

Mr. Levine's Message

Greetings Bulldog Families,

I hope this message finds you well.

This week Baker Middle School celebrates **American Education Week**. Students had the opportunity to write notes of appreciation to their teachers, paraeducators, counselors, administrators, and any other staff members they wished to recognize. Parents and guardians who wish to recognize any of the adults who work with their students may send an email directly to the staff member(s). A link to the Staff Directory can be found in the blue bar on the left of the Baker home page.

Parent Conferences will be held **Monday, November 25, 2024**. Additional information on this year's conference format has been shared in a separate communication.

Monday, November 25, and Tuesday, November 26, are early release days for students. We will dismiss students at 12:30 p.m. on both days. **Schools and offices will be closed Wednesday, November 27 through November 29 for Thanksgiving break.**

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

Baker MS Music Department Fundraiser

The Baker Music Department's "Fresh Fruit Fundraiser" is coming to an end. **Sunday, November 17 is the last day to place an order** for freshly picked Florida citrus, apples, pears, and cheesecakes. **All orders and payment in advance must occur online using this link:** <https://freshfruitorder.org/BakerMusic/Organizations/landingpage.aspx>

PURCHASING INFORMATION — If your child or a friend of the family is enrolled in Concert Band, Symphonic Band, Symphonic Orchestra, Concert Chorus, or Chamber Singers, please make sure that you designate them as the seller so they will get sales credit. If you are ordering as a community member or teacher and do not have any preference for who gets credit for your sale, please select **"Music Department"**

IF YOUR SELLER OR MEMBER AGREES TO DELIVER TO YOU, please select them for **"member delivery"** and designate a delivery address in your check out. A "member delivery" is the music student or their family hand delivering the items to you.

Buyers can pick their items up themselves if they choose **"customer pick-up."** Please arrive at the back entrance by the parent drop off and enter the back doors by the music room on 12/6 (tentative) between 3:15-5:30 pm to pick-up your order.

Only items designated for "holiday gift shipping" will be mailed out of state. **No items which are designated for "member delivery" or "customer pick-up" will be shipped.**

Students in Symphonic Band, Concert Band, Symphonic Orchestra, Concert Chorus, or Chamber Singers, can earn credit to reduce the price of their spring music trip. Let's help our music students have a great trip and experience!

Many Thanks!

Valerie Fell and Kari Liuzzi, Baker Music Directors



Looking Ahead

November —

Nat'l Native American Heritage Month
Lung Cancer Awareness Month

November 18–22 – American Ed Week

Tuesday, November 19 — Activity Buses
Basketball – Co-Ed, Mr. Smith, Gym
eSports Club, Mr. Conner and
Mr. Maddox, Room 134

Wed, November 20 — Activity Buses
Basketball – Co-Ed, Mr. Smith, Gym

Thursday, November 21 — Activity Buses
Basketball – Co-Ed, Mr. Smith, Gym
EML Guitar Club, Mr. Maddox, Room 134
Homework Club, Ms. Laraia, Room 227
Jazz Band, Ms. Fell, Room 107
Kraft Club, Ms. Ross, Room 101
NJHS, Mr. Conner, Room 209

Friday, November 22
DHS Family Movie Night (*see page 2*)

Monday, November 25
Early Release Day for Students
Dismissal at 12:30 p.m.
Parent Conferences

Tuesday, November 26
Early Release Day for Students
Dismissal at 12:30 p.m.

November 27–29
Systemwide closure and Thanksgiving
Break; Schools and offices closed

December 2–6 — 6th Grade Outdoor Ed

Tuesday, December 3 — Activity Buses
Basketball – Co-Ed, Mr. Smith, Gym
eSports Club – *7th and 8th graders only,*
Mr. Maddox, Room 134

Wed, December 4 — Activity Buses
Basketball – Co-Ed, Mr. Smith, Gym

Thursday, December 5 — Activity Buses
Basketball – Co-Ed, Mr. Smith, Gym
Jazz Band, Ms. Fell, Room 107
Kraft Club, Ms. Ross, Room 101

No Paw Prints
December 1, 2024

8th Grade Science Classes to Build Rockets



The 8th Grade Science team is excited to announce our upcoming Physics unit culminating project: designing and building water-powered rockets!

To support this project, we're asking for donations of straight-sided 2-liter plastic bottles (like Pepsi or Safeway/Weis brands). Please avoid "curvy" bottles (e.g., Coke products) as they don't work as effectively.

Each group of four students will need at least one bottle, and extras will be saved for future classes. Clean, rinsed bottles are appreciated to help keep our classrooms critter-free.

Thank you for supporting this exciting hands-on learning experience! If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to the 8th Grade Science team, Mrs. Pennington and Mr. Rose.

From the SGA

Friendship Dance

Parents/Guardians — the annual Friendship Dance takes place on **February 7, 2025**. Please help make this event a success by purchasing any of the decorations on this [wishlist](#) and dropping them off at the Main Office.

Book Collection

Baker MS Community — please donate new and gently used books for MCPS Foster Care students. Drop off in the Media Center **now through April 24 at 3:00 p.m.**

Holiday Giving Project

The Holiday Giving Project provides **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 December holiday season, please complete the referral form by clicking [here](#). **Referral Deadline for December Holiday - Friday, November 22. A referral is not a guarantee of assistance, the Project helps as many families in need as donations allow.** Please contact Mrs. Jones with questions.

C-SPAN STUDENTCAM2025

Students in 6th through 12th grades are invited to participate in C-SPAN's annual national video documentary StudentCam competition, which encourages them to think critically about issues that affect our communities.

This year, students are being asked to create a five-to-six-minute video documentary on a topic that relates to the competition theme, "Your Message to the President." Students may compete individually or in groups.

Monday, January 20, 2025, Inauguration Day, is the submission deadline. C-SPAN awards cash prizes to the top 150 student documentaries. [FAQs](#) [Getting Started](#)

Outdoor Ed Coming Soon!

We are excited for our upcoming Outdoor Ed adventures!

- Mr. Haren's Science classes attend December 2–December 4.
- Mr. Pekar's Science classes attend December 4–December 6

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Haren at Joseph_A_Haren1@mcpsmd.org or Mrs. Woodward at Shannon_M_Woodward@mcpsmd.org.

Medications for Outdoor Ed

As the John T. Baker Middle School Outdoor Education trip approaches, the Health Room staff requests that parents drop off any necessary medications for their children by **Wednesday, November 20, 2024**. Medications should be clearly labeled with a pharmacy label, expiration date, and accompanied by the doctor's order.

Due to the upcoming holiday season, we need all paperwork to be completed prior to the holiday break to ensure that we are fully prepared for the trip.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Time to Bundle Up

With the cold temperatures in the morning we want to remind you that our doors open for students at 7:50 a.m. on regular school days and 9:50 a.m. on days when there is a two-hour delay. Staff are not on duty until those times and, thus, there is no one to supervise your child or let them in to the building. Please make sure students come bundled warmly in preparation for the cold temperatures outside. Thank you!



Damascus High School Presents

ZOOTOPIA

Family Movie Night

Damascus High School Auditorium
Friday November 22, 2024
Doors open at 5:30pm; Movie Begins at 6:00pm
Free Admission
All children must be accompanied by an adult

Donations gladly accepted to support the Performing Arts

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](#)

PTA Dates & Contacts

UPCOMING PTA MEETING DATES:

Tuesday, December 10

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

Tuesday, January 14

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

Wednesday, February 12

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 SGA is hosting their annual Friendship Dance on 2/07 and is looking for donations to make the dance a success. Please check out their [wishlist](#) & drop any donations in the main office!

DATE CHANGE – December PTA meeting has been moved to Tuesday, 12/10 – please update your calendars!



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

Upcoming Events & Volunteer Opportunities!

Monday, November 25th

- ◆ Parent Teacher conferences
- ◆ PTA will be providing snacks & beverages to the staff to help fuel them through the afternoon & evening of conferences.
- ◆ Sign up to donate at our [SignUp Genius!](#)

Tuesday, December 10th

Ledo Pizza Spirit Night

- ◆ *All day (11 am to 9 pm)*
- ◆ Use code "Fundraiser" online or mention the Baker PTA fundraiser if dining in or calling ahead for carryout.

Thursday, December 16th through Friday, 20th Staff Appreciation Week

- ◆ PTA will be providing grab & go breakfast items each day – see the breakfast [SignUp Genius!](#)
- ◆ PTA will be hosting a Baked Potato & Chili Bar on Thursday, 12/19 – see the lunch [SignUp Genius!](#)



Want more information? Scan the QR Code!

Fechas Y Contactores de la PTA:

PRÓXIMAS FECHAS DE REUNIONES DE LA PTA:

Martes 10 de diciembre
6 pm – comité de octavo grado
7 pm – reunión de la PTA

Martes 14 de enero
6 pm – comité de octavo grado
7 pm – reunión de la PTA

Miércoles 12 de febrero
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!



Visit nuestra página de Facebook!



Hola de la PTA!

Baker SGA organizará su Baile de la Amistad anual el 2/07 y está buscando donaciones para que el baile sea un éxito. ¡Consulte su [lista de deseos](#) y deje cualquier donación en la oficina principal!

CAMBIO DE FECHA: la reunión de la PTA de diciembre se trasladó al martes 10/12. ¡Actualice sus calendarios!



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

¡Próximos eventos!

Lunes 25 de noviembre

- ◆ Conferencias de padres y maestros
- ◆ La PTA proporcionará refrigerios y bebidas al personal para ayudarlos a tener energía durante la tarde y noche de las conferencias.
- ◆ ¡Regístrese para donar en nuestro [SignUp Genius!](#)

Martes 10 de diciembre

Noche de espíritu de Ledo Pizza

- ◆ Todo el día (de 11:00 a 21:00)
- ◆ Utilice el código "Recaudación de fondos" cuando haga su pedido en línea o mencione la recaudación de fondos de la PTA de Baker si cena o llama con anticipación para pedir comida para llevar.

Del 16 al 20 de diciembre

- ◆ La PTA proporcionará productos de desayuno para llevar todos los días. ¡Consulte el [SignUp Genius!](#)
- ◆ La PTA organizará una barra de papas al horno y chile el jueves 19/12 – ¡vea el [SignUp Genius!](#)



¿Quieres más información? ¡Escanea el código QR!

MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Expanding Opportunity and Unleashing Potential

OFFICE OF DISTRICT OPERATIONS

November 8, 2024

Dear Staff, Parents, and Guardians:

We are pleased to inform you of an opportunity to purchase a piano for your family. Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) has an agreement with Schaeffer's Piano Company, Inc., to provide MCPS with new grand, upright, and digital pianos to be used in schools. Schaeffer's Piano Company, Inc., located in Rockville, Maryland, is the area's oldest piano store. This agreement also provides MCPS families and staff an opportunity to purchase these and other in-stock pianos for considerably reduced prices at an annual piano sales event.

This year's liquidation sales event will take place November 16–24, 2024, at 105 North Stonestreet Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20850. Sales will be by appointment only to provide an opportunity for you to purchase these pianos before they are offered for sale to the public. All pianos will carry a 15-year transferable warranty. Each piano will come with a bench and one free in-house tuning.

For additional information, you may visit the Schaeffer's Piano Company, Inc., website at <https://www.schaefferspiano.com>. To make an appointment for the sale, between November 16–24, 2024, please call the Schaeffer's Piano Company appointment desk at 301-424-1147.

We are grateful to be working with Schaeffer's Piano Company, Inc., to support our school music programs and help MCPS keep new and well-maintained instruments in our schools each year. If you have any questions, please contact Schaeffer's Piano Company, Inc., at 301-424-1144.

Sincerely,



Dana E. Edwards
Chief of District Operations