want to write a note, and put it in or on the student's agenda book. It's an opportunity for the student to get a quick reminder, and have some correspondence from mom or dad during the day – a little pick-me-up! *For your convenience, we are attaching a hyperlink to the attendance note to be used in the case of absence or early departure.*

### [Attendance Note](#)

Thank you for your consideration.

## MCPS News

### High School Application Programs Available on Parent Portal October 1 (English and Spanish)

MCPS is offering a convenient way for parents/guardians to consider a student's high school options for the following school year.

In addition to the themed and enriched and accelerated courses and programs available in students' local high schools, students in Grades 8–11 may be eligible for high school application programs.

Beginning Monday, October 1, parents/guardians of students will be able to access and review high school application programs on the [myMCPS parent portal](#). They will be able to sign on to the portal, go to the document library (on the left sidebar) and review the report that reads, "My Student's High

## 2019–2020 School Year Calendar

MCPS is developing the school calendar for the 2019–2020 school year. The Board of Education held a discussion at its business meeting on October 9, 2018, about the process, options, and challenges for developing the calendar and is considering two potential calendar scenarios.

As the district develops a calendar, it must start with several requirements from the state:

- September 4–June 15: the permissible time frame for instruction
- 180: the minimum number of instructional days required
- 15: the number of state-mandated days that schools must be closed
- 3: the number of snow make-up days required at the end of the year (before June 14)

For a more detailed explanation of the calendar process, visit the 2019–2020 calendar webpage. The scenarios are posted on the MCPS website for public information and review. If you would like to offer comment on the calendar, please do so using the drop box provided on the calendar information webpage.

The Board will hold a final discussion and adopt a final calendar later this fall. You can stay engaged and informed in this process by visiting the Calendar webpage.

## Calendario Escolar 2019–2020

MCPS está diseñando el calendario escolar para el ciclo escolar 2019–2020. Durante su reunión de negocios del 9 de octubre, 2018, el Consejo de Educación habló acerca del proceso, las opciones y las dificultades de desarrollar el calendario y está considerando dos opciones posibles para el calendario.

A medida que el distrito escolar desarrolla un calendario, debe comenzar con varios requisitos del estado:

- 4 de septiembre–15 de junio: el lapso de tiempo de enseñanza permitido
- 180: el número mínimo de días lectivos exigidos
- 15: el número de días que el estado ordenó que las escuelas deben estar cerradas
- 3: el número de días de recuperación de tiempo de enseñanza por días de nieve que se necesitan al final del ciclo escolar (antes del 14 de junio)

Para una explicación más detallada del proceso del calendario, visite la página web del calendario escolar 2019–2020. Las opciones están publicadas en el sitio web de MCPS para información y revisión. Si usted desea aportar un comentario sobre el calendario, por favor hágalo usando el buzón que se provee en la página web del calendario escolar.

El Consejo tendrá una última conversación sobre el tema y adoptará un calendario definitivo más adelante en el otoño. Usted puede mantenerse involucrado/a e informado/a sobre este proceso visitando la página web del calendario escolar.

## Mental Wellness Resource Fair

The Board of Education has proclaimed October MCPS Mental Health and Wellness Awareness Month. MCPS is hosting a Mental Health Fair on Saturday, October 27 from 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Julius West Middle School. Students, staff members, and the community can learn more about community and school resources that support students' physical, social, and psychological well-being. For more information and to RSVP, visit [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/student-services/](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/student-services/).

## Feria de Recursos de Bienestar Mental

El Consejo de Educación proclamó que MCPS celebre el mes de octubre como el Mes de Bienestar y Concientización sobre la Salud Mental. MCPS está presentando una Feria de Salud Mental el sábado, 27 de octubre, de 11:30 a.m. a 3:00 p.m., en Julius West Middle School. Los estudiantes, miembros del personal y la comunidad pueden conocer más acerca de los recursos que existen en la comunidad y en las escuelas para apoyar el bienestar físico, social y psicológico de los estudiantes. Para más información y para responder a la invitación para este evento, ingrese a [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/studentsservices/](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/studentsservices/).

### Participate in the Annual Montgomery County Community Service Week

Get ready for a week chock-full of volunteer opportunities across the county in honor of *Montgomery County's 32nd annual Community Service Week, set for October 21–28*. There will be lots of ways for students and families to help a variety of local nonprofits, schools, and government agencies throughout the week, including many projects that meet the guidelines for MCPS student service learning hours.

Check the Montgomery County Volunteer Center's online calendar of volunteer needs for the latest list of projects (and check back regularly as projects are being added daily). You may pick any or all that match your interests!

If you are part of a large group that would like to participate, or if you are affiliated with a nonprofit (including a school or PTA) that would like to host a project, e-mail [servicedays@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:servicedays@montgomerycountymd.gov) or call the Volunteer Center at 240-777-2600 to learn how to get involved.

### Participe en el Evento Anual de la Semana de Servicio Comunitario del Condado de Montgomery

A prepararse para una semana repleta de oportunidades de voluntariado en todo el condado en honor al trigésimo segundo evento anual de la Semana de Servicio Comunitario del Condado de Montgomery, programado del 21 al 28 de octubre. Habrá muchas maneras en que los estudiantes y las familias puedan ayudar a una variedad de organizaciones locales sin fines de lucro, escuelas y agencias del gobierno durante toda la semana, incluyendo muchos proyectos que cumplen con las normas establecidas para aprendizaje mediante servicio estudiantil (student service learning-SSL).

Consulte el calendario en línea del Centro de Voluntarios del Condado de Montgomery (Montgomery County Volunteer Center), que muestra el servicio voluntario que se necesita, para ver la lista más actualizada de proyectos (y siga consultando el calendario regularmente, ya que se suman proyectos todos los días). ¡Usted puede elegir cualquier proyecto o todos los que se adapten a sus intereses!

Si usted forma parte de un grupo numeroso que desearía participar, o si usted está afiliado/a con una organización sin fines de lucro (incluyendo una escuela o una Asociación de Padres y Maestros (Parent-Teacher Association-PTA) y quisiera organizar un proyecto, envíe un correo electrónico a [servicedays@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:servicedays@montgomerycountymd.gov), o llame al Centro de Voluntarios, teléfono 240-777-2600, para información sobre cómo participar.

### World of Montgomery Festival to Celebrate Cultural Heritages

The World of Montgomery Festival celebrates and showcases the rich cultural heritages of Montgomery County and the Washington, D.C., region. The festival will be held Sunday, October 21, at Montgomery College's Rockville Campus, 51 Mannakee Street in Rockville, from 12 noon to 4:00 p.m.

MCPS is proud to be a partner in this year's festival. The free event includes an international village, a global kitchen with chef demonstrations of traditional ethnic food, a craft market, a Parade of Cultures, two performance stages of traditional dance and music, connections through service, traditional arts, and fun interactive activities for the whole family. For more information, visit [www.worldofmontgomery.com](http://www.worldofmontgomery.com).

### **Festival del Mundo de Montgomery a Celebrar la Diversidad Cultural**

El Festival del Mundo de Montgomery celebra y destaca las ricas herencias culturales del Condado de Montgomery y de la región de Washington, DC. El festival se realizará el domingo, 21 de octubre, en el campus de Rockville de Montgomery College, 51 Mannakee Street, en Rockville, desde el mediodía hasta las 4:00 p.m.

MCPS se enorgullece de ser un colaborador en el festival de este año. El evento gratuito incluye una aldea internacional, una cocina global con demostraciones de chefs preparando platos étnicos tradicionales, un mercado artesanal, un Desfile de Culturas, dos escenarios con danzas y música tradicionales, conexiones a través de servicios, artes tradicionales y divertidas actividades interactivas para toda la familia. Para más información, visite [www.worldofmontgomery.com](http://www.worldofmontgomery.com).

Have a wonderful week!

Respectfully,

*AnneMarie Kestner Smith, Ed.D.*

Principal  
North Bethesda Middle School

[North Bethesda Middle School Website](#)

Follow me on Twitter *@NBMSPrincipal*

