

## Mr. Levine's Message

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

The Damascus Cluster starts off this week with a **Cluster Choral Concert**. This event featuring chorus students in 5th, 6th, and 7th grades will take place on **Monday, January 27, at Damascus High School**. Please join us at **7:00 p.m.** for some wonderful music!

**Tuesday, January 28**, marks the **end of Marking Period 2 and Semester 1**. Please check with your child(ren) to make sure that all assignments and assessments have been turned in and/or made up. Also, locker clean-out will take place on this day.

There is **no school for students on Wednesday, January 29**, as this is a grading/planning day for teachers.

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

## Friendship Dance

Parents/Guardians, & Students — the annual **Friendship Dance** takes place on **Friday, February 7, from 3:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m.**

Please make sure to **purchase your \$7 ticket and fill out the online permission slip on this [schoolcash link](#) before 12:59 p.m. on February 6, 2025.**

Any help to make this event a success by purchasing any of the decorations on this [Amazon wishlist](#) and dropping them off at the Main Office will be greatly appreciated.

See you there to celebrate friendship!



## Board of Education Seeks Public Comments

The Board of Education is seeking comments on proposed amendments to two policies:

- Board Policy GAA, *Workforce Excellence*
- Board Policy GCB, *Investigation of Employee Misconduct*

### Important Dates

- Draft amendments to Board Policy GCB have been available for comment since December 10, 2024, and the comment period will close on February 3, 2025. The Board Policy Management Committee is tentatively scheduled to review public comments at its meeting on February 27, 2025.
- Draft amendments to Board Policy GAA have been available for comment since January 10, 2025, and the comment period will close on February 3, 2025. The Board Policy Management Committee is tentatively scheduled to review public comments at its meeting on February 27, 2025.

### Links to Additional Information

- A description of each policy, drafts for review, and public comment questionnaires are available on the [Public Comment Page](#).
- [View video presentations](#) on public comment page



## Looking Ahead

### Monday, January 27

Damascus Cluster Choral Concert,  
Grades 5–7, 7:00 p.m. at DHS

### Tuesday, January 28 — Activity Buses

End of Marking Period 2 and Semester 1  
Locker Clean-Out  
Basketball vs. Hallie Wells, Boys Home/  
Girls Away  
eSports Club, Mr. Conner and  
Mr. Maddox, Room 134  
Workout Club, Mr. Fisher, Weight Room

**Wed, January 29 — No Activity Buses**  
**No school for students**

### Thursday, January 30 — Activity Buses

EML Guitar Club, Mr. Maddox, Room 124  
Homework Club, Ms. Laraia, Room 227  
Jazz Band, Ms. Fell, Room 107  
Kraft Club, Ms. Ross, Room 101  
NJHS, Mr. Conner, Room 233  
SGA, Ms. Blankenship, Room 233  
Workout Club, Mr. Fisher, Weight Room  
Concert Snow Date (any concerts/schools)

### February —

**African American Heritage Month**  
**Career and Technical Education Month**  
**Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month**

### February 3–7 — National School Counseling Week

### Tuesday, February 4 — Activity Buses

Basketball vs. Rocky Hill, Boys Away/  
Girls Home  
eSports Club, Mr. Conner and  
Mr. Maddox, Room 134  
Workout Club, Mr. Fisher, Weight Room

### Wednesday, February 5 — Activity Buses

### Thursday, February 6 — Activity Buses

Homework Club, Ms. Laraia, Room 227  
Jazz Band, Ms. Fell, Room 107  
Kraft Club, Ms. Ross, Room 101  
NJHS, Mr. Conner, Room 233  
SGA, Ms. Blankenship, Room 233  
Workout Club, Mr. Fisher, Weight Room

### Friday, February 7

NJHS/SGA Friendship Dance

## Pillars of Character

“Character – the willingness to accept responsibility for one’s own life – is the source from which self-respect springs.” *Joan Didion*

Character education is an integral part of the instructional program at Baker Middle School. A person of good character is ethical and has moral strength. Students who exemplify the core universal values of trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship will be recognized by a letter from the principal which will be placed in the student’s cumulative file as well as being sent home, and a photo certificate displayed in the main office showcase.

### January Character Trait – Responsibility

Responsibility is doing what you are supposed to do. Responsible people think ahead, set reasonable goals, control their tempers, and always do their best. They do not give up easily, especially when others are counting on them. Responsible people accept the consequences of the choices they make. They do not blame others.

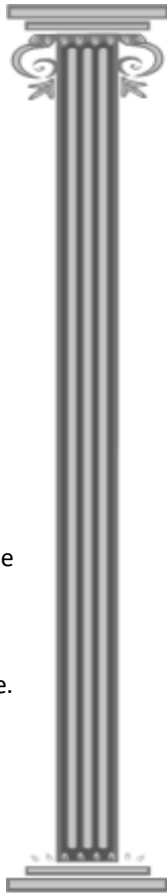
### January Students of the Month

Odyssey – Ben Luther, Mackenzie Stultz

Terrapins – Adriel Aikins, Madison Babcock

Champions – Samrawit Adane, Michael Lazzaro

Explorers – Nevaeh Cooper, Bruce Lopez



## 2025-2026 Traditional School Year Calendar

### Time to Bundle Up

Brrr — it’s freezing! A reminder that our doors open to students at 7:50 a.m. (9:50 a.m. on days when there is a two-hour delay). Please make sure students come bundled warmly in preparation for the outside temperatures. Thank you!



### Winter Weather Is Coming: Are You Ready?

Winter is coming, and MCPS has your back with information on how to Stay Connected to get the latest information on weather delays and closures.

Keep your contact information up-to-date: Visit the ParentVUE link on the [MCPS Community Tech Support website](#).

#### Know the Color-Coded Statuses:

- **Green:** Normal Operations
- **Yellow:** Delayed Opening
- **Blue:** Early Dismissal
- **Red:** Closed
- **Orange:** Modified Virtual Instruction

#### [Learn more about Color Codes](#)

**Why it Matters:** Decisions are made with expert input and local assessments to keep everyone safe.

**How to Know:** Check the MCPS website and social media for real-time updates.

#### Don’t Miss the Superintendent’s Video

Watch the video: <https://youtu.be/ugfu7nlDpuk>

## From the SGA

**Book Collection** — 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.**

**Comfort Cases** — The Baker SGA, with the help of the Baker MS community, is collecting the following items to create comfort cases (backpacks) for foster care students in MCPS until April 23. Drop off in the media center.

- Duffel Bag or Backpack
- Pajamas, Child Size 10 to Adult 3XL
- Blanket (no larger than 50”x 60”)
- Adult Toothbrush (1 – 3 pack), Toothpaste (travel size)
- Shampoo & Conditioner (travel size)
- Soap or Body Wash (travel size)
- Deodorant
- Lotion (travel size)
- Stuffed Animal (12” or smaller)
- Journal, Pens & Pencils, Book

**Baker students can earn up to 2 SSL hours if help pack the comfort cases after school on Thursday, April 24, 2025.**

## Choose Respect Competition

**Choose Respect 2025:** Middle and high school students are invited to participate in the Choose Respect competition for a chance to win up to \$1,000. To enter, students must create a 60-second video with a message raising awareness about emotional abuse, consent, or how to support a friend facing a difficult situation. Participants can earn SSL hours, and the winning videos will be showcased at RespectFest 2025. **The deadline to submit videos is Sunday, February 16, 2025.** To learn more, [visit the website.](#)



#### STAY CONNECTED

- **VISIT** the [MCPS homepage](#).
- **CALL** 240-740-3000. Staff take calls from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays thru Fridays, in English and Spanish (240-740-2845)
- **READ** news and information sent via email and text message and on the [MCPS News](#) page.
- **FOLLOW** the MCPS social media pages on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram in English and Spanish.
- <http://twitter.com/mcps>  
<https://www.facebook.com/mcpsmd>  
[https://www.instagram.com/mcps\\_md](https://www.instagram.com/mcps_md)
- <https://www.facebook.com/mcpsespanol>  
<https://twitter.com/MCPSEspanol>  
<https://www.instagram.com/mcpsenespanol/>
- **SIGN UP** for [emails and text alerts](#) and make sure your [ParentVue](#) information is up to date.
- **WATCH** the MCPS cable channels Comcast 34 (1071 HD), Verizon 36 or RCN 89

## PTA Dates & Contacts

### UPCOMING PTA MEETING DATES:

#### Wednesday, February 12

6 pm – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Committee  
7 pm – PTA Meeting

#### Tuesday, March 11

6 pm – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Committee  
7 pm – PTA Meeting

#### Tuesday, April 8

6 pm – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Committee  
7 pm – PTA Meeting

### PTA EXECUTIVE BOARD:

**Amy Bartosch**, President –  
[BakerPTA@yahoo.com](mailto:BakerPTA@yahoo.com)

**Kalihah Barber**, Vice President –  
[BakerPTAVP@yahoo.com](mailto:BakerPTAVP@yahoo.com)

**Shannon West**, Treasurer –  
[BakerPTATreasurer@yahoo.com](mailto:BakerPTATreasurer@yahoo.com)

**Stacy Smith**, Secretary –  
[BakerPTASecr@yahoo.com](mailto:BakerPTASecr@yahoo.com)

**Jaime Kemp**, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Committee –  
[BakerPTA8thGrade@yahoo.com](mailto:BakerPTA8thGrade@yahoo.com)

Visit our webpage!



Visit our Facebook Page!



# Hello from the PTA!

The PTA is looking for more members and parent volunteers for our upcoming activities! Please see the QR code below to become a member.

Reminder: 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! (Wishlist is linked on the PTA Facebook page.)



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

## Upcoming Events & Volunteer Opportunities!

### Upcoming February Fundraiser Discounted Urban Air tickets!

- ◆ Sale will run from February 10<sup>th</sup> to February 23<sup>rd</sup>
- ◆ Tickets will be good for an entire year!
- ◆ Keep an eye out on our Facebook and Web pages for informational flyers in the coming weeks!

### Wednesday, February 12th

#### PTA Meetings

- ◆ 8th Grade Committee meeting at 6 pm
- ◆ General Committee meeting at 7 pm
- ◆ [Zoom Link](https://mcpsmd.zoom.us/j/85601569113?pwd=Fd4X4T4qMIUcFN997gJFXr1QQZG4MT.1)  
[https://mcpsmd.zoom.us/j/85601569113?  
pwd=Fd4X4T4qMIUcFN997gJFXr1QQZG4MT.1](https://mcpsmd.zoom.us/j/85601569113?pwd=Fd4X4T4qMIUcFN997gJFXr1QQZG4MT.1)  
**Meeting ID:** 856 0156 9113    **Passcode:** 908892  
**Phone:** +1 301 715 8592 US    **One tap mobile:**  
+13017158592,,85601569113#,,,,\*908892# US



Want more information? Scan the QR Code!

## Fechas y Contactors de la PTA:

### PRÓXIMAS FECHAS DE REUNIONES DE LA PTA:

#### Miércoles 12 de febrero

6 pm – comité de octavo grado

7 pm – reunión de la PTA

#### Martes 11 de marzo

6 pm – comité de octavo grado

7 pm – reunión de la PTA

#### Martes 8 de abril

6 pm – comité de octavo grado

7 pm – reunión de la PTA

### JUNTA EJECUTIVA DE LA PTA:

Amy Bartosch, Presidenta –

[BakerPTA@yahoo.com](mailto:BakerPTA@yahoo.com)

Kalihah Barber, Vicepresidenta –

[BakerPTAVP@yahoo.com](mailto:BakerPTAVP@yahoo.com)

Shannon West, Tesorera –

[BakerPTATreasurer@yahoo.com](mailto:BakerPTATreasurer@yahoo.com)

Stacy Smith, Secretaria –

[BakerPTASecr@yahoo.com](mailto:BakerPTASecr@yahoo.com)

Jaime Kemp, comité de 8 grado –

[BakerPTA8thGrade@yahoo.com](mailto:BakerPTA8thGrade@yahoo.com)

Visita nuestra página web!



Visit nuestra página de Facebook!



## Hola de la PTA!

¡La PTA está buscando más miembros y padres voluntarios para nuestras próximas actividades!

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! (La lista de deseos está vinculada en la página de Facebook de la PTA).



¿Quieres ser miembro?

¡Escanee el código QR para vincularlo a su formulario de membresía en línea!

## ¡Próximos eventos!

### Próxima recaudación de fondos en febrero

#### Billetes de avión "Urban Air" con descuento

- ◆ La venta se realizará del 10 al 23 de febrero.
- ◆ ¡Las entradas serán válidas durante todo un año!
- ◆ ¡Consulta nuestro Facebook y sitio web para obtener folletos informativos en las próximas semanas!

### Miércoles 12 de febrero

#### Reuniones de la PTA

- ◆ Reunión del Comité de 8vo Grado a las 6 pm
- ◆ Reunión del Comité General a las 7 pm
- ◆ [Zoom Link](#)

[https://mcpsmd.zoom.us/j/85601569113?](https://mcpsmd.zoom.us/j/85601569113?pwd=Fd4X4T4gMIUcFN997gJFXr1QQZG4MT.1)

[pwd=Fd4X4T4gMIUcFN997gJFXr1QQZG4MT.1](https://mcpsmd.zoom.us/j/85601569113?pwd=Fd4X4T4gMIUcFN997gJFXr1QQZG4MT.1)

**Meeting ID:** 856 0156 9113 **Passcode:** 908892

**Phone:** +1 301 715 8592 US **One tap mobile:**

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



¿Quieres más información? ¡Escanea el código QR!



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*The new way to view breakfast and lunch menus!*



Scan here for the MealViewer website OR download MealViewer from any app store



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View and filter by the top 9 allergens

*Milk, Eggs, Peanuts, Tree Nuts, Fish, Shellfish, Soy, Wheat, and Sesame*

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Menus available in eight different languages

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Français English  
한국어 Español  
Português  
and Tiếng Việt

**TRANSLATED MENUS**



View pictures and nutritional information, set favorites, and rate menu items!

**AND MORE!**



[MCPS MealViewer](#)

[DFNS Website](#)

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*¡La nueva forma de ver los menús de desayuno y almuerzo!*



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**ACCEDER A MEALVIEWER**



Veán y filtren por los 9 alérgenos más comunes

*Leche, Huevos, Maní, Frutos secos, Pescado, Mariscos (crustáceos), Soja, Trigo y Sésamo*

**NECESIDADES DIETÉTICAS**



Los menús están disponibles en ocho idiomas diferentes

한국어 中文  
Français English  
한국어 Español  
Português y  
Tiếng Việt

**MENÚS TRADUCIDOS**



¡Veán imágenes e información nutricional, establezcan sus favoritos y califiquen los elementos del menú!

**¡Y MÁS!**



[MCPS MealViewer](#)

[Sitio web de DFNS](#)

## **Change of School Assignment (COSA) Application Season February 3 through April 1, 2025**

### **Student Transfer Application Season Schedule from the first school day February through the first day in April 2025**

ROCKVILLE, Maryland – Montgomery County parents/guardians who wish to request a Change of School Assignment (COSA) for their children from their home school may begin the process during the upcoming transfer season; from February 3 through April 1, 2025.

Students in Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) are expected to attend the school within the established attendance area in which they reside (home school) or assigned in accordance with their Individualized Education Program (IEP). Students may apply for Change of School Assignment (COSA) from the home school, or the school of assignment through the IEP process, based on the following criteria:

- When a documented unique hardship is shown: Students may apply for a COSA when extenuating circumstances related to their specific physical, mental or emotional well-being or their family's individual or personal situation could be mitigated by a change of school assignment.
- When a family moved within Montgomery County who wish to continue attending their former home school may request a COSA without demonstrating a unique hardship. Such requests may be considered for a remainder of the current school year only, with the exception that students in Grade 11 or 12 may be granted a COSA to stay through high school graduation.
- When a student seeks to attend the school where a sibling will be enrolled in the regular/general school program, or a special education program, during the year the students wants to enroll.
  - ▶ When a sibling attends a magnet, language immersion or other application program at elementary level, a COSA may be approved to the regular school program for other sibling on a case-by-case basis. Such approval requires consideration of available classroom space, grade-level enrollment, staffing allocations, or other factors that impact the schools involved.

*The criteria above regarding siblings do not apply if a boundary change has occurred or if the sibling is in PreK. Consideration will be given to school capacity and other issues that impact the ability of the requested school to admit new students.*

The transfer process begins in the home school, where parents/guardians may request the *Change of School Assignment (COSA) Information Booklet through ParentVue*. *The booklet describes the process, and provides useful information. Beginning the first week of February 2025, the COSA booklet will be available in both English and Spanish. Exempt countywide programs that do not fall under the transfer guidelines are listed in the booklet.*

**New for the 2025-2026 school year, parents must submit their request for a change of school assignment (COSA) online through their ParentVue portal.** The parent making the request will be copied on an email notification sent to the administrative team of the student's current school shortly after the submission; this will serve as their "receipt" of request and will be sent to the email they entered when completing the online form.

For information about assignments for students residing in the Northeast, Downcounty or Middle School Magnet Consortium areas, please contact the Division of Consortia Choice and Application Program Services 240-740-7800 or visit the website at [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/schoolchoice](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/schoolchoice).

For more information about the transfer process, parents/guardians are encouraged to contact the principal at their home school. Non-english speaking students and parents/guardians who may require assistance may contact ASK MCPS to get the information they need by telephone at 240-740-3000. Telephone operators who speak English and Spanish are available from 7:30am to 5:30pm, Monday through Friday. Parents who speak languages other than English or Spanish who call the ASK MCPS telephone line and identify their language will have their questions answered through a telephone interpreter.