



# NEWS FROM "THE MILL"

October 1-31, 2018

**Watkins Mill High School**

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(301) 284-4400 FAX (301) 840-3980

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

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### **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 **Media Center from 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 5. 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 Monday, September 17. 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 8 (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.

## The MYP Personal Project

All 10<sup>th</sup>-grade WMHS students are being encouraged to start working on an exciting project to cap off their time in the Middle Years Programmed: the Personal Project! This Project is a student-driven product that they create to show off their individual interests, anything from a cookbook, to an invention, to a YouTube channel. The final product will be due by the first week of January. Each student that completes it will receive a ½ Elective credit, 8 SSL hours, and receive a special cord for their graduation regalia. Please help and encourage your students to complete the project along the way!

Please refer all questions to the WMHS IB offices:

MYP Coordinator, Sam Lee  
[Samuel\\_Lee@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Samuel_Lee@mcpsmd.org)  
(301) 284-4400

IB DP/CP Coordinator, Lisa Ingram  
[Lisa\\_A\\_Ingram@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Lisa_A_Ingram@mcpsmd.org)  
(301) 840-3975

**Wednesday, October 10 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.

- 9<sup>th</sup> Grade: Practice PSAT (free, no registration required)
- 10<sup>th</sup> Grade: PSAT (free, all students are expected to test)
- 11<sup>th</sup> Grade: Official PSAT/NMSQT (\$16 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**. 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!

**ACCUPLACER Diagnostic:** During the first semester, **seniors and juniors who have an interest in attending Montgomery College or who have not taken the SAT, ACT, or have not paid to take the Official PSAT, will take the ACCUPLACER Diagnostic test on October 10, 2018.** Montgomery College, along with more than 1,200 postsecondary institutions in the United States, including almost all Maryland community colleges and most Maryland state universities, uses the ACCUPLACER to **assess students' readiness for college-level, credit-bearing courses.** Placement tests such as the ACCUPLACER should be **considered high stakes, similar to the ACT and SAT, since they can result in students being required to take developmental courses which require additional tuition, time, and effort.**

## 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.

**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 2018–2019 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.

**Converting from Air Conditioning to Heating:** The conversion will begin after 10/2, [click here](#) for information.

**No Homework Weekend,** October 13 – 15.

**Montgomery Village Foundation's 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Great Pumpkin Race and Fall Festival, Saturday, October 13, 11 am – 3pm, North Creek Community Center, 20125 Arrowhead Road.** Come cheer me on as I compete in the Great Pumpkin Race with my '**ORANGE AND BLUE**' pumpkin for the Championship Trophy. The race begins at 1pm. Click [here](#) for more information.

**Family Food Market:** Watkins Mill High School will be hosting the second Family Food Market on October 13. 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.

**Homecoming Dance:** The dance is Saturday, October 6, 8pm-11pm 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.

The **end of the first marking period** is on **November 7** 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](http://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.

## **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.

## **NEW YOUTUBE POLICY**

MCPS is implementing changes in how schools and classrooms can use YouTube to ensure the safety and security of our students. Effective Monday, November 5, 2018, high school students will be required to have affirmative consent from a parent/guardian to sign in to and use YouTube. Access to YouTube for high school staff will remain the same and is not impacted by this change. Students without parent/guardian consent and students who do not return the permission slip will not be able to sign in to YouTube. You can find the permission slip by clicking this [link](#).

## **STUDENT SERVICE LEARNING (SSL) HOURS**

- Do you need more information about how to earn SSL hours?
- Do you know how many hours your student has earned towards their graduation requirement?
- Have you signed up for the Watkins Mill SSL Remind account to get reminders sent to you and your student about available opportunities?

To answer these questions and more, please visit the [Watkins Mill High School Student Service Learning \(SSL\) Hour Newsletter](#)

## **BREAST CANCER AWARENESS FUNDRAISER GAME:**

The month of October, the Watkins Mill Volleyball Teams will be celebrating and recognizing Breast Cancer Awareness Month. There will be a Dig Pink game on October 15<sup>th</sup>, JV at 5:30 and Varsity at 6:30. We will be raffling off prizes and selling food and drinks, as we come together as a school and community to raise money to support "For 3 Sisters". For 3 Sisters is an organization, which started in Montgomery County, dedicated to raising awareness and improving the lives of men and women affected by breast cancer. Please come out in all Pink to support the Volleyball Team and raise awareness to fight breast cancer. **If you wear pink to the Dig Pink game, admission will only be \$1.00.**

### **HOMECOMING DANCE:**

The dance is Saturday, October 6, 8pm-11pm 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. 13- 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 \$70.00 until October 19th! 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 3 online payments. Want to use a cash or check? See Mrs. Walthers 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 ad online at [jostensadservice.com](http://jostensadservice.com).

### **IN TESTING NEWS—**

Parents please see the attached document with the testing schedule for the tests below. Remember it is very important for the students to get plenty of sleep and a nutritious breakfast the day of the test. You may access the schedule [here](#).

### **ATTENTION FRESHMAN!**

The 2018 – 2019 Princeton Review Test will be on Wednesday, October 10<sup>th</sup>. The test is free of charge to Freshman.

### **ATTENTION SOPHOMORES!**

The 2018 – 2019 PSAT/NMSQT Test will be on Wednesday, October 10<sup>th</sup>. The test is free of charge to all Grade 10 students, who were first time Grade 9 students in 2017 - 2018.

### **ATTENTION JUNIORS!**

The 2018 – 2019 PSAT/NMSQT Test will be on Wednesday, October 10<sup>th</sup>. The test is \$16.00. The deadline to register and pay is October 5, 2018. Pick up a registration form and student guide with a practice book from the Counseling Office, Main Office, Financial Office, College Tracks and/or ACES.

### **CHEERLEADING:**

The Watkins Mill Varsity Cheerleading team will begin their competition season this October. Our county championship competition will be held Thursday October 25 at 7pm at Montgomery Blair High School. We will have a free spirit bus available for students to ride. Competition tickets can be bought from a cheerleader or at the door for \$5. Come support the team who supports you go Rines!

### **BOOSTER CLUB:**

We will be holding an interest meeting on **Monday, October 3, 2018**, in the Skybridge Conference Room at 6:00pm. All interested parents are needed to support our school's booster club. The booster club is involved with the Athletics and Extra Curricular Activities of our students. Looking to re-energize the WMHS booster club and seek creative fundraising ideas.

### **KIDS HELPING KIDS FOOD DRIVE**

Mrs. Neubeiser's Health class will be participating in the "*Kids Helping Kids Food Drive*" to help support our local families in need. Each fall, this food drive helps Manna feed more than 11,000 families in Montgomery County. We will be collecting food now through October 31st in room B122. We are especially in need of canned proteins, canned fruits/vegetables, soups, rice & pastas. All donations must be unopened and nonperishable.

Please take a moment to stop by B122 with a donation!!

### **GIANT BONUS BUCKS:**

Parents, welcome to the start of the new school year. Watkins Mill High School is again participating in the A+ Giant Bonus Bucks Program. Please take a moment and register your card for our school. Each card can have up to 3 designated schools. If you registered your card last year, you do not need to do it again this year. However, if you have not registered please do so and help our school earn some money for student activities.

[Instructions - English](#)

[Instructions - Spanish](#)

Thanks for your support!

### **SCIENCE DEPARTMENT NEWS**

News from the Science Department engaging, inspiring and challenging students in the world of Science

**Congratulations** to the following students who have been accepted into the Science National Honor Society. As active members they need to maintain their 3.0 overall GPA with a GPA of 3.2 in science classes. They will also provide 8 hours of tutoring to Science students each quarter. They are an asset to the science department and all Watkins Mill students.

#### **Science National Honor Society**

Alex Aucoin  
Chamodi Jayasiri  
Cheikhou Mbodj  
Chioma Nwoye  
Ghislaine Ekane  
Jenish Lakemaru  
Joel David-Gnahoui  
Josephine Oshagbemi  
Jwoyal Ranjit  
Khava Tsarni  
Stephanie Abeysinghe  
Sana Ashfaq  
Zachary Pepperl  
Doereana Hernandez

Shanzae Malik  
Samuel Berhanu  
Jamie Carmichael  
Carmelo Hawkins  
Samantha Naya  
Joanna Cruz  
Neba Ndonwi  
Henry Ramos-Diaz  
Ashley Villars  
Taylor Johnson  
Priscilla Inkoom  
Adeline Djemerre  
Britany Isaacoff  
Shawal Wasim

Selena Adams  
Jefferson Alvear  
Natalie Adriano  
Terrence Leisgues  
Miru Shanker  
Jennifer Santos  
Annie Riley  
Mia Zuniga  
Adilia Sequeira  
Bethel Biniam  
Francis Eseh  
Jessica Cruz  
Giselle Maravi  
Malik McMichael

### **COFFEE HOUSE**

Cafeteria, WMHS

Enjoy coffee, tea and dessert and enjoy a night of music and poetry!

October 26, 2018

7pm-9pm

Cost: \$5 for entry, unless you come in costume, then admission is \$3!

Auditions will be Oct. 18 after school in room T002!

Sponsored by Tri-M Music Honor Society

Added bonus- there will be an art show!

### **FALL PLAY – DON'T MISS IT!**

Rehearsals are underway for the winter performances of *A Christmas Carol*, which opens on November 30<sup>th</sup>. The show performances are as follows:

Friday, Nov. 30 – opening night – 7pm

Saturday, Dec. 1 – 7pm

Thursday, Dec. 6 – 7pm

Friday, Dec. 7 – 7pm

Saturday, Dec. 8 – 2pm matinee

Tickets will be \$10 for adults, \$8 for students, and \$5 for senior citizens and children. There will be opportunities to save on ticket prices, as we will be honoring our military members, as well as discounted tickets for "Toys for Tots" night, and Manna foodbank supply night.

### **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 new check-in system, which scans your ID to allow access for visitors. Visitors without the proper identification will not be allowed to enter.

In addition, parent are not allowed to sign out students after 2:15 p.m. without prior authorization. It creates a safety issue with buses at dismissal.

**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>



## **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 20, 2018 and will begin promptly at 12:30 pm. Click [here](#) for more information and permission slip.

## **HOMEWORK HOTLINE LIVE! (FREE HOMEWORK HELP)**

- For intercom and school TV announcements
- Go dates: 9/25/18 – 4/1/19
- Please read copy below during above dates
  
- General Info:
  - Phone: 301-279-3234
  - Text: 724-427-5445
  - Live TV show on Comcast 33, Verizon 35, RCN 88
  - [www.AskHHL.org](http://www.AskHHL.org)

Need homework help? Then call *Homework Hotline Live* or HHL for short. With HHL, you get FREE after-school homework help from MCPS teachers. You can call the LIVE TV show at 301-279-3234 OR send a question online via text or e-mail. When school is in session, watch teachers answer your homework questions live on MCPS-TV from 4:30 to 6 pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. And you can get online help from 6 to 9 pm on Monday through Thursday. Go to Ask H-H-L dot org for more info and to download the free HHL app!

[Homework Hotline Montgomery County Public Schools](#)

## **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 Connect-ed accounts; and is available by hard copy in the main office.