

Welcome to our official first Bulldog Blast of the school year. For those who aren't familiar, the Bulldog Blast is a weekly overview of key dates, as well as the exciting news and events that occur within our Bulldog Community and throughout our school system. So that our entire Bulldog Family remains informed and supportive of our school, this Blast will be posted weekly.

### **THE WEEKLY BULLDOG BLAST 2019-2020**

Below are important reminders to help you stay involved and engaged with your student's upcoming events at Redland Middle School.

The main office is open from 7:45am – 3:45pm (4:30pm on after school activity days). As a reminder, we require the scanning of all IDs when a parent visits Redland MS. All visitors who are attending meetings or volunteering are required to check in at the main office with an ID. Thank you for your patience and cooperation.

Follow us on Twitter – <https://twitter.com/RedlandPrin>

#### **Our weekly email has five sections:**

RMS Information and Calendar  
RMS Reminders  
Counseling Corner Updates  
PTA News and Updates  
MCPS Community News and Information

#### **Principal Niper Message:**

On behalf of the staff at Redland Middle School, I would like to welcome you to the 2019–2020 school year. We are dedicated to ensuring success for all students through *excellence* in teaching and learning. I want to thank our returning students and their families for all of the great work and support during the 2018–2019 school year and I would like to welcome our new students and their families to our Bulldog Community. We look forward to partnering with you this year. We are here to serve you and to ensure the success of *all* of our Bulldog Family members.

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#### **1. REDLAND INFORMATION and CALENDAR**

After School Activity and Bus Information: - **The Activity Bus will begin on September 10, 2019**

After-school activities are scheduled on most Tuesdays, Wednesday and Thursdays from 3:10 - 4:25 p.m.  
All students who are car riders need to be picked up **NO LATER** than 4:30pm.

Tryouts: Tryouts for softball and cross country start afterschool on September 10, 2019.  
Contact [lori\\_l\\_enicks-kniss@mcpsmd.org](mailto:lori_l_enicks-kniss@mcpsmd.org) with questions.

#### **Monday, Sept 2**

School Closed - Holiday

#### **Tuesday, Sept 3**

First Day of School  
Students will report to Homeroom / Breakfast will be available to all students

Attention Car Riders: We have **attached a map** to indicate the drop off area for students. We ask for students to be ready to exit their car when you pull up to ensure traffic moves quickly through the parking lot.

**Parents...we need your help!** We would like to welcome our students to a new year with cheers and excitement! We are asking for parents to come to school on the FIRST DAY at 7:20am (you will want to be here before buses arrive) to cheer our students on as they enter the school. We encourage you to bring balloons and signs wishing **ALL** our students good luck and a great school year. We will need enough parents to line our bus driveway and entrance way.

#### **Wednesday, Sept 4**

#### **Thursday, Sept 5**

Back to School Night – 6:00pm  
School Fair, 7:00pm in the Cafeteria. Following the presentation in the cafeteria, parents will report to homerooms to get their student's schedule. We will have a short bell schedule for the night so you will have an opportunity to meet our staff. We look forward to meeting you and your students!

Friday, Sept 6

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**September/October Events**

**PLEASE NOTE - NO SCHOOL:**

September 30, 2019

**Family Health Night Meeting (Parents of 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade students only)** - September 18, 2019 in the Media Center parents will be able to view course material from Family Life and Disease Prevention classes. Redland Physical Education and Health teachers will be available to answer parent questions.

**Magruder Cluster Night** - September 20, 2019 - this year's "Cluster Night," Magruder takes on Damascus! We are anticipating activities starting at 6:00pm and kick-off at 7:00pm!!

**Saturday School** is starting for the new school year! Go to [www.SaturdaySchool.org](http://www.SaturdaySchool.org)

**Magruder HS is one of the Saturday School sites and offers a great opportunity to our students to extend their learning.**

SATURDAY SCHOOL	
<b>Description</b>	Saturday School provides mentoring and tutoring in core academic subjects on Saturday mornings from September through May. The elementary and middle school program's focus is to promote success in math and reading language arts (1 hour tutoring in each). The content, which is aligned to the Common Core State Standards, is sequenced to provide additional support for students on grade level concepts and above grade level mathematics. The high school program is individualized to meet each student's specific needs and is designed to promote success in core high school subjects. Advanced level academic support is offered at selected sites. Breakfast snack is provided to all Saturday School participants at the 12 sites.
<b>Serving Grade Levels</b>	Kindergarten through 12
<b>How to Enroll</b>	Participation is voluntary. Parents can register students at all Saturday School centers and online, anytime through the year.
<b>Location(s)</b>	12 Saturday School sites. Blair, Clarksburg, Einstein, Gaithersburg, Kennedy, Magruder, Northwest, Paint Branch, Rockville, Springbrook, Watkins Mill and Wheaton High Schools.
<b>Fee</b>	\$85 for the entire year (\$40 for FARMS students)

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**2. Reminders:**

**Immunization Requirements for the 2019–2020 School Year**

All incoming seventh grade students, as well as Grade 8, 9, and 10 students who are new to the state, must receive vaccinations against Tetanus-diphtheria-acellular pertussis (Tdap) and Meningococcal meningitis (MCV4) prior to the start of the 2019–2020 school year. Students not in compliance with Maryland vaccination requirements will be excluded from attending school until they provide documentation of the required Tdap and MCV4 immunizations.

Parents/guardians should contact their doctor to make sure their child is properly immunized and submit a copy of the documentation to the school health nurse as soon as possible. To ensure all students have a chance to receive the necessary immunizations, the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services will hold free clinics for children in Grades 7, 8, 9, and 10 in September. For more information about the clinics, contact 240-777-3160. A parent/guardian or designated adult must be present with a parent/guardian-signed consent form at the time of vaccination. For more information about the state requirement (including exemptions)

visit [phpa.health.maryland.gov/OIDEOR/IMMUN/Pages/back-to-school-immunization-requirements.aspx](http://phpa.health.maryland.gov/OIDEOR/IMMUN/Pages/back-to-school-immunization-requirements.aspx) or

contact [DHHM.IZInfo@maryland.gov](mailto:DHHM.IZInfo@maryland.gov).

Visit [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/immunizations/](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/immunizations/) to view the schedule for the immunization clinics.

Please contact the Redland Health Room with any questions.

**Attention Parents:**

Did you know our Bulldog Store is 95% funded through donations? You can help fund our store. Please look around your

house for new, gently used or used items that you would be willing to donate and bring them to the main office. Please label the bag or box with Bulldog Store. We appreciate your donations and assistance supporting our students at Redland!

Some ideas for donations:

School supplies, toys, knick-knacks, books, games, etc. If you have any questions, please email Mrs. Harrison at [Veronica.L.Harrison@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Veronica.L.Harrison@mcpsmd.org)

**Please consider volunteering in our Bulldog Store:**

Do you like interacting with middle school students? Are you good at organizing and sorting donations? You might be just the volunteer we are looking for. Volunteers are needed to help maintain and run the Bull Dog Store. Parents of all grade levels are welcomed. We have a wonderful parent (Sarah Thornhill) to help show you the ropes and support you. Ideally the store is open once a month during lunches and having other volunteers during lunches will be helpful. This job works well as a group effort. Please consider contacting Sarah or the school for more information.

Sarah Thornhill. 843.222.0742 [sarahvirginiathornhill@gmail.com](mailto:sarahvirginiathornhill@gmail.com)

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**3. Counseling Corner Updates:**

Welcome Bulldog families! We are so excited to see your children on Tuesday and we hope that your children are excited to be back at school. This year will bring lots of growth for all our kids—emotional and physical! The counseling staff at Redland is here to help you and your child navigate the sometimes-rough waters of early-adolescence. Mr. Jay Megary is the incoming 6<sup>th</sup> grade counselor, I am the 7<sup>th</sup> grade counselor and Department Chair, and Mrs. Melissa Finch is the 8<sup>th</sup> grade counselor. We have spent this summer planning ways to meet the ever-changing needs of our students. This year we will work to meet with every student on our caseload, implement mindfulness strategies throughout the building, explore careers through Naviance lessons, and meet mental health needs through our Sign of Suicide lesson, Personal Body Safety Lessons, and Mental Health Awareness Month. Please look to this spot in each Bulldog Blast for tips for parents, book recommendations, upcoming events, and hot topics. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out! Our office number is (240) 740-0910.

You can also follow us on Twitter at **@RedlandCounsel1** and on Instagram at **@RMScounseling**. Looking forward to a great week ahead!!

–Jennifer Ehlers, 7<sup>th</sup> grade Counselor and RMS Counseling Department Chair

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**4. PTA Notes:**

Redland MS has an outstanding tradition of parent involvement in the school community, and we encourage all parents to get involved throughout the year. Stay connected with the PTA and sign up to receive updates and events and all things PTA!

Membership:

Your annual membership in the Redland Middle School PTA matters. We thank all of our parents, guardians, teachers and staff who have joined us so far. We truly appreciate your support! Our goal is 100% participation this year so if you haven't already joined or renewed your membership please do so today!

Stay in the know with the PTA:

- 1) Look for the PTA link at the top of the RMS website
- 2) Find and like us on Facebook! - @RedlandPTA

PTA Volunteers Needed:

We can't do this without YOU! The PTA is looking for volunteers. John Morgan – PTA President – [jpmorganesq@yahoo.com](mailto:jpmorganesq@yahoo.com)

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**5. MCPS Communication and Information:**

**Good News! All Montgomery County youth ride free every day all day on all Ride On bus routes and select Metrobus routes within the County. This became effective July 1, 2019.**

All Montgomery County youth ages 18 and under ride FREE all the time on Ride On buses.

\* Children under 5 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

\* All children ride at the discretion of their parents or guardians.

Go to [YouthCruiser.com](http://YouthCruiser.com) to learn how to ride free on Ride On buses. This program is for Montgomery County residents ages 5 to 18 (older if still in high school) To participate in the program, get a Youth Cruiser SmarTrip® Card at any County library and select schools for FREE. The list of participating schools is also at [YouthCruiser.com](http://YouthCruiser.com). Please bring proof of age and residency. A valid school ID is also acceptable through September 30, 2019. Effective October 1, 2019, all student riders must use the Youth Cruiser SmarTrip® Card for free rides. Good News! Some Metrobus routes also participate in this program. The participating routes are: C2, C4, C8, D5, F4, J1, J2, J4, K6, K9, L8, Q1, Q2, Q4, Q5, Q6, T2, Y2, Y7, Y8, Z2, Z6, Z7, Z8, and Z11 .

If your school would like to join the list of participating schools, please contact [Paula.VanHagen@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:Paula.VanHagen@montgomerycountymd.gov)