

Mr. Levine's Message

Greetings Bulldog Families,
I hope this message finds you well.

Marking period one interim reports were submitted by staff on Friday, September 27. Parents, guardians, and students will be able to view interim grades/reports through ParentVUE and StudentVUE. Interim reports will be mailed home for parents/guardians without an active ParentVUE account.

Here are a few reminders about Attendance:

Absence — Attendance in school is required by law. If a student will be absent from school or will be arriving late, a parent/guardian is expected to call Attendance at 240-207-2441 each day of the absence to report the absence/tardiness. A phone call must be followed up by a note.

A student returning to school after an absence must turn in a note to the Attendance Secretary signed by the parent/guardian. **An absence cannot be excused without a note signed by the parent/guardian.** There will be a limit of three school days following the absence to submit the written note. All undocumented absences are classified as unexcused. The note must contain the following: student's name (first and last), student ID, grade, date(s) of absence, reason for absence, parent/guardian signature, and parent/guardian contact number. **Providing a note does not guarantee that the absence will be excused.** According to Maryland State Law, only the following absences are considered lawful/excused (tardiness is considered to be a short absence):

- Court Summons
- Death in Family
- Illness of Student *
- Previously Approved Activity
- Lack of Authorized Transportation. *This does not include students denied MCPS authorized transportation for disciplinary reasons. It also does not include missing the bus.*
- Religious Holiday
- Hazardous Weather Conditions
- State of Emergency
- Suspension

Absence for any other reason must be approved by the principal prior to the absence. A letter should be addressed to the principal giving the dates and the reason(s) for the proposed absence. This letter must be received a minimum of three days prior to the first day of absence. The principal is not obligated to approve an absence even if a note is provided.

** In accordance with regulation JEA-RA II.A.3.d.3, "The principal may require a physician's certificate from the parent or guardians of the student ..." and a physician's note will be required after a five-day absence.*

Early Dismissal — A student who needs to leave before regular dismissal time must bring a note, signed by the parent/guardian, explaining the absence, to the Attendance window by 8:30 a.m. (or as early in the day as possible). The student will receive a pass from the Attendance Office which is to be presented to the teacher at the beginning of the class from which the student is to be dismissed. It is the student's responsibility to keep an eye on the time so they can be dismissed at the requested "to leave

Continued on Page 2



Looking Ahead

September 15–October 15

Hispanic–Latino Heritage Month

October — National Principals' Month

Tuesday, October 1 — Activity Buses

Wednesday, October 2 — Activity Buses
Cross Country vs. Neelsville, Home Softball vs. Neelsville, Boys at Ridge Road Park/Girls Home

Thursday, October 3

No school for students and teachers

Friday, October 4

PTA Leech Woods Spirit Night (*see pp 5-6*)

Tuesday, October 8 — Activity Buses

eSports Club, Mr. Conner and

Mr. Maddox, Room 134

Jazz Band — Rhythm Section only, Ms. Fell, Room 107

PTA 8th Grade Committee Meeting,
6:00–7:00 p.m.

PTA General Membership Meeting,
7:00–8:00 p.m.

PTA meetings are on Zoom:

<https://mcpsmd.zoom.us/j/85601569113?pwd=Fd4X4T4qMIUcFN997gJFXr1QQZG4MT.1>

ID: 856 0156 9113 Code: 908892

Phone: +1 301 715 8592 US

One tap mobile:

+13017158592,,85601569113#,,,,*908892# US

Wednesday, October 9 — Activity Buses

NJHS, Mr. Conner, Room 209

Cross Country vs. Lakelands Park, Away

Softball vs. Lakelands Park, Boys Home/
Girls Away

Thursday, October 10 — Activity Buses

Homework Club, Ms. Laraia, Room 227

Jazz Band—All, Ms. Fell, Room 107

Talent Show, Mr. Fisher, Room 225

Monday, October 14

PTA Ricoton Spirit Night (*see pp 7-8*)

Tuesday, October 15 — Activity Buses

Wednesday, October 16 — Activity Buses

Fidos for Freedom in Media Center

Thursday, October 17 — Activity Buses

Cross Country vs. Rocky Hill, Home

Softball vs. Rocky Hill, Boys Away

Girls Home

Homework Club, Ms. Laraia, Room 227

Jazz Band, Ms. Fell, Room 107

Talent Show, Mr. Fisher, Room 225

October 21–25

Character Counts Week

Mental Health Awareness Week

National School Bus Safety Week

Continued from page 1

at” time without being called. **Providing a note or signing out your child does not guarantee that the early release will be excused.**

Late Arrival — Students arriving at school at a time which prevents them from being in their Period 1 class on time should come to the main front door for entry into the building. A student arriving late must sign in at the Attendance window and turn in a note, signed by the parent/guardian, explaining the absence, or the parent/guardian must sign in the student. A student arriving without a note or parent/guardian signature will be marked unexcused. **Providing a note or signing in your child does not guarantee that the tardiness will be excused.**

Thank you for your support and partnership. Please let me know if you have any questions or if I can be of assistance in any way.

Best,
Sam Levine

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.

Student Leadership and SSL Opportunities

For middle and high school students: The Association for Safe International Road Travel and the Montgomery County Regional SGA are hosting a competition centered on road safety and how to keep students and others safe on the roads. Participants who submit a PSA that meets contest requirements will **earn 10 SSL hours** and have a chance to win Amazon gift cards. **Entries are due Sunday, October 6.** [Learn more.](#)

A full list of SSL in-person and virtual opportunities, reminders and updates are available on the [SSL website](#).



SGA Canned Food Drive

Baker SGA is collecting non-perishable canned food and boxed food items **until Thursday, November 14, 2024** to help feed our Damascus community. Please drop off all donations to Ms. Blankenship in Room 233. Pizza Party for the Advisory with the most donations!

Counseling News

Upcounty Hub Snack Bags

The Upcounty Hub, a school-based food assistance program, is offering snack bags for the weekend to address hunger and food insecurity to our families at Baker Middle school. With your permission, the weekend food bag will go home in student’s backpack on Friday afternoon. The program will start in October.

Please fill out the form below if you are interested in having your child participate. Reach out to Mrs. Jones, part-time school counselor at shannon.jones@mcpsmd.net if you have questions,

Upcounty Hub, un programa de asistencia alimentaria escolar, ofrece bolsas de refrigerios para el fin de semana para abordar el hambre y la inseguridad alimentaria de nuestras familias en la escuela secundaria Baker. Con su permiso, la bolsa de comida del fin de semana se irá a casa en la mochila del estudiante el viernes por la tarde. El programa comenzará en octubre.

Complete el formulario si está interesado en que su hijo participe. Si tiene preguntas, puede comunicarse con la Sra. Jones, consejera escolar de tiempo parcial en shannon.jones@mcpsmd.net. ¡Gracias!

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeiiBvr-ael7jPBu6RFuSnam103udHtpzkLyLuwj2vqUhZxbQ/viewform>

Holiday Giving Project

The Holiday Giving Project provides **Thanksgiving and December Holiday assistance to low-income households**. A network of social workers, school counselors, and human service professionals refer families in need of assistance. Local non-profits, faith-based organizations, and public agencies service recipients as donations are available.

If your family would like to be referred for possible assistance for the Thanksgiving and/or December holiday season, please complete the referral form by clicking [here](#)

Referral Deadline Dates:

- **Thanksgiving Holiday - Friday, October 25, 2024**
- **December Holiday - Friday, November 22, 2024**

While a referral is not a guarantee of assistance, the Project helps as many families in need as donations allow.

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Jones.

Dear Parent or Student,

Yearbook Recognition Ads are the perfect way to commemorate achievements and celebrate milestones. In addition, revenues from Recognition Ads help our school create a better yearbook. To purchase your ad online, follow the instructions listed below. Jostens is responsible for our school's yearbook ad sales. Please do not contact or send materials to the school. Please also consider our school's ad content guidelines below during the creation of your ad online. All orders must be placed by 11/01/2024 to take advantage of the early bird SAVINGS! Prices increase on 11/02/2024. The final deadline to purchase a congratulatory ad is 1/31/2025.

ORDER BY 11/01/2024	
COLOR AD	
1/4 Page	\$130.00
1/8 Page	\$80.00

Taxes, service fees, and shipping fees will be added, if applicable. Jostens payment plan available; minimum purchase requirements and eligibility restrictions apply.



3 EASY STEPS TO CREATE A YEARBOOK RECOGNITION AD!



Step 1

Choose your ad size and layout
(Options may vary by school.)



Step 2

Add your photos



Step 3

Enter your text

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are the guidelines for recognition ad content?

Schools may review and edit ads per their guidelines. Jostens retains the right to remove any explicit text, graphic photos or copyright-protected imagery or photos.

School Ad Content Guidelines

Our school reserves the right to edit ads per our guidelines. Please make sure all submitted materials are appropriate for school publication.

How are the ad prices determined and what is the money used for?

Recognition ad prices are determined by our school. Revenue from recognition ads helps the school create a better, more affordable yearbook.

How is the ad deadline determined?

The ad deadline is set by our school based on the production schedule for the yearbook.

Can I create my student's ad on my mobile device?

Yes, yearbook ads can be created online from both desktop and mobile devices.



(800) 358-0800
jostensadservice.com/student



MCPS CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS

Protect Yourself Online: Essential Cybersecurity Measures

RECOGNIZE PHISHING

Phishing scams can deceive you into revealing sensitive information or downloading harmful attachments, putting your device and data at risk.

Common signs of a phishing attempt:

- Misspelled email address or unknown/external sender
- Urgent/alarming language that calls for “immediate action”
- Unexpected attachments or suspicious links
- Requests for personal or financial information



UTILIZE PASSWORD PROTECTION

The average person has around 100 passwords to remember. Passwords are the key to accessing personal information.



How to secure your information:

- Use a password manager
- Always log off all devices
- Use hard to guess passwords
- Avoid reusing the same password

BEWARE OF SOFTWARE & MALWARE

Malware is an umbrella term for software designed to harm or exploit a device or network.

How to prevent and protect:

- Update all software, apps, and devices to keep them current
- Back up your data frequently
- Carefully check all emails and messages for suspicious links



USE MULTI-FACTOR AUTHENTICATION (MFA)

MFA provides an extra layer of security in addition to a password when logging into accounts and apps, like a face scan or a code sent by text.



Benefits of implementing MFA:

- Reduces fraud and identify theft
- Reduces possibility of phishing attempts

REPORT ANY SUSPECTED ATTACKS OR PHISHING ATTEMPTS TO:
ABUSE@MCPSMD.ORG

Oct. 4th - Baker Spirit Night at
LEECHWOODS



6:30 TO 7:15 PM

FREE CARNIVAL GAMES
NOT SO SCARY HAY RIDE & CANDY TRAIL*

7:30 PM TO 9 PM

HORROR HAYRIDE*
(HAY RIDE & WALK TO LEECH WOOD FAMILY CEMETERY)

6:30 to 9:00 pm

Timed entry to Leech Woods Haunted Trail
Baker Fire Pit

Purchase tickets at www.leechwoods.com!

Want to scare your friends?

\$1 per ticket through the PTA's PayPal @BakerMSPTA for an
opportunity to be a "guest scarer".

No limit on number of tickets purchased!

SPECIAL DISCOUNTED BAKER KIDS MENU!

Use code **BULLDOGS** for 20% off if purchased before 9/15

Purchased After 9/15? Still get 15% off!

* Separate timed entry ticket required.

4 de oct. - Noche de espíritu Baker en

LEECHWOODS



6:30 TO 7:15 PM

JUEGOS DE CARNAVAL GRATIS

PASEO EN HENO NO TAN ATERRADO Y ROTA DE DOLCES**

7:30 PM TO 9 PM

PASEO EN CARRUAJE DE TERROR**

(PASEO EN HENO Y CAMINATA HACIA LEECH WOOD CEMENTERIO FAMILIAR)

6:30 to 9:00 pm

Entrada programada al sendero embrujado "Leech Woods"
Pozo de Fuego Baker

Compra entradas en www.leechwoods.com

¿QUIERES ASUSTAR A TOS AMIGOS?

\$1 POR BOLETO TRAVÉS DE PAYPAL @BAKERMSPTA DE LA PTA PARA TENER
LA OPORTUNIDAD DE SER UN "ASUSTADOR DE INVITADOS"

SIN LIMITE DE NÚMERO DE ENTRADAS.

MENÚ INFANTILE BAKER CON DESCUENTO ESPECIAL!

Útilice el código BOLLDOGS para obtend un 20% de descuento si lo
compra antes del 15/9

¿Comprado después del 15/9? ¡Aún consigues un 15 % de descuento!

*Se requiere un boleto de entrada programado por separado.

PTA Dates & Contacts

UPCOMING PTA MEETING 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 –

BakerPTASecr@yahoo.com

Jaime Kemp, 8th Grade Committee –

BakerPTA8thGrade@yahoo.com

Visit our webpage!



Visit our Facebook Page!



Hello from the PTA!

The Baker PTA Board is in full swing 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!



Want to become a member?
Scan the QR code to link to our
online membership form!

Upcoming Spirit Night Events!

Monday, September 23rd

Hornet's Nest

- ❖ *All Day (11:30 am to 9:30pm!)*
- ❖ Must mention "Baker PTA" when ordering.
- ❖ Ordering online? Enter "Fundraiser" in the promo code!

Friday, October 4th

Leech Woods

- ❖ *Starting at 6:30 pm*
- ❖ *Order by 9/15 – get 20%, after – get 15% off*
- ❖ *Use code "BULLDOGS"*

Monday, October 14th

Ricoton!

- ❖ *After 3 pm, until closing*
- ❖ All orders will be entered into a raffle for a free taco box or Ricoton gift card.



Want more information?
Scan the QR Code!

Fechas y Contactors de la PTA:

PRÓXIMAS FECHAS DE REUNIONES DE LA PTA:

Martes 8 de octubre
6 pm – comité de octavo grado
7 pm – reunión de la PTA

Lunes 11 de noviembre
6 pm – comité de octavo grado
7 pm – reunión de la PTA

Miércoles 11 de diciembre
6 pm – comité de octavo grado
7 pm – reunión de la PTA

JUNTA EJECUTIVA DE LA PTA:
Amy Bartosch, Presidenta –
BakerPTA@yahoo.com

Kalihah Barber, Vicepresidenta –
BakerPTAVP@yahoo.com

Shannon West, Tesorera –
BakerPTATreasurer@yahoo.com

Stacy Smith, Secretaria –
BakerPTASecr@yahoo.com

Jaime Kemp, comité de 8 grado –
BakerPTA8thGrade@yahoo.com

Visita nuestra página web!



Visít nuestra página de Facebook!



Hola de la PTA!

La Junta de la PTA de Baker está en pleno apogeo para el año escolar 2024-2025! ¡Ya tenemos muchas actividades planeadas y más en proceso! ¡Siempre nos vendrían bien más voluntarios y nos encantaría tenerte!



¿Quieres ser miembro?
¡Escanee el código QR para vincularlo a su formulario de membresía en línea!

¡Próximos eventos de la noche espiritual!

Lunes 23 de septiembre

Hornet's Nest

- ❖ *Todo el día (11:30 am to 9:30pm!)*
- ❖ Debe mencionar "Baker PTA" al realizar el pedido.
- ❖ ¿Hacer pedidos en línea? ¡Ingrese "Fundraiser" en el código de promoción!

Viernes 4 de octubre

Leech Woods

- ❖ *A partis de las 6:30 pm*
- ❖ Haga su pedido antes del 15 de septiembre – 20%; después, obtenga un 15 % de descuento.
- ❖ Utilice el código "BULLDOGS"

Lunes 14 de octubre

Ricotón

- ❖ *Después de las 3:00 pm hasta el cierre.*
- ❖ Todos los pedidos participarán en la rifa de una caja de tacos o una tarjeta de regalo Ricoton gratis.
- ❖ Puedes apoyar a la PTA y ganar tacos gratis



¿Quieres más información? Escanea el código QR

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](#)