



March 3, 2019
North Bethesda Middle School
News and Notes



NORTH BETHESDA MIDDLE SCHOOL UPCOMING EVENTS

3/4	Staff Meeting 3–4 p.m.
3/5 and 3/6	Soccer Tryouts for interested 7 th and 8 th grade students
3/8	SGA Social/Dance 3:15 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
3/8	PTSA March Madness Event – Walter Johnson High School 6–8:45 p.m.
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

Dear North Bethesda Family:

First and foremost, I want to underscore our commitment to safety and security. Whenever necessary, we collaborate with MCPS security and the Montgomery County Police Department to address issues of concern. When students post threats or comments that can be perceived as bullying to someone because of race, gender, sexual identity or sexual preference, students will receive consequences in line with the MCPS Code of Conduct up to and including suspension because of the disruption to our school environment. If, at any time, parents have concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me to discuss them. I welcome multiple perspectives and feedback on our practices. As promised, I am sharing the resources Vince DeVivo shared at the last Coffee with the Counselors [here](#).

On a positive note, for me, this week was a week of appreciation. Everywhere I looked I saw evidence of the amazing teachers, parents, and students at NBMS. My week began last Friday as Ms. Steimer sponsored a group of intrepid super students at their first Model UN competition. Ms. Steimer's commitment and organization was amazing and the students were so engaged in the critical challenges posed to them in committee that they continued to talk about them in the evening and on the bus ride home. They truly are going to SAVE THE WORLD!!!



The students enjoyed an engaging and inspiring speaker on Friday thanks to the PTSA for funding this opportunity for our students and staff. The students (and probably staff) needed a message of positivity. I circulated through the grade level lunches asking students what they thought and they were overwhelmingly positive. I asked if I should bring Claysmile back in 3 years and they all said yes! Some of the 8th graders found the dancing “cheesy” and some of the 6th graders said the situations he described were not relevant yet... but most had a great time and it ended our week on a positive note! Unfortunately, when given the chance to speak in the microphone, two 8th graders made remarks that were not positive and those students are being addressed. Overall, our students were well-behaved and appreciative of our guest. I told the students to thank their parents because it was because of the PTSA’s generous donation that we were able to host this speaker.

Here are some of the quotes he shared with students through the telling of stories. Students also had the opportunity to dance and share out which quotes resonated with them.

- *Be so full of enthusiasm, you have no room for negativity.*
- *Your attitude is greater than your circumstances.*
- *Beauty is as beauty does.*
- *We rise by lifting others!*
- *Bring joy with you everywhere you go. Don't expect it to already be there. Be prepared to override negativity. Be on guard against drama that tries to catch you off guard. Don't let people pull you into their storm. Instead, pull them into your peace.*
- *Real success is to have the courage to try!*
- *Where focus goes, energy flows. Always focus on what is positive!*

The staff appreciated a delicious PTSA lunch as a treat as well. It was a delicious catered lunch from Pinstripes! The homemade potato chips compromised my fitness goals for sure. They were irresistible!



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!)*

NBMS PTSA March Madness Tournament

What is it? A basketball tournament for NBMS Students! This is a great family and community event, it gives parents and staff the opportunity to mingle with other parents, to get to know your kid's new friends and your student's families while the kids play basketball and/or cheer for their friends!

Who will play? Teams of 5 NBMS students from the same grade (boys/girls). 5-minute elimination games. Winning teams will continue to the next round. We will have a winner team per grade/category.

When is the tournament? Friday, March 8th, 6-8:45 pm

Where: WJHS Gym – It is a Family Event. Not a drop off event

How much? It's free! There will not be a fee for student teams or volunteers so please participate in the event.

How can I help? We need the support of parents/grandparents/teachers/staff to help us make this event a success. **Tasks involved include distributing registration forms at lunch time, set up/run the game, monitor doors and hallways, keep scores, assist students, clean up after the event, etc.** More details to follow. A volunteer sign-up sheet will be distributed soon via SignUpGenius.

Attached are **required** waivers for volunteers and students to participate in the event. Please complete and drop off team registration form (also attached) at NBMS Main Office or email to bobbkim@gmail.com.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

–Bob Kim, 917-609-6353 or bobbkim@gmail.com

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-HIST3uEIp_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

Thomas Edison High School of Technology Open House

Thomas Edison High School of Technology will be hosting a "College & Career Readiness Open House" on Thursday, March 7 from 5pm to 8pm. See flyer linked [here](#).

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:

Thursday, February 21, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.
Carver Educational Services Center (CESC)
*(*in-person, plus live streamed)*
850 Hungerford Dr., Rockville, MD 20850

Tuesday, March 5, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.
Silver Creek Middle School
3701 Saul Road, Kensington, MD 20895

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.

Board of Education Adopts Fiscal Year 2020 Operating Budget (English and Spanish)

The Board of Education voted unanimously to adopt a \$2.66 billion Operating Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020. This includes an increase of \$65.56 million from FY 2019. The budget will allow MCPS to manage growth, maintain high levels of achievement, and eliminate opportunity gaps. A majority of the \$65.56 million spending increase will be used to maintain services for a growing student population; manage increasing operational costs; fund ongoing salaries and benefits; and invest in key areas of work to close opportunity gaps and improve academic excellence for all students. The budget also includes funding for key bodies of work that will strengthen the district's efforts to improve programs; increase access to strong academic and career opportunities; extend learning; provide language opportunities; focus on physical, social and psychological well-being; hire and retain an effective and diverse workforce; and strengthen operational excellence. To learn more about the Board's adopted budget, visit

www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/press/index.aspx?pagetype=showrelease&id=8287&type=&startYear=&pageNumber=&mode=.

El Consejo de Educación adopta el presupuesto operativo del año fiscal 2020

El Consejo de Educación votó por unanimidad para la adopción de un presupuesto operativo de \$2.66 mil millones para el año fiscal 2020. Esto incluye un aumento de \$65.56 millones con respecto al año fiscal 2019. El presupuesto permitirá a MCPS administrar el crecimiento, mantener altos niveles de logros y eliminar brechas de oportunidades. La mayoría del aumento del presupuesto de \$65.56 millones se utilizará para mantener los servicios para una creciente población estudiantil; administrar los crecientes costos operativos; financiar sueldos y beneficios; e invertir en áreas clave de trabajo para cerrar las brechas de oportunidades y mejorar la excelencia académica para todos los estudiantes. El presupuesto también incluye fondos para cuerpos de trabajo clave que fortalecerán los esfuerzos del distrito para mejorar programas; aumentar el acceso a oportunidades académicas y profesionales; extender el aprendizaje; proporcionar oportunidades de lenguaje; centrarse en el bienestar físico, social y psicológico; contratar y retener una fuerza laboral efectiva y diversa; y fortalecer la excelencia operativa. Para obtener más información sobre el presupuesto adoptado por el consejo, visite www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/press/index.aspx?pagetype=showrelease&id=8287&type=&startYear=&pageNumber=&mode=.

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.

Opioid Awareness Event

Parents, staff and members of the community are invited to join the mayor and Council of the City of Rockville for an important community event that aims to raise awareness of opioid abuse. The event will be held at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theater in Rockville on March 7 at 7 p.m. The guest speaker, Chris Herren, is a former professional basketball player and will share his story about his struggle with addiction. This event is free and open to the public.

Get a Little Drama in Your Life!

The curtain is rising on spring theater productions throughout the school system, at middle and high schools. Plan now to see these great performances, which run into May. From *The Lion King, Jr.* and *Legally Blonde, Jr.* to *West Side Story* and *Freaky Friday*, there's something for everyone.

Visit

www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/uploadedFiles/curriculum/finearts/theatre/homepage/Spring%202019%20HS%20Theatre%20Productions..pdf for the list of spring 2019 High School Theatre Productions.

Visit

www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/uploadedFiles/curriculum/finearts/theatre/homepage/Spring%202019%20MS%20Theatre%20Productions.pdf for the list of spring 2019 Middle School Theatre Productions.

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.

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

