



September 30, 2018
North Bethesda Middle School
News and Notes



Greetings North Bethesda Family,

This has been a busy week as we finalize our draft school improvement plans. We look forward to seeing parents and guardians at either the Open House on October 8 between 8:15 and 2:30 p.m. and/or at the first PTSA meeting of the year on October 9, 2018 from 7 to 9 p.m. During my principal's update, I will share information about our school improvement process. I had the opportunity to tour the Thomas Edison High School for Technology and Finance Park (see 7th grade news regarding opportunities to volunteer when our 7th graders participate in this educational fieldtrip).

A very important request: Please remember to pull up as far as you can in the car rider loop so we avoid having cars lining up on Bradmoor.

NORTH BETHESDA MIDDLE SCHOOL UPCOMING EVENTS

- Friday, 10/5 Early Release Day
- Monday 10/8 Open House 8:15 - 2:30
- Tuesday 10/9 PTSA Meeting 7-9 p.m. Media Center
- 10/8 - 10/12 NBMS Book Fair
- 10/12 SGA Dance 3-5 PM (more information to come)
- 11/6 No school for students or teachers
- 11/7 Early Release Day - End of Quarter 1

Staff Spotlight:

MaryEllen Wolfinger, 8th grade science teacher, has been selected as an NEA fellow. The NEA Foundation Global Learning Fellowship increases access to global training and experiences by providing global education professional development opportunities for K-12 public school educators. We are proud of Ms. Wolfinger and look forward to what she will share with us as a result of this learning opportunity.

This Week at North Bethesda Middle School:

Friday 10/5 Early dismissal

SGA and SGA Dance

The officers for the 2018-2019 school year are:

Edric Lei – President

Vice President– Zion DaPaa

Treasurer– Melanie Gomez

Secretary– London Flores

We will have the first SGA meeting on Wednesday, October 3 after school from 3–4pm. Any student who wishes to be an ambassador to the SGA is welcome. Our first event we are putting on for all students is the Fall Dance on Friday, October 12 from 3–5 in the gym. All students are welcome to attend! Tickets will be sold October 9–12 in the mornings in the lobby and at the door.

Extra–Curricular Activities

Enrichment Academies' session one classes will start this Tuesday, October 2nd. 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.

In addition to our wonderful [Enrichment Academies](#) sponsored by the PTSA, we have [NBMS sponsored extracurricular activities](#).

Intramurals

Sixth, seventh, eighth grade students should consider participating in intramurals. Our intramural director is Sean Tucker. This fall we are offering basketball and soccer.

Walter Johnson High School Tennis Team

Any 6th–8th grade boys or girls who are planning to try out for the Walter Johnson high school tennis teams in the future are invited to come to an offseason tennis practice on Tuesday, October 2nd from 3:15–5:15pm at the Walter Johnson tennis courts. The practice will be run by Coach Duque, so it will be an opportunity to meet the coach and current players as well as receive feedback on tennis skills and information about the teams. If there are any questions, please email Coach Duque at mitchell_b_duque@mcpsmd.org."

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.

Grade Level News

Here you will find links to grade level news posted under the Academics Tab on the website here. The grade level news is posted on Friday but can be found here on Sunday evening when I send the news and notes. You may wish to check the website on Friday as the teachers' share information that could be beneficial to parents and students over the weekend!

[6th Grade](#)

[7th Grade](#)

[8th Grade](#)

MYMCPS Parent Portal Resources

[MYMCPS Overview](#)

[MYMCPS PORTAL GUIDE](#)

[Portal Resources In Spanish](#)

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 www.mcpsssl.org.

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 if you have any questions.

The Invent the Future Challenge Summit showcases the inspiring work of middle schoolers across the region. At the Summit, student teams present their prototyped inventions to a panel of industry experts. At the Challenge Summit, a panel of experts will be reviewing inventions for: Originality, Team Collaboration, Design Process, Potential Impact, Presentation.

The 2019 Summit is set for Saturday, May 11 at Gaithersburg High School." Registration opens September 14th. Students may earn Student Service Learning (SSL) hours, awards and prizes!

[2018 CHALLENGE SUMMIT RECAP](#)

<https://kid-museum.org/programs/invent-the-future/>



[Invent the Future Challenge - KID Museum](#)

kid-museum.org

KID Museum presents the Invent the Future Challenge, where middle school students design an innovative solution to a community problem.

Important Reminder 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

Access to YouTube

In alignment with federal requirements, including the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and the Children's Online Privacy and Protection Act (COPPA), the district is implementing changes regarding the use of YouTube in schools and classrooms. Effective Monday, November 5, 2018, students in prekindergarten through Grade 8 will no longer be able to access YouTube directly. Access to Youtube for elementary and middle school staff will remain the same and they may embed pre-approved videos in their lessons.

Celebrating Diversity Month

Diversity is the district's area of focus for the month of October. The Department of Communications would like to highlight any events, programs, or special initiatives at schools across the district. Please contact Public Information and Web Services at 240-740-2837 or e-mail your story ideas to pio@mcpsmd.org.

MCPS This Week

MCPS This Week and *Esta Semana en MCPS* (in Spanish) are brief updates on what is happening throughout the district. The shows are cablecast on MCPS TV and may be viewed at the following URLs:

- English: www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLkZwAghwrSytXwBjGKmoa5czmpixjd585
- Spanish: www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLC2A7ADDEDF1F2A2E

MCPS Parent Academy (English and Spanish)

The MCPS Parent Academy has kicked off its fall season on September 24. Parents/guardians and members of the community are invited to participate in these free workshops that provide information, resources, tools, and tips to support your child's success in school. Don't miss this season of workshops, which will be offered on a range of topics, including college and career planning, study skills, cybersafety and social media, and positive communication.

Parent Academy workshops are free. Childcare and interpretation services are provided upon request. A full list of courses is available on the [Parent Academy website](#).

Academia para Padres de MCPS

La Academia para Padres de MCPS inició su temporada de otoño el 24 de septiembre. Los padres/guardianes y miembros de la comunidad están invitados a participar en estos talleres gratuitos que brindan información, recursos, herramientas y consejos para apoyar el éxito de sus hijos en la escuela. No se pierda esta temporada de talleres, que tratarán una variedad de temas, que incluyen planificación universitaria y profesional, destrezas de estudio, ciberseguridad y redes sociales y comunicación positiva.

Los talleres de la Academia para Padres son gratuitos. Se ofrecerán servicios de cuidado infantil y de interpretación de idiomas a pedido. Una lista completa de los talleres está a disposición en el sitio web de la [Academia para Padres](#).

Provide Input on Important Board of Education Policy (English and Spanish)

The Montgomery County Board of Education is seeking public comments on draft Board Policy KEA, *Political Campaigns and Political Materials* (KEA), and changing the policy name to *Civic Engagement, Political Campaigns, and Political Materials*. The revised and renamed policy reflects the Board's desire to allow students to receive excused absences for participation in civic engagement activities.

During the 2017–2018 school year, many MCPS students became involved in important issues confronting our country and even received national recognition for their engagement. As a result, students, families, and Board members expressed interest in supporting student participation in civic activities without impact on their attendance status. Currently, Policy KEA permits students in Grades 9–12 to participate in political campaign activity during school hours during the two-week period immediately prior to a primary or general election, at the request of the political candidate or organization with written parent/guardian consent, and written approval of the principal/designee. The public comment period for this policy will be limited to 30 days, until Friday, October 12, 2018. More information is provided [here](#).

Dé Su Opinión sobre Una Importante Política del Consejo

El Consejo de Educación del Condado de Montgomery está solicitando comentarios del público sobre el borrador de la Política KEA del Consejo, *Campañas Políticas y Materiales Políticos* (KEA), y sobre el cambio de nombre de la política a *Compromiso Cívico, Campañas Políticas y Materiales Políticos*. La política revisada y con el nuevo nombre refleja el deseo del Consejo de permitir que a los estudiantes se les otorguen ausencias justificadas por participar en actividades de compromiso cívico.

Durante el ciclo escolar 2017–2018, muchos estudiantes de MCPS se involucraron en asuntos importantes que afronta nuestro país e incluso recibieron reconocimiento nacional por su participación. Como resultado, los estudiantes, las familias y los miembros del Consejo expresaron interés en apoyar la participación de los estudiantes en actividades cívicas, sin que eso afecte su situación en cuanto a la asistencia escolar. Actualmente, la Política KEA permite que los estudiantes en los Grados 9–12 participen en actividades de campaña política durante el horario escolar, durante el período de dos semanas inmediatamente anterior a una elección primaria o general, a solicitud del candidato/a u organización política, con el consentimiento por escrito del padre/madre/guardián y la aprobación por

escrito del director/a de la escuela o persona designada. El período para comentarios del público para esta política se limitará a 30 días, hasta el viernes, 12 de octubre, 2018. [Aquí](#) se provee más información.

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 School Application Program Options for 2019-2020." Each program will have a brief description, program website address, and the application address for those ready to apply. All programs have different eligibility requirements. Your child's address, grade level, and current school may impact your student's eligibility, so make sure your school has your current address.

The application deadline is Friday, November 2. If you need help accessing the parent portal, contact your student's current school. More information is provided [here](#).

Solicitud para los Programas de Escuela Secundaria Disponible en el Portal para los Padres el 1 ro. de octubre

MCPS está ofreciendo una forma conveniente para que los padres/guardianes consideren las opciones de escuela secundaria de un/a estudiante para el siguiente ciclo escolar.

Además de los cursos y programas temáticos, enriquecidos y acelerados disponibles en las escuelas secundarias locales de los estudiantes, los estudiantes en los Grados 8-11 podrían ser elegibles para solicitar admisión a los programas de escuela secundaria.

A partir del lunes, 1 ro. de octubre, los padres/guardianes de los estudiantes podrán acceder y revisar la solicitud de ingreso a los programas de escuela secundaria en el [portal myMCPS para los padres](#). Ellos podrán iniciar una sesión en el portal, ir a la biblioteca de documentos (en la barra lateral izquierda) y revisar el informe que dice: "My Student's High School Application Program Options for 2019-2020" (Opciones de Solicitud para el Programa de Escuela Secundaria de Mi Estudiante para 2019-2020). Cada programa tendrá una breve descripción, la dirección del sitio web del programa y la dirección de la solicitud, para quienes estén listos para solicitar. Todos los programas tienen diferentes requisitos de elegibilidad. El domicilio, nivel de grado y escuela actual de su hijo/a podrían afectar su elegibilidad, así que asegúrese de que su escuela tenga su domicilio actual.

La fecha límite para solicitar es el viernes, 2 de noviembre. Si necesita ayuda para acceder al portal para los padres, comuníquese con la escuela actual de su hijo/a. [Aquí](#) se provee más información.

Grand Opening Celebration for Thomas Edison High School of Technology (English and Spanish)

Parents/guardians and members of the community are invited to the grand opening ceremony and open house for the new Thomas Edison High School of Technology. The event, set for October 10 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., will provide an opportunity to tour the school, meet students and staff, and learn about the school's programs that allow for hands-on learning that prepares students for college and career. RSVP online at

docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScLIHdqks_d1yTtFwyeZ8XrX9oRycN5cmHt_qnDieiQaXZm5w/viewform.

Celebración de la Gran Inauguración de Thomas Edison High School of Technology

Los padres/guardines y los miembros de la comunidad están invitados a la ceremonia de la gran inauguración y reunión de puertas abiertas de la nueva Thomas Edison High School of Technology. El evento, programado para el 10 de octubre, de 6:30 a 8:30 p.m., ofrecerá una oportunidad para hacer un recorrido de la escuela, conocer a los estudiantes y al personal e informarse acerca de los programas de la escuela que permiten aprendizaje práctico que prepara a los estudiantes para la universidad y para carreras. Responda a la invitación en línea en

docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScLIHdqks_d1yTtFwyeZ8XrX9oRycN5cmHt_qnDieiQaXZm5w/viewform.

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*

