



February 10, 2019
North Bethesda Middle School
News and Notes



NORTH BETHESDA MIDDLE SCHOOL UPCOMING EVENTS

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|------------------|--|
| 2/12 | Boys' make up basketball game AWAY at Frost |
| 2/12, 2/13, 2/14 | Lockdown with Options trainings through grade level town hall meetings. |
| 2/15 | Coffee with the Counselors 8:30 – 10:30 a.m. Media Center Please RSVP to Mrs. Turska in the media center. |
| 2/12 – 2/15 | NBMS Counselor Appreciation Week |
| 2/22 | HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGE SEMINAR FOR MIDDLE SCHOOLERS. 6 – 7:30 p.m. Click here for EVENT FLYER |
| 2/18 | Presidents' Day Holiday – No School for students and staff |
| 2/22 | Community circles through SOARR |
| 3/1 | Early Dismissal for students (12:30 p.m.) |
| 3/1 | Clay Smile presentation |

SAVE THE DATE: March 15, 2019 PTSA Skate Night at Cabin John Skating Rink – 8:15 – 9:45 p.m. More information to come. For questions, please contact Marla Hollander, VP Student Enrichment, MarHollander@aol.com

Dear North Bethesda Family:

It was great to have a full week of school. If there is one NEWS and NOTES you read thoroughly, I would urge you to read this one. Coming up in the next few weeks we have some important events where we will be sharing information with students, building community with students, and providing students with social-emotional inspiration. Thank you to the PTSA for providing snacks at our February staff meeting. This generosity is always appreciated!

NBMS COUNSELING APPRECIATION WEEK

National School Counseling Week was last week but I dropped the ball in communicating that to staff and students. Consequently, I have proclaimed this next week the week that students, parents, and staff can express appreciation for our amazing counseling team. Our counselors will be provided lunch on 2/15/19, and students will have the opportunity to write thank you notes (we are providing the cards) through SOARR during the week. If a school counselor has made a difference in your child's life, please take a moment to send them an e-mail or recognize their contribution. Encourage your child to write a note during SOARR.

EMERGENCY DRILLS

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) is committed to providing a safe and welcoming learning environment for our students and staff. Every year, each MCPS school conducts a number of emergency drills to ensure students are prepared in the case of an emergency. These drills include:

- Evacuation
- Reverse Evacuation
- Shelter-in-Place
- Drop, Cover, Hold
- Severe Weather
- Lockdown

This year, in alignment with the Maryland Safe to Learn Act of 2018, MCPS schools are training staff and students in an *active assailant* drill. Last Monday, we trained our staff at our monthly staff meeting. The meeting was also attended by Mary Whalen, our cluster security coordinator, Officer Jackson of the Montgomery County Police Department, the Walter Johnson High School resource officer, and Officer Crandell of the Montgomery County Police Special Operations Division– SWAT. An active assailant drill is very similar to a Lockdown drill. In a Lockdown drill, the teacher locks the classroom door, covers the door window, and has the students sit alongside a wall out of view of the door, and remain silent. The new drill in MCPS is called a *Lockdown with Options*. The key element of this drill is to prepare staff and students to avoid and escape harm if they cannot get into a room that locks because they were out of the classroom for any reason. The expectation is that students would exit the school to its boundary to avoid danger. During the first *Lockdown with Options* drill, students will not actually leave the school, but they will be taught that they can exit as a way to ensure their safety.

At North Bethesda Middle School, we will be holding grade level town hall meetings to conduct the trainings. Students will be divided into three groups and the trainings will be led by administrators and leadership team members. We plan to conduct 6th grade training on Tuesday, 2/12, 7th grade training on Wednesday 2/13, and 8th grade training on Thursday 2/14.

On the day of the drill, counselors will be available to support any student or staff member who expresses concerns or questions as we train in new active assailant protocols.

Thank you for your support as we take steps to keep students and staff safe.

TOLERANCE

This year there have been several reported incidents where students have made other students feel unwelcome or unsafe by making defaming statements directed at others because of race, gender identity, sexual orientation, or ethnicity. Recently, there have been several reports of such statements,

the use of racially offensive words and homophobic words, and racially insensitive posts made by and liked by NBMS students on social media. This is absolutely not tolerated at NBMS and administration will be implementing progressive discipline to address student behaviors' in this area as it is bullying and harassment. Please speak to your students about the importance of their words and appropriate use of social media.

As a school engaged in Restorative Justice training and embracing the Restorative Justice philosophy, North Bethesda Middle School values ALL members of our school community. We are going to be running community circles through SOARR on 2/22/19 in order to elevate the conversation about tolerance, appreciation of diversity, and social responsibility. If you would like to read more about MCPS's work with Restorative Justice, please click on the link to [the MCPS Department of Restorative Justice webpage](#).

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL SAFETY

We greatly appreciate our PTSA in supporting us both academically and in the realm of social emotional health. On the March 1st half day, students will be attending grade level assemblies where they will be engaged by a presentation from the [CLAYSMILE](#) organization. This presentation will inspire students to have a positive mindset in order to reach their personal, academic and/or professional goals.

MATH TEAM CELEBRATION

Coaches Amy Watkins and Stephanie Needham shared, "On Wednesday, February 6th, we competed in our last Math Team meet at Cabin John MS. The students persevered and worked hard through the problems. For the entire season, out of 23 teams in our region, our A team placed 8th, B team placed 12th, and C team placed 16th. Our top 5 students that completed 75% of the Individual questions accurately were: Crystal Li, Nimai Patel, Sophia Schechner, Milan Tenn, and Emily Paranzino.

On Saturday, February 9th, we had 10 students compete at the Math Counts competition at the University of Maryland.

Team: Crystal Li, Milan Tenn, Koki Takizawa, Emily Paranzino

Individual: Ethan Geary, Cody Dembo, Sophia Schechner, Tariq Merchant, Alex Yeung, Nimai Patel



The MathCounts Team and Individual participants did a wonderful job at the competition on February 9th. Our Team scored 8th place, among some very competitive teams. There was a total of 22 Teams.

- 1 – Takoma Park
- 2 – Eastern
- 3 – Robert Frost
- 4 – Roberto Clemente

- 5 – Cabin John
- 6 – Ridgeview
- 7 – Silver Creek
- 8 – North Bethesda

Milan Tenn qualified for the State Competition as an Individual. He will compete on March 16th at Johns Hopkins University. Everyone did a wonderful job!



BASKETBALL

Girls' Basketball

Coach Elmer shared, “On Wednesday, the North Bethesda girls’ basketball team travelled to Frost Middle School to compete in their last game of the season. The opposition was tough having won every game of their season leading up to this point. The Phoenixes were ready for the match and played their hearts out. In the 3rd quarter, NB came within 6 points of taking the lead. Frost continued their volley of 3 point shots which proved to be too much for the Phoenixes as they fell to Frost 41 –32. North Bethesda Middle School would like to thank and recognize the 8th grade girls moving onto high school next year. This group of girls demonstrated the highest level of sportsmanship during their years playing for North Bethesda. Katie Martin, Elizabeth Sansbury, Zion Dapaa, Yasmin Gorham, Phoebe Snelson, and Allure Hyman. Way to go girls! Your futures are bright for both basketball and life!”

Boys' Basketball

Coach Leffler shared, “This week the NBMS basketball team traveled to Cabin John Middle school to take on the Cougars. The first half was a back and forth game that saw multiple lead changes, and strong performances from the players. In the closing seconds of the first half, Cabin John hit a three at the buzzer to take a two–point lead into halftime. In the second half the NB players forced a lot of steals, grabbed a lot of rebounds, and altered a lot of interior shots, which kept them in the game. In the final minute, a three pointer by NB cut the Cabin John six–point lead in half, but Cabin John ultimately made their clutch free throws to close out the game. This was an incredibly exciting game,

that saw the NB Phoenixes playing their best basketball of the season. The team's perseverance, growth and teamwork was on full display throughout the entirety of the game. A special shout out to the fans who showed up to support the Phoenixes because the energy and enthusiasm they brought made it feel like a home environment. The basketball team will close out their season at Frost on Tuesday."

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

One of the great things about NBMS is how our teachers support each other. This week, the math department showed each other some love by writing Valentine's to one another.

COUNSELING NEWS

Remember that **Mindfulness Mondays** are happening at S.O.A.R.R. all year long. Encourage your tween to come check it out. We are practicing focusing our minds and with that relieving stress and anxiety and creating an atmosphere of calm. Skills are transferable anywhere!

Coffee with the Counselor on Friday, February 15th at 8:30 AM.

"Innocence Stolen: Protecting Our Children Online"

This program reviews the array of threats students (and adults) face when they go online. This will be a 90-minute presentation and will cover the entire range of internet dangers. This program will equip and empower parents to address the many teachable moments that occur when accessing the internet including cyberbullying, predatory behavior and sexting.

Our presenter will be Mr. Vincent DeVivo from United States Attorney's Office, District of MD,

Please RSVP to Mrs. Turska, Counseling Secretary, if you plan on attending. You can call 240-740-2110 or e-mail Mrs. Turska at MaryBeth_Turska@mcpsmd.org.

SUPPORT NBMS

ATTENTION 8TH GRADE PARENTS!!!

Preparations are underway for the Class of 2019 festivities! Our committee is working hard to make sure that the end of the year is memorable for all NBMS 8th grade students! We need you for a successful year end! Please consider **donating \$10 or whatever amount you choose** to help with the cost of our:

- **8th Grade Party** on Fri., **June 7** from 7-9 p.m.
- **Class T-shirt** to be worn on the all-day class trip to **Hershey Park**
- **Yearbook Signing & Donut Party** on last day of school from 8:30-9:30 a.m.

BOXTOPS FOR EDUCATION

Show NBMS some  with Box Tops!

Last day to turn in Box Tops for the spring deadline is **Friday, February 22, 2019**. Just drop them in the **PINK BOX** inside the front office. Thank you for clipping!!

Giant A+ School Rewards Program

Please sign up for Giant A+ School Rewards 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

SERVICE

SSL coordinator: Carla_A_Jurewicz@mcpsmd.org.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Service Project

Thank you to the members of the NBMS community who donated items for our service project. Your generosity is appreciated. We collected many toiletries to contribute to Wider Circle's Market Bags.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS FROM THE MAIN OFFICE

The main office staff asked me to share the following with parents/guardians:

In the afternoon, we receive a high volume of requests from parents who are either picking up a student or sending a message to them. Often, this occurs during the last 20 minutes of the school day. We want to accommodate these requests and ask for your help to ensure a more efficient process. See below for some helpful practices:

- Please send a note with your child in the morning requesting that he/she be in the office at the time you would like to leave. The student will get a pass, which is then presented to the appropriate teacher at the appropriate time. The child will come to the main office. You can sign them out and off you go! This is especially helpful during the lunch time.
- A similar strategy can help with your child remembering after school schedules – write a note and put it in the Student Handbook.

IMPORTANT CONTACTS/LINKS:

[Attendance Note](#)

Bullying and Harassment reporting form. [Form 230-35](#)

[Grade Level News](#)

MYMCPS Parent Portal Resources

[MYMCPS Overview](#)

[MYMCPS PORTAL GUIDE](#)

[Portal Resources In Spanish](#)

[Cyberbullying](#)

Safe Schools Hotline and Information: safeschoolsmd.org/.

MCPS has created a webpage to celebrate the good news about the district's great students, staff, and schools. [What's Good, MCPS](#) stories are collected from social media, MCPS community and staff newsletters, local media, and more. You can also join in the conversation and tell us about the great things you are seeing in MCPS by using the hashtag #WhatsGoodMCPS on social media or by submitting the following form when you hear about other good news: docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfyax02sFuOLtrFkdSzBmH7JLPfgY-HIST3uE1p_FyWvgWSjA/viewform. The webpage will be updated regularly so check back frequently.

YEARBOOKS

Please order your child's yearbook as soon as possible so we can have an accurate count. You may now order your yearbook at <https://ybpay.lifetouch.com/> using ID #10235719. Yearbooks are only sold online; NBMS does not order extra books to be sold at school. When you order a yearbook, you will be emailed a receipt; please keep this receipt until books are distributed the last week of school. If you have pictures of NBMS students at school events that you would like to submit to the yearbook, please email them to Ms. Wolfinger at maryellen.wolfinger@mcpsmd.net.

SCHOOL YEAR EXTENDED

2018-2019 School Year Extended to June 14

Recent inclement weather forced MCPS to close schools on three days. The 2018-2019 MCPS school calendar includes 182 instruction days, two more than the minimum required in the state of Maryland. As a result of these closures, MCPS will need to use one designated make-up day to ensure that it

meets the state–required number of school days. The school year will now be extended to June 14, 2019. The last day will be an early release day for all students. Any additional school closures for emergency weather will result in the need to use additional make–up days. If we have a fourth school closure due to emergency weather conditions, then the next emergency weather make–up day will be Wednesday, June 5, 2019. MCPS will continue to closely monitor for severe weather and provide updates on any impact it may have to the school calendar. For more information on the MCPS school calendar, visit www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org.

MCPS NEWS

Elementary Immersion Programs

Applications for elementary school language immersion programs in MCPS are now available. The application deadline for the 2019–2020 school year is Friday, April 26, 2019. Elementary school language immersion programs begin in kindergarten and are offered in Chinese, French, and Spanish. For more information about elementary immersion programs and to download the Immersion Interest Form, visit the Special Programs website: www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/immersion. Forms are also available at elementary schools.

Programas de Inmersión en Idiomas Extranjeros en las Escuelas Elementales

Ya están disponibles las solicitudes para los programas de inmersión en idiomas en las escuelas elementales de MCPS. El plazo límite para presentar las solicitudes para el ciclo escolar 2019–2020 es el viernes, 26 de abril, 2019. Los programas de inmersión en idiomas en las escuelas elementales comienzan en Kindergarten y se ofrecen en español, chino y francés. Para más información acerca de los programas elementales de inmersión y para descargar el formulario de interés en un programa de inmersión (Immersion Interest Form), visite el sitio web de Programas Especiales (Special Programs): www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/immersion. Los formularios también están a disposición en las escuelas elementales.

Choose Respect Video PSA Contest Accepting Entries

The tenth Annual Choose Respect Montgomery video PSA contest is now accepting entries. This contest challenges teens to create an original 60–second public service announcement video to promote awareness of dating abuse and domestic violence among teens. The contest is open to students in Grades 6 through 12 and students may enter on their own or as a group. The top five videos win cash prizes (first prize is \$1,000). The submission deadline is Friday, March 8. More information can be found here: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/fjc/chooserespect/psa.html. Winners will be announced at the Choose Respect healthy teen dating conference on Sunday, April 7, at Richard Montgomery High School.

Nominations Open for Counselor of the Year Awards

Do you know a school counselor who goes above and beyond to support students, nurtures strong relationships with colleagues and student families, and demonstrates outstanding leadership? The time is now to nominate these special staff for the MCPS School Counselor of the Year Awards.

These awards honor the dedication and hard work of counselors—one each at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. Nominations can be submitted by staff, administrators, parents/guardians, and students.

To be nominated, counselors must actively be working as a counselor in MCPS and have worked for the system for at least three years. Nominees also must demonstrate outstanding leadership; understand the individual needs of students, encourage their talents, and cultivate their self-esteem; foster collaborative relationships with colleagues, students, their families and the community; and use data to help drive decision making. Online nomination forms are available at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/uploadedFiles/departments/student-services/mental-health/2019%20School%20Counselor%20of%20the%20Year%20Nomination%20Packet.pdf. Nominations are due **Friday, February 15**. The deadline to submit an application is 4:00 p.m. on **Friday, March 29**.

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.

Próximas Reuniones sobre el Presupuesto para la Educación

Los padres/guardianes y los miembros de la comunidad están invitados a acompañar al Concejal del Condado de Montgomery Craig Rice, al Superintendente de Escuelas Jack R. Smith y a la Presidenta de Montgomery College DeRionne Pollard durante próximas reuniones sobre el Presupuesto para la Educación programadas para febrero y marzo. Quienes asistan pueden informarse sobre cómo se toman las decisiones presupuestarias, lo que el condado está haciendo hoy para prepararse para el

Año Fiscal 2020 y más adelante y las oportunidades que los residentes tienen para influenciar las decisiones presupuestarias.

Las reuniones tendrán lugar de 6:30 a 8:30 p.m., en los siguientes lugares:

20 de febrero, Neelsville Middle School, 11700 Neelsville Church Road, en Germantown

27 de febrero, Col. E. Brooke Lee Middle School, 11800 Monticello Avenue, en Silver Spring

6 de marzo, Rockville High School, 2100 Baltimore Road, en Rockville

11 de marzo, Bethesda–Chevy Chase High School, 4301 East–West Highway, en Bethesda

27 de marzo, Campus de Montgomery College en Takoma Park, 7600 Takoma Avenue, en Takoma Park—Centro de Artes Culturales, Teatro 1 (Cultural Arts Center Theater 1)

En marzo, el ejecutivo del condado anunciará su Presupuesto Operativo Recomendado para el Año Fiscal 2019. En abril, el Concejo del Condado llevará a cabo audiencias públicas, y a fines de mayo aprobará el presupuesto operativo.

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/ for more information. **Completed nomination forms must be received in the Board of Education office by 5:00 p.m. on March 1, 2019.**

Se Solicitan Nominaciones para los Premios Anuales por Servicio Ilustre a la Enseñanza Pública

El Consejo de Educación del Condado de Montgomery solicita nominaciones del público para sus Vigésimo Segundos Premios Anuales por Servicio Ilustre a la Educación Pública. Los premios son auspiciados por el Consejo de Educación para reconocer y agradecer las contribuciones ejemplares de individuos (incluyendo estudiantes), grupos y organizaciones a la educación pública en el Condado de Montgomery. Visite www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/boe/community/awards/ para más información. **Los formularios de nominación completados deben ser recibidos por la oficina del Consejo de Educación antes de las 5:00 p.m., del 1ro. de marzo, 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.

Concurso "No Te Distraigas" Abierto para Estudiantes de las Escuelas Elementales y Secundarias

Un estudio de Safe Kids (Niños Seguros) demostró que uno de cada cuatro estudiantes de escuela secundaria y uno de cada seis estudiantes de escuela de enseñanza media camina distraído/a. La mayoría de las veces estas distracciones se debieron a estar distraídos con mensajes de texto o por el uso de auriculares. Las investigaciones también indican que entre los adolescentes que conducen vehículos, desviar una sola vez la vista del camino por dos o más segundos aumenta casi cuatro veces el riesgo de chocar o casi chocar. Cuando los estudiantes están distraídos cuando caminan o conducen un vehículo, se ponen en riesgo ellos mismos y ponen en riesgo a otros. El Departamento de Transportes del Condado de Montgomery (Montgomery County Department of Transportation) invita a que todos los estudiantes de MCPS ayuden a crear conciencia sobre este problema crítico participando en el Concurso "No Te Distraigas" 2019.

Se pide a los estudiantes que creen un video de anuncio de servicio público (public service announcement-PSA) de entre 30 y 60 segundos, o un trabajo de arte sobre uno o ambos de los siguientes temas:

1. Háblales a tus compañeros sobre la importancia de no estar distraídos al caminar o conducir un vehículo.
2. Háblales a los adultos sobre la importancia de no distraerse al conducir un vehículo, especialmente en zonas escolares.

El plazo límite para todas las inscripciones para el concurso es el lunes, 4 de marzo. Para más información y para inscribirse en el curso, visite: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DOT-PedSafety/SRTS/creative-contest.html.

Share Your Thoughts on Policy KBA

The Montgomery County Board of Education wants to hear from the community on proposed revisions to Policy KBA, *Policy on Public Information*. The revised policy discusses the importance of effective communication with members of the Montgomery County community across a variety of existing and

emerging media and communication channels. The revised policy also affirms the Board of Education's commitment to following all legal obligations regarding the protection and appropriate disclosure of student and employee information. You can provide comments until March 3, 2019. For more information, visit www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/policy/policy-for-public-comment.aspx.

Student Transfer Application Season Begins February 1 (English and Spanish)

Parents and 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 which begins on February 1. *All COSA requests must be submitted no later than April 1.*

Except for students in the Northeast Consortium (NEC), Downcounty Consortium (DCC), and Middle School Magnet Consortium (MSMC) areas, MCPS students are assigned to a school on the basis of their place of residence or their Individualized Education Program (IEP) and are expected to attend their home school. Assignment changes for students from one school to another are permitted under limited circumstances. For more information, visit www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/transfers.

Temporada de Solicitud para Transferencias de Estudiantes Comienza el 1 ro. de Febrero

Los padres y guardianes que deseen solicitar un Cambio de Asignación de Escuela (Change of School Assignment-COSA) para sus hijos desde su escuela local a otra pueden iniciar el proceso durante la próxima temporada de transferencias de escuela que comienza el 1 ro. de febrero. Todas las peticiones de COSA deben ser presentadas a más tardar el 1 ro. de abril.

Excepto para los estudiantes en las zonas de Northeast Consortium (NEC), Downcounty Consortium (DCC) y Middle School Magnet Consortium (MSMC), los estudiantes de MCPS son asignados a una escuela de acuerdo a su domicilio o de acuerdo con su Programa Educativo Individualizado (Individualized Education Program-IEP) y por lo tanto deben asistir a su escuela local. Los cambios de asignación de una escuela a otra son permitidos a los estudiantes bajo circunstancias muy limitadas. Para más información, visite www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/transfers.

[Honoring Contributions to Special Education](#)

Students and parents/guardians are encouraged to submit nominations to recognize individuals who have contributed to the success and acceptance of students with special needs. The recognitions are being given by the Special Education Committee of the Montgomery County Council of PTAs, Inc. (MCCPTA, Inc.).

Nominations are being accepted in four categories: Staff, Programs, Parents, and Students. Electronic submissions are strongly encouraged. Applications are due by Friday, March 22. Nominations can be submitted by e-mail attachment or in the body of an e-mail message to SpecialEd@mccpta.org. If you are unable to submit an electronic nomination, you may send a completed nomination form and a nominating statement, along with supporting statements, to the MCCPTA, Inc. office: Montgomery County Council of PTAs, Inc., P.O. Box 10754, Rockville, Maryland 20849.

The nomination form can be accessed at the following link: news.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/MCCPTA-2018-2019-Special-Education-Award-Nomination-Form.pdf.

Students Can Design Their Dream Classroom in United We Learn Contest (English and Spanish)

Montgomery County Public Schools is launching the third year of its student contest, United We Learn. This year's contest, United We Learn: Schools of the Future, allows students to design their ideal learning space and challenges them to think critically about how their physical environment affects their ability to learn.

The contest follows a November 2018 survey that asked students and staff about how they use learning spaces at their schools, and what they would like classrooms and schools to look like in the future. Recurring elements mentioned in the survey feedback included considerations regarding color, lighting, furniture, technology, and security. That feedback will be used to support the continuous improvement of our educational facilities. The contest tasks students to consider these same elements as they design their vision of what an ideal learning space might look like in the future. By participating in this contest, students may also have the ability to help influence future design. More details are available on the contest website: montgomeryschoolsmd.org/events/unitedwelearn/.

Los Estudiantes Pueden Diseñar el Aula de Sus Sueños en el Concurso Unidos Aprendemos

Montgomery County Public Schools está dando inicio al tercer año de su concurso para estudiantes, Unidos Aprendemos (United We Learn). El concurso de este año, Unidos Aprendemos: Las Escuelas del Futuro (United We Learn: Schools of the Future), permite a los estudiantes diseñar su entorno de aprendizaje ideal y los desafía a pensar de manera crítica sobre cómo su ambiente físico afecta su capacidad de aprender.

El concurso sigue a una encuesta realizada en noviembre 2018 que les preguntaba a los estudiantes y al personal acerca de cómo ellos usan los espacios de aprendizaje en sus escuelas, y cómo les gustaría que fueran sus salones de clase y sus escuelas en el futuro. Los elementos recurrentes mencionados en las respuestas a la encuesta incluyeron consideraciones relacionadas con color, luz, muebles, tecnología y seguridad. Esos comentarios/sugerencias serán utilizados para apoyar el mejoramiento continuo de nuestras instalaciones educativas. El concurso asigna a los estudiantes la tarea de considerar estos mismos elementos al diseñar su visión de cómo sería el espacio ideal para el aprendizaje en el futuro. Al participar en este concurso, los estudiantes también tienen la capacidad de ayudar a influenciar los diseños futuros. Hay más detalles disponibles en la página web del concurso: montgomeryschoolsmd.org/events/unitedwelearn/.

Restorative Justice Workshops Set for February 5 and April 2 (English and Spanish)

Parents, guardians, and community members are invited to attend a workshop on Tuesday, February 5, at Julius West Middle School, and on Tuesday, April 2, at A. Mario Loiederman Middle School from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. to learn more about the district's restorative justice vision and how

this social justice platform allows students to actively engage and problem–solve physical, psychological, and disciplinary issues that affect their lives and the community. More information can be found [here](#).

Talleres sobre Justicia Restaurativa Programados para el 5 de Febrero y el 2 de Abril

Se invita a los padres, guardianes y miembros de la comunidad a que asistan a un taller el martes, 5 de febrero, en Julius West Middle School, y el martes, 2 de abril, en A. Mario Loiederman Middle School, de 6:30 a 8:30 p.m., para conocer más acerca de la visión del distrito escolar sobre la justicia restaurativa y cómo esta plataforma de justicia social permite a los estudiantes participar activamente y resolver problemas físicos, psicológicos y disciplinarios que afectan sus vidas y la comunidad. Se puede encontrar más información [aquí](#).

Community Conversations on the Future of High School Programs (English and Spanish)

MCPS is holding a series of community conversations with Chief Academic Officer Maria V. Navarro to discuss the future of high school programs. Attendees will have an opportunity to discuss what high school programs MCPS should offer in the future to best support college and career readiness. Staff, students, parents, guardians, and members of the community are invited to attend. The forums are scheduled for:

- Monday, February 11, Clarksburg High School, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
- Monday, April 8, Richard Montgomery High School, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Register online at mcpsweb.wufoo.com/forms/community-conversation/.

Conversaciones con la Comunidad sobre Programas Futuros en las Escuelas Secundarias

MCPS está llevando a cabo una serie de conversaciones entre la comunidad y Maria V. Navarro, Jefa de Asuntos Académicos (Chief Academic Officer), para hablar sobre el futuro de los programas en las escuelas secundarias. Quienes asistan tendrán la oportunidad de hablar sobre qué programas debería ofrecer en el futuro MCPS en las escuelas secundarias para apoyar de mejor manera la preparación para la universidad y para carreras. El personal, estudiantes, padres, guardianes y miembros de la comunidad están todos invitados a asistir. Los foros han sido programados para los días:

- Lunes, 11 de febrero, Clarksburg High School, 6:30 a 8:30 p.m.
- Lunes, 8 de abril, Richard Montgomery High School, 6:30 a 8:30 p.m.

Inscríbase en línea en: mcpsweb.wufoo.com/forms/community-conversation/.

Have a fantastic week!

Respectfully,

AnneMarie Kestner Smith, Ed.D.

Principal

North Bethesda Middle School

[North Bethesda Middle School Website](#)

Follow me on Twitter @NBMSPrincipal

