



# NEWS FROM "THE MILL"

October 1-31, 2019

---

---

**Watkins Mill High School**

10301 Apple Ridge Road  
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20879  
(301) 284-4400 FAX (301) 840-3980

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/watkinsmillhs/>

## **IN THIS NEWSLETTER:**

- *Message from Ms. Goddard*
- *College and Career Center Update*
- *PSAT*
- *Athletic News*
- *Booster Club*
- *Important Dates*

### **MESSAGE FROM MS. GODDARD, PRINCIPAL**

The first marking period is already halfway over! As we enter October, please be sure to remind students how important it is to finish the marking period strong. One of our primary goals this year is to improve student eligibility and cumulative grade point average (GPA), which compels all of us to work with our students to maintain strong performance this first marking period. We are insisting that students take advantage of multiple opportunities for extra help offered by teachers before school, after school, and at STEP. Please encourage your child to seek that support, as the staff and I are here to ensure our students' success in those ways.

One such support is an Academic Support program that will be available in the **Cafeteria** 2:35-5:00 Monday-Thursday through the **RecZone** program. This program will provide structured homework help, tutoring, or computer use. Students can get a free snack in the cafeteria and then work in the Media Center, as their time allows. Please make sure your students take advantage!

**Interim reports:** Please note that interim reports are being published on or around October 4. The interim will be available in the Parent Portal.

Thank you to all parents who attended **Back-to-School Night, and the College Information Night** on Thursday, September 5. We had a very successful evening, and parents had various opportunities to learn about the college application process, meet teachers, and receive valuable information about parent involvement, policies & procedures, and school operations. We were thrilled to be able to share the great things that are happening at Watkins Mill HS with our parents, and thank you to the parent volunteers in our PTSA and Booster Club for supporting our efforts.

**Monday, October 14 (Columbus Day)** is "**Open House**" in all MCPS schools. We welcome you to visit our school at any time during the day. You may visit your student's classes, the counseling office, career center,

cafeteria, or any other facet of your child's school life by appointment. Please be sure to bring your driver's license to sign-in with our new visitor management system. The main office will give you a visitor badge to wear when walking through the building. Staff will be available to assist you in getting around the school or finding your child's schedule.

**Wednesday, October 16, 2019 is PSAT/College Prep Day!** It is very important that all students are present and prepare for an important day of college prep testing, as we will be administering important sessions of these pre-college entrance exams. Please stay tuned for reminders and incentives as we approach this important date, and see the schedule of activities for each grade level below. Please see the letter on our school website for more information <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/watkinsmillhs/>.

***All Students who are involved in testing MUST bring two No. 2 pencils and a scientific or graphing calculator!!!!***

- 9<sup>th</sup> Grade: Princeton Review PSAT (free, no registration required)
- 10<sup>th</sup> Grade: Official College Board PSAT (free, all students Grade 10 students, who were first time Grade 9 students in 2019 – 2020 school year are expected to test)
- 11<sup>th</sup> Grade: Official PSAT/NMSQT (\$17 registration fee gives you consideration for National Merit Scholarships. Fee waivers are available.) Students who do not register will take the Accuplacer (free).
- 12<sup>th</sup> Grade: Accuplacer for students without a college admission test score, or who did test but did not receive a 21 on the ACT or a 500 on the SAT in math and reading.

The week of the PSAT will culminate with our annual **No Homework Weekend (October 18, 19, and 20)**. No homework will be assigned for the weekend, allowing students an opportunity to work on college applications and essays (seniors); conduct college visits and searches (juniors); complete community service (sophomores/freshmen). Please be sure that your students take advantage of this once per year opportunity!

#### **ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

Please note that the attendance policy remains in place for all high school students in Montgomery County Public Schools. It is imperative that students attend every class every day, in order to receive the best possible education and opportunities for success. [link](#)

**Students who accumulate more than 5 unexcused absences in a marking period risk losing credit for that semester course, regardless of their current grade.** Teachers, guidance counselors, and administrators will work together to keep parents and students informed, and in extreme cases will collaborate to develop and implement attendance contracts. However, students with serious attendance issues will lose credit for the entire semester of that course.

#### **Friendly Reminder:**

We have a significant number of parents picking up their student after 2:00 p.m. This is a friendly reminder that parents are not allowed to sign out students after 2:00 p.m. without prior authorization. It creates a safety issue with buses at dismissal, and it interrupts class instruction. If you need to pick up your student early, please send in a note, so the student is prepared to leave class at the requested time.

**Free and Reduced Meal Application (FARMS):** Households **must apply every year** to determine if they are eligible for the FARMS program. Federal income guidelines change each year, and it is likely that most household situations change each year.

The paper version of the 2019–2020 Household Application for Free and Reduced-Price Meals has been redesigned to allow for electronic scanning. Due to this change, the paper form will no longer be available to print from this site as only ORIGINAL applications can be processed. Application forms are available at all MCPS Schools

The electronic version can be found at this link <https://www.myschoolapps.com/> . Remember to include EVERY student on the application.

**Family Food Market:** Watkins Mill High School will be hosting the second Family Food Market on October 12. Please come to school at 10:00 am and shop for food items at NO COST! All you need is your own grocery bags to carry the food. Please note, if the food truck arrives early, we will open the doors early. Great SSL opportunity too.

We will be having an Early Release Day for K-12 tomorrow, October 4 for grade submissions and No School Day for students and teachers on October 9 in observance of Yom Kippur. The **end of the first marking period** is on **November 8** which is an Early Release Day for K-12. Teachers will be inputting first marking period grades for distribution on November 20. Please make sure our students **finish strong!**

Thank you for your support of your students and our school community. If we can ever be of assistance, please do not hesitate to email or call. A full staff directory can be found here [STAFF HOME](#).

Sincerely,

Carol Goddard, Principal

### **COLLEGE AND CAREER CENTER NEWS**

**Looking for Money for College?** WMHS will hold its annual **Financial Aid Night Workshop on October 12 at 7 pm** as part of our School wide College Night. A financial aid representative from Montgomery College will talk about the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, the FAFSA. We will have both an English and Spanish presenter.

Check Naviance/Family Connection Daily for information on College Rep Visits. This is updated frequently!

All college financial aid starts with the FAFSA. Learn about grants, parent loans, student loans, work study, institutional grants, legislative scholarships, special circumstances and more. Info presented in both English and Spanish.

The FAFSA can be submitted this fall beginning on October 1 and is free if you go to [fafsa.gov](https://fafsa.gov). It only takes 30 minutes and is easy to submit.

**Seniors need to check their email** that they used for their college applications regularly as this will be the primary means for colleges to contact them about their application status. Students should respond promptly and use correct English and not slang. This will also be how the Federal Government and the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) will contact them about financial aid.

## **PTSA NEWS AND UPCOMING MEETINGS**

### **Watkins Mill High School**



10301 Apple Ridge Road  
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20879  
301-840-3959 (P) / 301-840-3980(F)

[www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/watkinsmillhs](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/watkinsmillhs)

2019-2020 PTSA Meeting Schedule

Meeting times: 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Location: Media Center

Tuesday, Oct 15<sup>th</sup>

Tuesday, Nov 19<sup>th</sup>

Tuesday, Jan 21<sup>st</sup>

Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>

Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup>

Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup>

### **MISSED SENIOR COLLEGE NIGHT?**

The PowerPoint that was shown that evening can be found on the WMHS College/Career Center webpage. Students applying to 4 year colleges/universities or to the Montgomery Scholars or Macklin Business Scholars Program need to request an official transcript. Official transcript requests need to be made 15 school days before a college's deadline to allow the school counselor adequate time to write a letter of recommendation. These requests can be made to the Registrar, Mrs. Brown, in the Counseling Office before school, during STEP or after school.

For more information from the College/Career Center including Scholarship listings, please check out the College/Career Center webpage.

### **COLLEGE AND CAREER WEEK AT THE MILL:**

October 14th - 18th will be College & Career Week at The Mill! There will be several activities and events to promote colleges and careers. To wrap up the week, we will have a "No Homework" Weekend on October 18, 19, and 20.

### **HOMECOMING DANCE:**

The dance is Saturday, October 5, 7pm-10pm in the Main Gym. Tickets will remain on sale through STEP on October 3. Tickets will not be sold after that time. Tickets are \$20. Students will not be sold a ticket if they have a financial obligation. Guest forms are available in the main office. They must be signed by the WMHS administration team before purchasing a ticket. Concessions will be sold at the event.

Students and guests must present the ticket assigned to them as well as photo ID. Students and guests will not receive entry past 9pm to the dance. There is no re-entry to the event. Backpacks, coats and large bags/purses will be required to remain at the coat check-in. All MCPS rules, policies, and consequences apply to the dance.

Please see Mrs. Squier in B102 with any questions

### **FAMILY FOOD MARKET:**

Family Food Market- Saturday Oct. 12- 8:00am. Please see Ms. Karla Monge-Sandoval in room B221 during STEP, if you would like to volunteer for SSL hours.

How it works:

- ↳ Once a month during the school year free food is delivered to your school
- ↳ YOU select the items you want
- ↳ Choose from an assortment of fresh fruits and vegetables, as well as canned and non-perishable items
- ↳ Each family receives 20 to 30 pounds of food
- ↳ Open to all families who have students at the school

### **YEARBOOKS**

Get your yearbook before they are gone! Yearbooks are just \$75.00 until November 29th! Prices will go up after that! Order online at [jostensyearbooks.com](http://jostensyearbooks.com) to pay by credit card, check, Bill Me Later, or PayPal. You can also take advantage of the monthly installment plan and make three online payments. Want to use a cash or check? See Ms. Stahly in room A209 during STEP or after school.

PARENTS: DON'T FORGET TO CREATE YOUR YEARBOOK SENIOR ADS and FRIENDSHIP ADS! Show your seniors how much you care by creating a personalized senior recognition or friendship ad! Create and pay for your and online at [jostensadservice.com](http://jostensadservice.com). Place your order soon. Senior ad prices increase on November 29<sup>th</sup>.

### **CHANGED- UNDERCLASS PICTURE-MAKE UP DAY**

Due to the amount of activities in the building. The underclass picture date has been changed. The new date will be November 12, during Math class. Any staff member still needing an ID can stop by that day at their convenience.

### **BOOSTER CLUB:**

We would like to thank everyone who have come out to support the initiative of the WMHS Booster Club. Membership is booming and we would like to keep the momentum going.

Congrats to the Alumni Committee for garnering the alumni support.

Shout Out to the Concessions team and the volunteers that have come out to support our students.

Shout Out to Spirit Wear and the latest swag you are bringing.

There is still time to sign up to volunteer through the Booster Club as the Fall Season is still underway and the Winter Season is fast approaching. Please click the link and check back frequently as there are always updates and the winter calendar will be published soon.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805084BAEAE2EA5FE3-concession>

***Please join us for our Next meeting. The Booster Club meeting dates will be posted soon!***

### **SECURITY**

At Watkins Mill High School, we take safety and security seriously. This is a reminder that anyone entering the building must have identification; a driver's license or state ID. We have a check-in system, which scans your ID to allow access for visitors. Visitors without the proper identification will not be allowed to enter.

**BULLYING:** We are also providing reminders about the swift and severe action that will be taken if students are involved in bullying, a fight, any physical aggression, theft, drugs or drug paraphernalia, or any other serious

incidents. We are also encouraging students to talk to a trusted adult if there is ever a concern at school, at home, in the neighborhood, or online.

The following link to MCPS Web page is provided for your ease of access to the resource.

- MCPS Form 230-35, *Bullying, Harassment, or Intimidation Reporting Form*, is available on the MCPS website at <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/forms/pdf/230-35.pdf>

### **FALL PRODUCTION:**

Rehearsals are underway for the fall performances of *Clue*, based on the board game and 1983 movie. The first performance open on Saturday, Nov. 2 @ 7pm. Other performances of this comedic murder mystery are as follows:

Thursday, Nov. 7 @ 7pm

Friday, Nov. 8 @ 7pm

Saturday, Nov. 9 @ 7pm

Tickets will be \$8 for adults, \$5 for students, and senior citizens. This play is rated PG-13, so please know that there are some adult situations which might make the show inappropriate for young children.

As always, we will be donating some of the proceeds from this show to a local charity (TBA).

Stay tuned for updates!

### **MVA MARYLAND LEARNERS PERMIT**

Maryland Learners Permit testing process is offered by the MVA at Watkins Mill High School. The test will be conducted on October 14, 2019 and will begin promptly at 3:00 pm. Click [here](#) for more information and permission slip.

### **HOMEWORK HOTLINE LIVE! CANCELLED**

After 33 years of providing homework help for MCPS students, HHL or Homework Hotline Live will no longer be in service. The service was cancelled for the 2019-2020 school year due in part to the reduction in homework requests by students, curriculum changes and funding. For more information call 301-279-3234 or via the website: [www.AskHHL.org](http://www.AskHHL.org)

### **MCPS EMERGENCY INFORMATION**

#### **How to Receive Emergency Information from MCPS**

MCPS parents can receive emergency information from the school system in a variety of ways including *MCPS QuickNotes*, Alert MCPS, Twitter, the MCPS website, MCPS TV, and a recorded telephone information line. Please visit [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/emergency](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/emergency) for more information on how to keep in touch with Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) and stay informed in times of emergencies.

### **IMPORTANT LINKS**

WMHS Website Home:

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/watkinsmillhs/> Athletics:

<https://watkinsmillathletics.com/>

Calendar: [Calendar](#)

Staff Directory:

<https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/watkinsmillhs/staff/directory.aspx>

PTSA Information: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/watkinsmillhs/ptsa/>

Booster Club: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/watkinsmillhs/boosters/boostersClub.aspx>

Lunch Pre-Payments: <https://www.mylunchmoney.com/>

Student Service Learning:

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/ssl/> Bullying:

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/forms/230-35.shtm>

Free SAT/ACT Prep: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/hsi/testprep.shtm>

Free & Reduced Lunches: <https://www.myschoolapps.com/Application>

*News From "The Mill"* will be published every month on the news pages of the school website; emailed to all active Connected accounts; and is available by hard copy in the main office.