

New on the MCPS Web

Elementary Language Immersion Programs

Parents/guardians interested in elementary school language immersion programs in MCPS can submit an application until April 26, 2019. Parents/guardians can download the *Immersion Interest Form* [online](http://montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms/admissions/immersion.aspx) at montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms/admissions/immersion.aspx.

A blurb is provided below.

A Kojo Road Show on School Diversity in Montgomery County

The Kojo Nnamdi Show has organized a town hall on the state of education in Montgomery County, particularly focusing on school, program, and class diversity and what that means for school climate and student achievement. The show will highlight the system's efforts on getting disadvantaged students into magnet and language immersion programs and on adding student diversity into the criteria for determining school boundary areas.

This will be a meaningful platform to tell our story—in our voice—to our community. Dr. Jack R. Smith, superintendent of schools, will be a central part of the panel discussion. The show also has reached out to others in the community to participate. MCPS staff are invited to attend this free community event, which will take place Tuesday, February 26, 2019, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Silver Spring Civic Building, 1 Veterans Plaza in Silver Spring. Registration is strongly recommended and can be completed at thekojonnamdishow.org/2019/02/01/2-26-kojo-roadshow-school-diversity-montgomery-county.

Other News

Emergency Weather Make-Up Schedule

Inclement weather has forced MCPS to close schools on three days. The 2018–2019 MCPS school calendar includes 182 instruction days, two more than the minimum required in Maryland. As a result of these closures, MCPS will need to use one designated make-up day to ensure it meets the state-required number of school days. The school year will now be extended to June 14, 2019. A blurb is provided below.

Annual MCPS Cares Charity Campaign Under Way

This year's MCPS Cares Employees' Charity Campaign has launched and will run through February 28. The annual campaign raises funds for nonprofit organizations in the Montgomery County community. MCPS Cares is coordinated by the MCPS Educational Foundation, Inc. Visit the MCPS Cares campaign [page](#) to find out more about the charity partners and to obtain instructions on donating.

Choose Respect Video PSA Contest Accepting Entries (Secondary Principals)

The tenth Annual Choose Respect Montgomery video Public Service Announcement (PSA) contest now is accepting entries. This contest challenges teens to create an original 60-second PSA video to promote awareness of dating abuse and domestic violence among teens. The submission deadline is March 8. More information is available online at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/fjc/chooserespect/psa.html. A blurb is provided below.

Nominations Open for Counselor of the Year Awards

The MCPS School Counselor of the Year Awards honor the dedication and hard work of counselors—one each at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. Staff, administrators, parents/guardians, and students can submit nominations. To be nominated, counselors must actively be working as a counselor in MCPS and have worked for the system for at least three years. Nominees also must demonstrate outstanding leadership, understand the individual needs of students, encourage their talents, and cultivate their self-esteem. Nominations are due Friday, March 29. Visit www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/student-services/mental-health/counseling.aspx?id=335893 for more information. A blurb is provided below.

MCPS TV

Esta Semana en MCPS

Esta Semana en MCPS is a brief update, in Spanish, on what is happening throughout the district. The shows are cablecast on MCPS TV and may be viewed at the following URL:

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

Blurbs for school newsletters, websites, etc.

Elementary Immersion Programs (English and Spanish)

Applications for elementary school language immersion programs in MCPS are now available. The application deadline for the 2019–2020 school year is Friday, April 26, 2019. Elementary school language immersion programs begin in kindergarten and are offered in Chinese, French, and Spanish. For more information about elementary immersion programs and to download the Immersion Interest Form, visit the Special Programs website: www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/immersion. Forms are also available at elementary schools.

Programas de Inmersión en Idiomas Extranjeros en las Escuelas Elementales

Ya están disponibles las solicitudes para los programas de inmersión en idiomas en las escuelas elementales de MCPS. El plazo límite para presentar las solicitudes para el ciclo escolar 2019–2020 es el viernes, 26 de abril, 2019. Los programas de inmersión en idiomas en las escuelas elementales comienzan en Kindergarten y se ofrecen en español, chino y francés. Para más información acerca de los programas elementales de inmersión y para descargar el formulario de interés en un programa de inmersión (Immersion Interest Form), visite el sitio web de Programas Especiales (Special Programs): www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/immersion. Los formularios también están a disposición en las escuelas elementales.

2018–2019 School Year Extended to June 14 (English and Spanish)

Recent inclement weather forced MCPS to close schools on three days. The 2018–2019 MCPS school calendar includes 182 instruction days, two more than the minimum required in the state of

Maryland. As a result of these closures, MCPS will need to use one designated make-up day to ensure that it meets the state-required number of school days. The school year will now be extended to June 14, 2019. The last day will be an early release day for all students. Any additional school closures for emergency weather will result in the need to use additional make-up days. If we have a fourth school closure due to emergency weather conditions, then the next emergency weather make-up day will be Wednesday, June 5, 2019. MCPS will continue to closely monitor for severe weather and provide updates on any impact it may have to the school calendar. For more information on the MCPS school calendar, visit www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org.

Ciclo Escolar 2018–2019 Se Extiende Hasta el 14 de Junio

El tiempo inclemente reciente forzó a MCPS a cerrar tres días las escuelas. El calendario escolar 2018–2019 de MCPS incluye 182 días lectivos, dos más que el mínimo exigido en el estado de Maryland. Como resultado de estos cierres, MCPS necesitará usar uno de los días designados para recuperación de día lectivo, a fin de asegurar el cumplimiento con el número de días lectivos que exige el estado. El ciclo escolar ahora se extenderá hasta el 14 de junio, 2019. El último día de clases será de media jornada para todos los estudiantes. Cualquier cierre de escuelas adicional por emergencias relacionadas con el clima resultará en que se deban usar días de recuperación de días lectivos adicionales. Si nosotros tenemos un cuarto día de cierre de escuelas debido a condiciones climáticas de emergencia, entonces el siguiente día de recuperación de día lectivo por motivos de emergencia climática será el miércoles, 5 de junio, 2019. MCPS continuará monitorizando estrechamente las condiciones climáticas severas y proveerá actualizaciones sobre cualquier impacto que puedan tener en el calendario escolar. Para más información sobre el calendario escolar de MCPS, visite www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org.

Choose Respect Video PSA Contest Accepting Entries (Secondary Principals)

The tenth Annual Choose Respect Montgomery video PSA contest is now accepting entries. This contest challenges teens to create an original 60-second public service announcement video to promote awareness of dating abuse and domestic violence among teens. The contest is open to students in Grades 6 through 12 and students may enter on their own or as a group. The top five videos win cash prizes (first prize is \$1,000). The submission deadline is Friday, March 8. More information can be found here: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/fjc/chooserespect/psa.html. Winners will be announced at the Choose Respect healthy teen dating conference on Sunday, April 7, at Richard Montgomery High School.

Nominations Open for Counselor of the Year Awards

Do you know a school counselor who goes above and beyond to support students, nurtures strong relationships with colleagues and student families, and demonstrates outstanding leadership? The time is now to nominate these special staff for the MCPS School Counselor of the Year Awards. These awards honor the dedication and hard work of counselors—one each at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. Nominations can be submitted by staff, administrators, parents/guardians, and students.

To be nominated, counselors must actively be working as a counselor in MCPS and have worked for the system for at least three years. Nominees also must demonstrate outstanding leadership; understand the individual needs of students, encourage their talents, and cultivate their self-esteem;

foster collaborative relationships with colleagues, students, their families and the community; and use data to help drive decision making. Online nomination forms are available at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/uploadedFiles/departments/student-services/mental-health/2019%20School%20Counselor%20of%20the%20Year%20Nomination%20Packet.pdf. Nominations are due **Friday, February 15**. The deadline to submit an application is 4:00 p.m. on **Friday, March 29**.