

Mr. Levine's Message

Greetings Bulldog Families,

I hope this message finds you well.

We hope your child has had a great start to the school year! We enjoyed hosting you for our Back-to-School Night this past Tuesday. If you were unable to attend or have any questions about your child's classes or experience at school, please do not hesitate to contact any member of our staff for support.

This week, Baker students will be taking the MAP-M and MAP-R assessments — MAP-M on Wednesday morning and MAP-R on Thursday morning.

The MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) assessment is designed to measure a student's academic achievement and growth over time in reading and mathematics. Together with other classroom-based information, MAP results can help teachers make instructional decisions that match the needs of each child.

Please make sure that on assessment days your child comes to school on time, well-rested, and having consumed a nutritious breakfast. Please avoid scheduling appointments that would pull your child out of school during the testing blocks. Bell schedules for both days can be found on page 3 of this newsletter.

Please let me know if you have any questions or if I can be of assistance in any way.

Thank you for your support and partnership.

Best,

Sam Levine

Family Life Meeting

Parents of 7th and 8th grade students are invited to attend the Family Life Meeting at Baker on **Wednesday, September 18, at 6:00 p.m.** in the **Media Center**. At this meeting parents will have the opportunity to preview materials that are used in the 7th and 8th grade family life units in health classes. Students were given a letter with objectives and information about the meeting on the first day of school through their PE/Health classes. If you did not receive this letter, please contact Mrs. Paredes.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Mrs. Paredes at [Patricia T Paredes@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Patricia_T_Paredes@mcpsmd.org) or

Ms. Chandler at [Ashley E Chandler@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Ashley_E_Chandler@mcpsmd.org).

Outdoor Ed Informational Meeting

There will be an Outdoor Education parent informational meeting in the Media Center **from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 25**. During this meeting, we will describe the Outdoor Ed experience, explain how parents/guardians can become chaperones, and answer any questions regarding the experience. If you have any questions regarding the meeting, please contact [Mr. Haren](#) or [Mrs. Woodward](#). We are looking forward to seeing you at the meeting.

SGA Needs New Officers

Baker's Student Government Association (SGA) needs new officers to lead the school in SSL hour opportunities and to represent the interests and ideas of our Baker MS students. In order to run for office, **interested students must attend either the Thursday, September 12, OR Thursday, September 19, meeting from 3:00–4:25p.m.** in Room 233. For any additional information, email angela.e.blankenship2@mcpsmd.net.



Looking Ahead

September 15–October 15

Hispanic–Latino Heritage Month

Tuesday, September 17 — Activity Buses

Wed., September 18 — Activity Buses

MAP-M (*see page 3*)

Family Life Night, 6:00–8:00p.m.

Thursday, September 19 — Activity Buses

MAP-R (*see page 3*)

SGA, Room 233, Ms. Blankenship

Tuesday, September 24 — Activity Buses

eSports, Mr. Conner/Mr. Maddox, Rm 134

Cross Country vs. Clemente, at Clemente

Softball vs. Clemente, Boys Home/

Girls Away

Wed., September 25 — Activity Buses

NJHS, Mr. Conner, Room 209

Outdoor Ed Parent Info Meeting

6:30–8:00 p.m., Media Center

Thursday, September 26 — Activity Buses

Lifetouch Fall Picture Day

8th Grade Band Night at DHS Home Game

Friday, September 27

Early Release Day for students,

Baker dismisses at 12:30 p.m.

6th Grade Mini Outdoor Ed

7th Grade Team Building Day

October — National Principals' Month

Lifetouch

Picture Day – September 26

Order today on mylifetouch.com

with your Student ID or

Picture Day ID: **EVTNPS4B4**

El Día de la Foto

26 de septiembre

Encarga hoy en mylifetouch.com

con tu ID de estudiante o

la ID del Día de la Foto

EVTNPS4B4



Childhood Cancer Awareness Month

September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. Baker MS Girls Scouts are collecting donated products for their Skin Cancer Awareness Girl Scout Silver Award project. They are collecting sunscreen, sunglasses, hats, and other products that will help avoid skin cancer. They plan to hand out all of the collected products in the Damascus community at various sports events, community gatherings, etc. Please drop off any items in the main office. For more information, go to <https://princessunicorn826.wixsite.com/skin-cancer/donate>

Girls' Softball

Attention 7th and 8th grade girls. If you are interested in playing softball for Baker have your parent/or guardian register you online. Softball tryouts are on September 10, 3:15-4:30 p.m.

Go to the Baker website, click on after school sports. Then please click on the tab at the top left or right of this screen for the sport you wish to participate in and use the link to register.

****You must have a physical no later than May 16, 2023, in order to participate in all three seasons.****

*****Physicals are only good for 2 years. It must be an in-person visit for your physical. Physicals are ONLY accepted when submitted through the ParentVue Portal. No Paper Copies will be accepted*****

If you have any questions ask Ms. Benden or Mr. Frye.

Baker MS Chromebook Policy & Procedures

This year, all students will be issued an MCPS chromebook for use at school. Students will pick up their chromebooks in the morning, use them throughout the day, then return them at the end of their 8th period class to be charged. Students should use a chromebook case or string backpack to carry their device. Cases are available upon request.

If your child needs use of a device at home for schoolwork, you are able to request a home-use device using the link provided here: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdDNdqO31soXKLffjcEzgVQ9C2Z2koPm6ifKm7-K77e44ZhAg/viewform>

“Each student is financially responsible for damage caused or loss of any Chromebook and charger that is checked out to the student. The device is loaned to the student to be used for instructional purposes only and in accordance with [MCPS Regulation IGT-RA, User Responsibilities for Computer Systems, Electronic Information, and Network Security](#). No cost is associated for a student to borrow, possess, or use an MCPS Chromebook. A family is only financially responsible when there is avoidable damage to the device. If the device is faulty, there is no charge to the family; however, if the damage is considered avoidable or the device or charger is lost, the family will be charged according to [MCPS current parts and replacement costs](#)” (Memo 240718).

Please remind your child to promptly report any damage or issues with their school-assigned device to their Period 8 teacher or to the school media specialist. Thank you for your support of our instructional technology device policy.

Outreach and Admission Process Information Overview for Regional/Countywide High School Application Programs

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) offers a wide range of high school application programs for students entering Grades 9–12. These programs have a centralized admissions process, which begins with a common online application. The admission process opens in early October 2024.

- For students entering Grades 9–12 in 2025–2026, the regional/countywide high school application programs admission and timelines are available at: www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms/high/.
- MCPS has streamlined the Grade 8 high school application process by providing one common online application for all programs via Synergy. Grades 9–11 will apply electronically through a link on the website.
- Program eligibility for current Grade 8 students is based on the student’s address and middle school. [List of Programs by Home/Base High School for Grade 8 Students](#).
- For Grades 9–11 students, it is based on the home address only. [List of Programs for Grade 9-11 Students](#).
- All MCPS parents/guardians of students in Grades 8–11 will receive communication regarding the high school programs during the weeks of September 9 and 16, 2024, respectively.
- The criteria-based application programs will continue with multiple academic measures and a committee review. The admission process will continue with student criteria such as the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP), report card grades, and student application.
- The High School Common Application for Grade 8 students will be online in ParentVUE.
- Students in private schools must have an active MCPS ID to access the high school common application on ParentVUE.

Important Dates

- **October 4, 2024**—Application for Regional/Countywide High School Application Programs (ParentVUE and Google) opens.
- **November 1, 2024**—Application Deadline for all programs.

Update on Board Policies MCPS Regulations

Summary During the 2023-2024 school year, a total of five Board of Education policies were amended. One new policy was developed, one new Montgomery County Public School (MCPS) regulation was developed, and 18 MCPS regulations were revised. Six of these were instruction-related, and six were otherwise student-related, such as attendance, enrollment, and behavior interventions.

For the most current versions of MCBOE policies and MCPS regulations, visit the Board Policies & MCPS Regulations web page at: [policy/regulation page](#).

Links to Additional Information

[Summary of Changes to Board Policies and MCPS Regulations](#)

SEE SOMETHING? HEAR SOMETHING? SAY SOMETHING!

FALL 2024 Map Testing Bell Schedule
Sept. 18th & Sept. 19th

Day 1 (Wednesday, Sept. 18, 2024)

Bells	GRADE 6	GRADE 7	GRADE 8
8:15 - 10:11	MAP-M Test Block		
10:15 - 10:48	Period 1/Announcements	Period 1/Announcements	Period 1/Announcements
10:52 - 11:24	Period 2	Period 2	Period 2
11:28 - 12:00	Period 3	Period 3	Period 3
12:04-12:36	Period 4	Period 4	Period 4 - LUNCH
12:40-1:12	Period 5	Period 5 - LUNCH	Period 5
1:16-1:48	Period 6 - LUNCH	Period 6	Period 6
1:52 - 2:24	Period 7	Period 7	Period 7
2:28 - 3:00	Period 8	Period 8	Period 8

Day 2 (Thursday, Sept. 19, 2024)

Bells	GRADE 6	GRADE 7	GRADE 8
8:15 - 10:11	MAP-R Test Block		
10:15 - 10:48	Period 1/Announcements	Period 1/Announcements	Period 1/Announcements
10:52 - 11:24	Period 2	Period 2	Period 2
11:28 - 12:00	Period 3	Period 3	Period 3
12:04-12:36	Period 4	Period 4	Period 4 - LUNCH
12:40-1:12	Period 5	Period 5 - LUNCH	Period 5
1:16-1:48	Period 6 - LUNCH	Period 6	Period 6
1:52 - 2:24	Period 7	Period 7	Period 7
2:28 - 3:00	Period 8	Period 8	Period 8

****Students will report directly to their Testing Location.**

PTA Dates & Contacts

UPCOMING DATES:

Tuesday, October 8

6 pm – 8th Grade Committee
7 pm – PTA Meeting

Monday, November 11

6 pm – 8th Grade Committee
7 pm – PTA Meeting

Wednesday, December 11

6 pm – 8th Grade Committee
7 pm – PTA Meeting

PTA EXECUTIVE BOARD:

Amy Bartosch, President –
BakerPTA@yahoo.com

Kalihah Barber, Vice President –
BakerPTAVP@yahoo.com

Shannon West, Treasurer –
BakerPTATreasurer@yahoo.com

Stacy Smith, Secretary –
BakerPTASec@yahoo.com

Jaime Kemp, 8th Grade Committee
Chair –
BakerPTA8thGrade@yahoo.com

Find us on Facebook or our website!



Hello from the PTA!

The Baker PTA Board is delighted to greet all Bulldog families for the 2024-2025 school year! We already have a lot of activities planned & more in the works! We could always use more volunteers and would love to have you!

Donations of Board Games Needed!

Back to School Night, 9/10
Bring gently used games & playing cards to donate for use during students' Advisory. We will have a donation box at our table!

Upcoming Spirit Night Events!

Monday, September 23rd

Hornet's Nest, All day
~ must mention Baker PTA when ordering ~
~ Online? Enter "Fundraider" in promo code ~

Friday, October 4th

Baker Night at Leech Woods!
Promo Code – BULLDOGS
Order before 9/15 for 20% off!
After 9/15, still get 15% off!

Monday, October 14th

Ricoton, 3 pm to close
All orders will be entered into a raffle to win a taco box or gift card!

Need more information? See our Facebook or Web page!

INCLEMENT WEATHER and EMERGENCY SCHOOL SYSTEM CLOSURES

The safety of our Montgomery County Public School (MCPS) community is critical and being able to communicate with students, staff, and families during severe weather or other emergencies is of the utmost importance. Sometimes a change in operational status for the school system is necessary due to severe weather or other emergencies. The operating status options for the 2024-2025 school year include:

- Code Green - Normal Operations
- Code Yellow - Delayed Opening
- Code Blue - Early Dismissal
- Code Orange - Schools Closed/Offices Telework
- Code Red - School System Closed

MCPS is prepared to address weather-related concerns including snow, ice, flooding, hurricanes, tornadoes, excessive heat, and other emergencies that may require a change in operational status for schools and offices. The MCPS Inclement Weather Team tracks weather patterns and traffic conditions, as well as benchmarks with surrounding districts and county agencies to make recommendations to the Superintendent related to the district's operating status. Once a decision has been made by the superintendent based on research, analysis, and recommendations from the team, that decision is communicated to staff, students, and families.

The safety of our MCPS community is critical, and being able to communicate with students, staff, and families during severe weather or other emergencies is of the utmost importance. Use this [link](#) to find all the ways you can connect with MCPS to receive emergency operational information from the school system. The current operating status options for the school district appear on the MCPS website and on individual school websites. In the event of a change in operational status, this [link](#) will provide more information about the MCPS Operating Status options.

Links/Additional Information

- [Alert Montgomery - register to receive text, email, or voice message emergency alerts to your cell phone](#)
- [Hurricane Safety Information](#)
- [Tornado Safety Information](#)
- [Tornado Warning Procedures for Buses](#)
- [Earthquake Safety Information](#)
- [Hurricane and Summer Storm Tips - Montgomery County, MD](#)
- [NOAA Prediction for Above-Normal 2024 Atlantic hurricane season](#)