

Mr. Levine's Message

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

This week, the Damascus Cluster community looks forward to the annual **Jazz Concert at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 20, at DHS**. The concert features the **U.S. Army Blues** with added performances by the **Baker Jazz Band** and the **DHS Jazz Band**. The U.S. Army Blues, part of the United States Army Band "Pershing's Own," is the premier jazz ensemble of the US Army.

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

Superintendent's SSL Award

Any middle school student who completes 75 SSL hours in middle school will earn the Superintendent's SSL award. **The DEADLINE for submitting SSL documentation that qualifies students for this SSL Award is April 4, 2025.** If you turn in hours after April 4, 2025, and no later than May 30, 2025, they will still count towards your record, but will not count towards the Superintendent's award. No SSL hours from this school year will be accepted after May 30, 2025.

Math Curriculum Nights Scheduled for March

The Elementary and Secondary Mathematics teams are hosting two Curriculum Nights, which will include information on math curricular resources, course programming for Grades K–12 and upcoming changes from the Maryland State Department of Education regarding Integrated Math. Attendees will also participate in learning experiences from the Eureka Math and Illustrative Math curricula.

The in-person sessions will be held:

- **Tuesday, March 18**, 6:30–8 p.m., Wheaton High School, 12401 Dalewood Drive, Silver Spring
- **Wednesday, March 26**, 6:30–8 p.m., Watkins Mill High School, 10301 Apple Ridge Road, Gaithersburg

Recordings will be available on the [mathematics website](#) on Monday, April 7, in English and Spanish.

[Math Curriculum Nights, 2025](#)

Game Changer Conference

Summary Unity Christian Fellowship, Inc. will host its semi-annual Game Changer Conference on Saturday, April 5, 2025, from 8:00 a.m.–noon at the Montgomery College—Germantown Campus. The conference theme is "Achievement to Thrive in 2025 is a Game Changer! What are your goals for winning your future?" The goal is to allow students to succeed as a game changer. The target audience is Black or African American and Hispanic male students of color in Grades 4–12. There will be separate sessions for elementary, middle, and high school students. In addition, parent workshops will be held every half hour (beginning at 8:00 a.m. and the last session ending at noon). A continental breakfast will be provided. Although there is no charge for registration, all participants are asked to pre-register by March 24, 2025.

See details in this parent flyer: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/17TorZQxgWHdLbO5x0xT6vfyfjKRO7zlbKLaUcmKoRs/edit?tab=t.0>



Looking Ahead

March — Women's History Month

Tuesday, March 18 — Activity Buses
8th Gr. Field Trip to Montgomery College
eSports Club, Mr. Maddox and
Mr. Conner, Room 134
Volleyball, Mr. Stanford, Gym

Wednesday, March 19 — Activity Buses
Fidos for Freedom during lunches in LMC
Drama Club, Ms. Friedman, LMC
Flag Football, Mr. Cummings, Field
NJHS, Mr. Conner, Room 209
Volleyball, Mr. Stanford, Gym

Thursday, March 20 — Activity Buses
MD Survey through Science classes
Drama Club, Ms. Friedman, LMC
EML Guitar Club, Mr. Maddox, Room 134
Flag Football, Mr. Cummings, Field
Homework Club, Ms. Laraia, Room 227
Volleyball, Mr. Stanford, Gym
Jazz Concert, 7:00 p.m. at DHS

Monday, March 24
Chamber Singers Adjudication

Tuesday, March 25 — Activity Buses
Volleyball, Mr. Stanford, Gym

Wednesday, March 26 — Activity Buses
Drama Club, Ms. Friedman, LMC
Flag Football, Mr. Cummings, Field
Volleyball, Mr. Stanford, Gym
NJHS Induction Ceremony, by invitation

Thursday, March 27 — Activity Buses
7th Gr. Junior Achievement Finance Park
Symphonic Band Adjudication
Drama Club, Ms. Friedman, LMC
Flag Football, Mr. Cummings, Field
Homework Club, Ms. Laraia, Room 227
Jazz Band, Ms. Fell, Room 107
Kraft Club, Ms. Ross, Room 101
Volleyball, Mr. Stanford, Gym

Friday, March 28
End of Marking Period 3
7th Gr. Junior Achievement Finance Park
Locker Clean-Out



The Keeping it Safe (KIS) Coalition is a multi-agency, public-private coalition established in 1992 with the goals of deterring underage alcohol use and reducing youth access to alcohol.

KIS encourages student teams from Montgomery County public and private high schools and middle schools to create a 30-second public service message from one of these topics about the risks and dangers of under 21 alcohol use:

- Topic 1: Standing Your Ground: Fighting Peer Pressure from Friends to Drink
- Topic 2: How Does Social Affect Under-21 Alcohol Use
- Topic 3: Dangers of Under-21 Alcohol Consumption

Please note that this is not an anti-drunk driving message contest. The contest is open to teams of two or more students enrolled in Montgomery County public or private schools or in faith-based or service-based organizations.

Why participate?

Student teams compete for cash prizes for their affiliated organization(*checks are payable to schools or organizations only*).

Prizes are as follows:

High School	Middle School
1st place - \$1000	1st place - \$500
2nd place - \$500	2nd place - \$300
3rd place - \$350	3rd place - \$250
Honorable Mention - \$100	Honorable Mention - \$100

Returning This Year!

The video that receives the most "likes" will receive an additional prize of \$150!

Winners will be contacted via email or by phone once the winning entries have been selected. Prizes will be awarded at a reception hosted by Montgomery County’s Alcohol Beverage Services and the Police Department in early May.

Eligible For SSL Hours!

We are offering **5 SSL hours**. For more details, see [here](#).

Info Meeting

Join us for a virtual information session on [January 7th, 2025](#) or [January 9th, 2025](#) at **3:30 p.m. EST**. Session slides available [here](#).

Tips For Your Video

All entries must be 30 seconds in length and should not include copyrighted images without permission. Copyrighted materials include, but are not limited to magazines, books, DVDs, websites, films, YouTube and music.

Here are some helpful resources to help you with your video:

- [Video contest guidelines](#)
- [Award Winning Videos](#)
- [Contest Promo Video](#)

Ready to submit your entry?

It’s easy! Just fill out our [online application](#) and share the link to your video entry. Don't forget to fill out a [consent and release form](#) per each participating student. **Entries are due March 23, 2025 by 4:00 p.m.**

Questions?

If you have any questions regarding the contest, contact: Roddy Aguirre
240-777-6657
Rodrigo.Aguirre@MontgomeryCountyMD.gov

Sustainability
2025 POSTER CONTEST

All MCPS students and staff are invited to participate in the Division of Sustainability and Compliance's 2025 poster contest.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE:
APRIL 4, 2025

The focus of this annual contest is to increase awareness and demonstrate your school's commitment to environmental sustainability and sustainable actions related to energy conservation, waste reduction, and responsible recycling.

Scan the QR codes to download the entry form and to get more details about the contest.

240-740-3010
sustainability@mcpsmd.org

Division of Sustainability and Compliance
45 West Gate Drive, Suite 4000
Rockville, Maryland 20850

PLEASE JOIN US FOR
BAKER MIDDLE SCHOOL
INTERNATIONAL NIGHT

THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2025
6:00PM-8:00PM

POR FAVOR ÚNETE A NOSOTRAS
BAKER MIDDLE SCHOOL
NOCHE INTERNACIONAL

JUEVES 1 DE MAYO DE 2025
6:00PM-8:00PM

COME TRAVEL TO DIFFERENT COUNTRIES

TASTE FOOD

HEAR DIFFERENT LANGUAGES

FASHION SHOW

HAVE FUN




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PROBAR COMIDA

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DIVERTIRSE




BAKER SCHOOL GYM

BAKER SCHOOL GYM

PTA Dates & Contacts

UPCOMING PTA MEETING DATES:

Tuesday, April 8

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

Tuesday, May 13

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

Tuesday, June 10

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

PTA EXECUTIVE BOARD:

Amy Bartosch, President –
BakerPTA@yahoo.com

Shannon West, Treasurer –
BakerPTATreasurer@yahoo.com

Stacy Smith, Secretary –
BakerPTASecr@yahoo.com

Jaime Kemp, 8th Grade Committee –
Baker8thGrade@yahoo.com

Visit our webpage!



Visit our Facebook Page!



Hello from the PTA!

The PTA is looking for its new 2025-2026 Executive Board! If you're looking to be more involved in the decisions for fundraisers, student events, or volunteer opportunities, please consider volunteering for a position on the Board. Please reach out to BakerPTA@yahoo.com by Monday, April 7th if you may be interested in this opportunity.



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

Silent Auction is May 1st!

- ◆ Same night as International Night – attend both events!
- ◆ Willing to donate an item or a themed basket?
- ◆ Own a business that would be willing to donate a service?
- ◆ Talk to your kids & see if they'd like to donate a service – babysitting, lawnmowing, yard clean up, etc.!
- ◆ Please reach out to BakerPTA@yahoo.com!

8th Grade End of Year Activities

- ◆ Adventure Park Field trip – Tuesday, June 10th
- ◆ 8th Grade Promotion – Thursday, June 12th
- ◆ 8th Grade Dance – Friday, June 13th
- ◆ Want to volunteer? Please sign up [here](#) or print & use this [form](#)!



Want more information? Scan the QR Code!

Fechas y Contactors de la PTA:

PRÓXIMAS FECHAS DE REUNIONES DE LA PTA:

Martes 8 de abril

6 pm – comité de octavo grado
7 pm – reunión de la PTA

Martes 13 de mayo

6 pm – comité de octavo grado
7 pm – reunión de la PTA

Martes 10 de junio

6 pm – comité de octavo grado
7 pm – reunión de la PTA

JUNTA EJECUTIVA DE LA PTA:

Amy Bartosch, Presidenta –
BakerPTA@yahoo.com

Shannon West, Tesorera –
BakerPTATreasurer@yahoo.com

Stacy Smith, Secretaria –
BakerPTASecr@yahoo.com

Jaime Kemp, comité de 8 grado –
Baker8thGrade@yahoo.com

Visita nuestra página web!



Visit nuestra página de Facebook!



Hola de la PTA!

¡La PTA está buscando su nueva Junta Ejecutiva 2025-2026! Si desea participar más activamente en las decisiones sobre recaudación de fondos, eventos estudiantiles u oportunidades de voluntariado, considere ofrecerse como voluntario para un puesto en la Junta. Comuníquese con BakerPTA@yahoo.com antes del lunes 7 de abril si puede estar interesado en esta oportunidad.



¿Quieres ser miembro?

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

¡Subasta silenciosa el 1 de mayo!

- ◆ La misma noche que la Noche Internacional: ¡asiste a ambos eventos!
- ◆ ¿Estás dispuesto a donar un artículo o una canasta temática?
- ◆ ¿Tiene una empresa que estaría dispuesta a donar un servicio?
- ◆ Hable con sus hijos y vea si les gustaría donar un servicio: ¡cuidado de niños, cortar el césped, limpiar el jardín, etc.!
- ◆ ¡Comuníquese con BakerPTA@yahoo.com!

Actividades de fin de año de octavo grado

- ◆ Excursión al Parque de Aventuras - Martes 10 de junio
- ◆ Promoción de 8vo grado - Jueves 12 de junio
- ◆ Baile de 8vo grado - Viernes 13 de junio
- ◆ ¿Quieres ser voluntario? ¡Regístrese [AQUÍ](#) o imprima y utilice este [FORMULARIO](#)!



¿Quieres más información? ¡Escanee el código QR!



JOHN T BAKER 8TH GRADE COMMITTEE

HELP US COLLECT ITEMS FOR OUR AUCTION!

SILENT AUCTION INFORMATION

We are collecting donations for our silent auction on May 1st. We are seeking monetary donations to purchase items and/or in kind donations from businesses and families.

**MAY 1, 2025
6 - 8 PM**

Baker Middle School
during International Night

WHAT YOU CAN DONATE

AMAZON WISHLIST ITEMS

Our Amazon Wishlist has items that will be used to create our auction baskets

BASKET ITEMS

We have a Signup Genius with all baskets we are hoping to build and what is needed

GIFT CARDS

Any denomination will add to our auction offerings!

STUDENT DONATIONS

8th Graders, we need your help too! Have artwork to auction off? Are you a babysitter, mow lawns? Donate your services and highlight your business!

A graphic featuring a hand holding a pink sign with the word "AMAZON" and a QR code. To the left, another QR code is shown with a "SIGNUP" button above it. The background is yellow with blue stars.



CONTACT US TO DONATE:

baker8thgrade@yahoo.com
Paypal: @BakerMSPTA

Donations needed by
April 27, 2025. Got extra
baskets? Donate them for
packaging items.



MCPS MATH CURRICULUM NIGHTS



MARCH 18, 2025
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM
Wheaton High School



MARCH 26, 2025
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM
Watkins Mill High School



APRIL 7, 2025
Recording Available
on MCPS website* in
English & Spanish

LEARN MORE ABOUT

Math Curricular
Resources & Learning
Experiences

Course Programming
for Grades K - 12

Upcoming Changes from
MSDE: Integrated Math

*<https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/math/>

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.

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.