



March 10, 2019
North Bethesda Middle School
News and Notes



NORTH BETHESDA MIDDLE SCHOOL UPCOMING EVENTS

3/13 and 14	Maryland Integrated Science Assessment for 8 th grade students (New DATE)
3/15	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
3/21	Orchestra Festival
4/3	Early Release Day for Students (end of MP3)
4/3	Cupcake Wars (Details below)
4/10	Band Festival
4/17-4/22	Spring Break – No school for Students and Teachers
4/24-4/26	Session 1 of Outdoor Education

Dear North Bethesda Family:

We had a great week overall at North Bethesda Middle School, although on Friday, I had to go on the intercom to remind students to keep their phones off and in their lockers. We have had an increase in students having their cell phones on them, texting, and listening to music throughout the day. I also had to speak to students because the boys' bathroom in the new wing has been vandalized several times with students spraying soda around the bathroom and throwing wet toilet paper on the ceilings. The bathrooms are in a somewhat isolated part of the wing so for next week while building services cleans them, those bathrooms will be unavailable. Please speak to your children about letting administration know if they see or hear about students who are not representing the "E" in our CARE values which is about taking care of our school **Environment**

Friday, during SOARR, students participated in a community circle about social media. The point of circles to help students and staff to get to know one another, establish connections, and create a sense of community among us. In the last few months, every grade level has been impacted by students using social media in an inappropriate way that has negatively impacted some or all of the students at NBMS. Students reflected on the quotes: "In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends." Students were provided the opportunity to answer the following questions. Students who don't have social media (which there are quite a few especially in the lower grades could share that or could answer based on what they have heard from friends.

- Share your name and your favorite social media site, or the media site you spend the most time on.
- How do you reach when a friend posts something you agree with or disagree with?

- Think of a time when a friend posted something you disagree with and you see some of your friends have liked it. What do you do?

Students could pass or participate as they were provided the opportunity to share the answers to the following questions.



While, unfortunately, there was not enough energy to hold our SGA social, there were 70 + students who participated in a Super Smash Brothers Tournament hosted by Mr. Israel, one of our wonderful social studies teachers. Ms. Conley, Ms. Cacho, Mr. Lutchenkov, and Mr. Israel volunteered their time to support this new event!



It was a full house at the PTSA sponsored March Madness tournament. What a great event! I am looking forward to next year. Sadly, I won't be able to attend Skate Night (I love iceskating) because I will be leaving for the Association of Curriculum Development and Supervision (ASCD) conference.



EIGHTH GRADE PROMOTION

I have received inquiries about the 8th grade promotion which takes place during the day on the last day of school. These inquiries has led me to make inquiries. I do want to communicate that this is not a "graduation" ceremony. Apparently, because so many guests attend it is very

overcrowded due to the size of our student body. Students do not walk across the stage. They receive promotion certificates and some recognition certificates. I say this only because people have called talking about relatives coming into town for this event. I want to manage expectations ☺ I want to experience it for myself this year, but I may look into changing the format or the location in future years. Many schools do not even do promotion ceremonies for this reason but rather have an event for students. I will look forward to hearing parent and student input via a survey I will be sending out later this year.

CUPCAKE WARS

The PTSA is sponsoring the 7th annual Cupcake Wars on Wednesday, April 3rd. This is an early dismissal day for students, so the event will start at 3:30pm until 5pm in the North Bethesda cafeteria. Teams of 2-6 students can participate. Completed registration forms with payment will be collected in the main office from March 18th through March 22nd. Further details will be communicated via the NB List serve.

STUDENT SERVICE LEARNING INFORMATION

Documentation that qualifies middle school students for the Superintendent's SSL Award is due to the school-based SSL coordinator by April 5, 2019 (hard deadline). This award is given to students who meet the 75-hour graduation requirement during middle school. *(It is only awarded once!)*

[SSL coordinator: Carla_A_Jurewicz@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Carla_A_Jurewicz@mcpsmd.org).

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!

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.

Click here for the [PTSA Flyer](#) with information regarding how to support 8th grade events!

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

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](#)

[SSL coordinator: Carla_A_Jurewicz@mcpsmd.org.](mailto:Carla_A_Jurewicz@mcpsmd.org)

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.

MCPS NEWS

MCPS TV

MCPS Moments

- [Carderock Springs ES Hunger Helpers Give Back to the Community](#)

Esta Semana en MCPS

Esta Semana en MCPS is a brief update, in Spanish, on what is happening throughout the district. The shows are cablecast on MCPS TV and may be viewed at the following URL:

- Spanish: www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLC2A7ADDEDF1F2A2E

Blurbs for school newsletters, websites, etc.

Annual Report for the 2017–2018 School Year

The 2018 *Annual Report to the Community* is now available. The *Annual Report to the Community* includes highlights from the 2017–2018 school year and the factors driving change in the district. The report provides the community with information about who we are, student performance data, operational performance data, and the steps MCPS has taken to fulfill the vision and mission of MCPS. You can view the Annual Report at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/annualreport/2018/index.html.

Informe Anual del Ciclo Escolar 2017–2018

Ya está disponible el *Informe Anual a la Comunidad 2018*. El *Informe Anual a la Comunidad* incluye puntos destacados del ciclo escolar 2017–2018 y los factores que impulsan cambios en el distrito escolar. El informe provee a la comunidad con información sobre quiénes somos, datos de rendimiento estudiantil, datos de rendimiento operativo y las medidas que MCPS ha

tomado para cumplir con la visión y misión de MCPS. Usted puede ver el Informe Anual en www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/annualreport/2018/index.html.

Montgomery County Hosting Conversation on Racial Equity and Social Justice

Montgomery County Government is holding a community conversation on racial equity and social justice on Wednesday, March 13. The event will be hosted by County Council President Nancy Navarro and County Executive Marc Elrich.

The County wants to hear from residents. Why does racial equity matter? Are you impacted by racial inequity? What changes do you want to see to promote racial equity and social justice?

The event will begin at 7:30 p.m. at the Silver Spring Civic Building, 1 Veterans Plaza in Silver Spring.

Call 240-777-7832 with questions. For more information, watch this video: www.youtube.com/watch?v=PklJiojXQHc&feature=youtu.be.

Condado de Montgomery Presenta Conversación sobre Equidad Racial y Justicia Social

El Gobierno del Condado de Montgomery está presentando una conversación sobre equidad racial y justicia social, el miércoles, 13 de marzo. El evento será presentado por la Presidenta del Concejo del Concejo, Nancy Navarro, y el Ejecutivo del Condado, Marc Elrich.

El Condado desea saber la opinión de sus residentes. ¿Por qué es importante la equidad racial? ¿Le afecta a usted la inequidad racial? ¿Qué cambios desea usted ver para promocionar la equidad racial y la justicia social?

El evento comenzará a las 7:30 p.m., en el Edificio Cívico de Silver Spring (Silver Spring Civic Building), 1 Veterans Plaza, en Silver Spring.

Llame al 240-777-7832 para cualquier pregunta. Para obtener más información, vea este video: www.youtube.com/watch?v=PklJiojXQHc&feature=youtu.be.

Board of Education Seeks Applicants to Fill Position on Ethics Panel

The Montgomery County Board of Education is seeking to fill one vacancy on its five-member Ethics Panel. The vacancy is for a three-year term beginning on July 1, 2019. Members serve without compensation.

Panel members may not be incumbent members of the Board of Education, school officials, employees, or persons employed by a business entity subject to the authority of the Board of Education, or spouses of such individuals. The Panel meets once a year to review financial disclosure forms and as needed to review complaints and requests for advisory opinions. Applicants must submit a letter of interest along with a resumé or other documentation to support the application by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, May 13, 2019, for the appointment to be made at a June 2019 Board of Education meeting.

More information is available at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/press/index.aspx?pagetype=showrelease&id=8300&type=current&startYear=&pageNumber=&mode.

El Consejo de Educación Busca Solicitantes para Ocupar un Puesto en el Panel de Ética

El Consejo de Educación del Condado de Montgomery busca llenar una vacante en su Panel de Ética de cinco integrantes. La vacante tiene un mandato de tres años, comenzando el 1ro. de julio, 2019. Los miembros no reciben compensación monetaria.

Los miembros del panel no pueden ser miembros titulares del Consejo de Educación, funcionarios escolares, empleados o personas empleadas por una entidad empresarial sujeta a la autoridad del Consejo de Educación o los esposos/as de dichos individuos. El panel se reúne una vez al año para revisar los formularios de declaración financiera y, según sea necesario, para revisar quejas y pedidos de opiniones consultivas. Los solicitantes deben presentar una carta de interés junto con un currículum vitae u otra documentación de apoyo a la solicitud, antes de las 5:00 p.m., del lunes, 13 de mayo, 2019, para que se programe una cita durante la reunión de junio 2019 del Consejo de Educación.

Hay más información disponible en: www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/press/index.aspx?pagetype=showrelease&id=8300&type=current&startYear=&pageNumber=&mode.

Join Us for Discussions on Safety and Security

MCPS and the Montgomery County Council of Parent-Teacher Associations (MCCPTA) are hosting a series of community conversations on safety and security.

The meetings will feature Ed Clarke, chief safety officer for MCPS, and Dr. Christina Conolly, director of MCPS psychological services. They will discuss school safety issues, student mental health concerns, and lockdown with options protocols.

The community meetings will be held:

Wednesday, March 13, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Paint Branch High School
14121 Old Columbia Pike, Burtonsville, MD 20866

Thursday, March 21, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Northwood High School - Cafeteria
919 University Blvd., West Silver Spring, MD 20901

Tuesday, March 26, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Clarksburg High School Cafeteria
22500 Wims Road, Clarksburg, MD 20871

RSVP here: www.mcpsliveevent.org/ and visit www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/security/resources/ for more information on MCPS safety and security.

Provide Feedback on Draft MCPS Strategic Plan

The Draft MCPS Strategic Plan for FY 2019–2022 is now available and MCPS is seeking your feedback. This Strategic Plan represents the district’s continued commitment to the five core values that define what it means to be an exceptional school system: Learning, Relationships, Respect, Excellence and Equity. MCPS is committed to educating students so that academic success is not predictable by race, ethnicity, gender, socioeconomic status, language proficiency or disability. The plan is centered on six outcomes for MCPS that include:

- Students Ready to Learn;
- Reducing and Eliminating Disparities in Student Learning;
- Students Prepared for College and Career;
- A Safe and Healthy Learning Environment;
- Efficient Operations; and
- Highly Effective Employees.

Aligned to each of the six outcomes are program indicators that are monitored using data to determine the achievement of goals as.

The draft plan can be found at:

www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/campaigns/Strategic-Planning-FY19-22/ and includes a feedback form we encourage you to fill out so that you may share your thoughts about the plan.

[New Date and Location for Summer Opportunities Fair \(English and Spanish\)](#)

Parents can explore a multitude of summer opportunities for school-age children at a fair on March 14. Local and regional providers will be available to talk about summer camps, programs and volunteer activities. Parents can meet program staff, pick up applications, and get information on financial assistance. The fair will be held from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Richard Montgomery High School, 250 Richard Montgomery Drive in Rockville. Register for the fair online at <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/parentacademy/> or call 240-314-4825.

Nueva fecha y ubicación para la Feria de Oportunidades de Verano

Los padres pueden explorar una multitud de oportunidades de verano para niños en edad escolar en una feria el 14 de marzo. Los proveedores locales y regionales estarán disponibles para hablar sobre campamentos de verano, programas y actividades de voluntariado. Los padres pueden reunirse con el personal del programa, recoger solicitudes y obtener información sobre asistencia financiera. La feria se llevará a cabo de 7 a 8:30 p.m. en Richard Montgomery High School, 250 Richard Montgomery Drive en Rockville. Regístrese para la feria en línea en www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/parentacademy/ o llame al 240-314-4825.

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.**

Inscríbese 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](#)

