



June 2, 2024
North Bethesda Middle School
News and Notes



North Bethesda Middle School Upcoming Events

- June 3 Regular Schedule Phoenix Time period 1
- June 4 Regular Schedule Phoenix Time period 2
Choral Music Concert at WJ 6:30 p.m. Performers report at 6 pm
Instrumental Music Concert at WJ 8:00 p.m. Performers report at 7:15 pm
- June 5 Regular Schedule Phoenix Time period 3
Hearing and Vision Screening for Grade 8 students
- June 6 Regular Schedule Phoenix Time period 4
Hearing and Vision Screening for Grade 8 students
- June 7 Regular Schedule Phoenix Time period 5
Hearing and Vision Screening for Grade 8 students

Regular Schedule

2023-2024 SCHOOL HOURS: 8:15 – 3:00 p.m.

Parents, please drop off students in the drop off loop.

(Entrance on Bradmoor Drive – note: Johnson Drive is for buses only)

Administrators

Grade 6 Katherine_B_Rudd@mcpsmd.org

Grade 7 tirza_carmichaelcollins@mcpsmd.org

Grade 8 Daniel_E_Werbeck@mcpsmd.org

Principal Annemarie_e_smith@mcpsmd.org

GRADE LEVEL UPDATES/QUARTERLY VOCABULARY

Please click on this [link](#) to go to the NBMS webpage where you can find the weekly grade level updates and quarterly vocabulary lists. The grade level updates can be found under the Academics tab on our school webpage.

MCPS Calendar

To report Bullying and Harassment, please use this [Bullying and Harassment Form](#)

Dear North Bethesda Families:

This past week, sixth graders attended the third and final session of our outdoor education program. I had the opportunity to spend the day on Thursday and our students were having a great time. As I shared last week, I appreciate the teachers and parent chaperones who made this possible. We couldn't have provided this memorable experience without all of the incredible support.

This past Friday, our 8th graders came together to celebrate. A great time was had by all. The majority of our 8th graders participated. This is a testament to the bonds they have created and the PTSA and staff members who coordinated this incredible celebration!

In this week's news and notes, you will find information on the following topics:

1. Chromebook return for 8th graders on Wednesday, June 5th.
2. Information from our registrar on what to do if your rising ninth grader is NOT attending Walter Johnson High School or if your rising 7th or 8th grade student will NOT be attending NBMS next year.
3. Walter Johnson Listserv and PTSA information for rising ninth grade families.
4. Courtyard Supervision: Call for volunteers to supervise the courtyard during lunch.
5. Ms. Rice's Counseling update on summertime with adolescents
6. Upcoming 8th grade events
7. MCPS Parent Resources: MCPS news, ParentVue access instructions, and school-specific information on attendance and student service learning.
8. Updated Student Service Learning Information

CHROMEBOOK RETURN

On Wednesday, 6/5, 8th grade students will return their Chromebooks through science classes. They should remove any stickers and bring their charger and Chromebook. If there is damage or loss, students will receive a financial obligation.

Sixth and seventh graders are not required to return their Chromebooks; however, we are encouraging 6th and 7th grade students to leave their Chromebooks in the media center to decrease the likelihood of damage or loss over the summer. Students will have the opportunity to leave them in the media center during the last week of school.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM THE WALTER JOHNSON HIGH SCHOOL PTSA

Congratulations on your eighth graders finishing middle school! 😊

If your child will be attending Walter Johnson High School in the fall, we encourage you to sign up for the WJ PTSA listserv NOW so that you receive messages over the summer about the start of the school year, including the timing of fall sports try-outs, currently on schedule to begin August 14, 2024, Freshman orientation and

more. You do not have to be a PTSA member to be signed up for the listserv, but we encourage you to join the PTSA when the membership drive starts in the summer.

[TO SUBSCRIBE to the WJ PTSA listserv:](#)

Send a blank email to wjptsasubscribe@groups.io and you should be added to the group. For more information about the listserv, as well as the WJHS Discussion listserv, please visit the WJ web site PTSA pages: <https://www2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/wjhs/listserv/>

If your student is interested in athletics during any season at WJ, the official start dates for athletics 2024-2025 are listed below:

(All tryouts and practices will begin on that date or after). It is expected that all student athletes will attend all tryouts and practices at that time.

2024 – 2025

Fall Start Date: Wednesday, August 14, 2024

Winter Start Date: Friday, November 15, 2024

Spring Start Date: Saturday, March 1, 2025

For more information, please contact the Varsity or Junior Varsity Coach of the respective sport you are interested in. This info can be found at the following link:

[2024-2025 Walter Johnson Coaching Staff](#)

While most information will also be posted to the WJ PTSA listserv, the primary mode of communication and announcements for WJ athletics moving forward will be through the website wjathletics.org, Twitter [@wjwildcats](https://twitter.com/wjwildcats), and Instagram [@wjwildcatathletics](https://www.instagram.com/wjwildcatathletics), so please join those if you are interested.

Please let me know if you have any questions or problems joining the WJ listserv and Welcome to WJ!

Enjoy your summer! 😊

Thanks,

Debby Orsak

WJHS 2023-2024 PTSA President

debby@cagley.com

A MESSAGE FROM OUR REGISTRAR

For students who are not returning to NBMS or articulating to Walter Johnson High School because of moving, attending a private school, or another MCPS high school, please alert Mary Beth Turska, Counseling Secretary and Registrar by calling 240-740-2110 or email her at marybeth_turska@mcpsmd.org

COURTYARD HEROES

Now that the weather is better, we would like to open the courtyard for lunch again. Please consider signing up to supervise the courtyard using the link below!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080448AFAA2CA1F85-49075754-courtyard>

MS. RICE'S COUNSELING UPDATE

Many of us can't wait for summer break because it means our schedules lighten up and we have more free time. The sun sets later, and the days stretch longer, hotter, and lazier. Some will attend camps or work a summer job, but for others the beach, the pool, or the couch are calling. Be mindful that laying around day in and day out can wreak havoc on our emotional state. We need to keep our brains active and working, and our teens' brains too. Promote consistency in routine, connectivity, and creativity this summer and if your tween does not have much planned, help them find something they enjoy keeping their mind and body active. Here are some ideas:

- Read! Read! Read! Visit your local library, download something to your Kindle, or take a walk and find a Little Free Library in your neighborhood. Consider trading books with friends once you're done or creating a small book club, reading, and discussing together.
- Crossword puzzles and word searches (those that challenge you) are great brain stimulation. They increase fluency and word finding abilities. You can order a book or find them online for [free](#). (this is just one link)
- Maintain physical activity - get a bike ride or run in the early morning or late evening when it's slightly less hot. Better yet, create your own obstacle course! And remember to drink water before and after.
- Jigsaw puzzles - when you finish one you can [swap](#) for another.
- Practice Mindfulness- meditation helps us strengthen and focus skills like compassion, insight, and emotional regulation. [Stressed Teens](#) keeps a nice website and the NBMS Counseling Site has some guided meditations in the Virtual Mindfulness Space.
- Learn a new language or strengthen your skills learned during the school year with sites like [Duolingo](#), [Babbel](#), and [Rosetta Stone](#)
- Montgomery College offers great [Youth Summer Programs](#)
- Call your favorite tutor to help hone your skills or check out a new one!
 - Contact your counselor if you need a recommendation.
- Online STEM camps - two great ones are listed below in the Workshops section.
- Fortify your math skills - ask your child's teacher before the year ends what they should work on this summer to prepare for the next school year.

Get outside, keep your brain active and keep your body feeling good. Remember to take care of yourself, stay connected, and find the good in every day. I hope

summer doesn't pass too quickly as it's something most of us look forward to all year!

Webinars, Seminars, Announcements, and things...

- [Parent Child Journey](#) with Dr. Shapiro & colleagues
 - **Free Parent Support Group EVERY Monday at 1:00pm:** *June 3rd - Collective Action and Screens*; [register in advance for zoom link](#)
- CASE Webinar: [Build Executive Function Skills](#) - June 13 from 7:00-8:30pm, learn the 8 different executive function skills, why transitions are hard for children with ADHD and learning differences, and strategies to create a smoother transition from school to summer
- PEP Parent Webinar: [Kids & Summer Break: Chores, Cooperation & Fostering Independence](#) - Tuesday, June 18 from 8:00-9:00pm, \$25
- **Summer Opportunities for Students:**
 - NEW! [MCPS Cyber Camp](#) - Rising 7th, 8th and 9th graders can learn cyber security skills from home at this free virtual summer camp, Monday- Thursday from 9:00-12:00pm or 1:00-4:00pm in late June and early July.
 - Summer **Reading** Skills programs through Loyola University of Maryland - for students of all ages, call for information, 1-800-499-8557, or [see this site](#).
 - Hone your **critical reading** and **writing** skills with a veteran Certified English Teacher and local legend - www.robertguisetutoring.com
 - Looking to be active - check out one of the local **basketball** camps run by our very own teachers and coaches.
 - Montgomery Can **Code** - free summer camp for MCPS rising 6th, 7th and 8th graders - campers will learn to code with Swift, an Apple programming language; [Register here](#)
 - Walter Johnson High School Summer 9th Grade Success Class - a 1-week class designed to prepare incoming 9th graders for the academic challenges of high school with **organizational and time management** strategies, test-taking practices, and study skills. \$100 - July 22-26 from 9:00am-12:00pm; [Register!](#)

8th GRADE INFORMATION

8th GRADE PANORAMIC PHOTO

Order an 8th Grade Panoramic Group here: <https://vando.imagequix.com/s1948471293>

Please use your student ID as your online code

For questions or about ordering, please contact Victor O'Neill Studio: underclass@vosphoto.com

8th Grade Trip to Hershey Park - June 11, 2024, 8:15 a.m. to 7:45 p.m.

Here is the link [to the Hershey Park permission slip](#)

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PvMm-SZeDK4eeY6xYBJzG2JLkomP0gpO/view?usp=sharing>

8th Grade Promotion:

Due to space constraints at North Bethesda Middle School, our tradition involves hosting a staff-student only promotion celebration. This event is recorded and shared with families for their convenience. The celebration includes speeches from both students and staff, recognition of academic and extracurricular achievements, special awards, musical performances, student slides, and messages from teachers. This year, the celebration is scheduled for Wednesday, June 12, 2024, at 1:00 PM.

MCPS PARENT RESOURCES

[MCPS PARENT UPDATE 5/30](#)

[Parent Academy](#)

[Pathway to College, Career, and Community Readiness](#)

[MCPS News Center](#)

Webpage featuring the latest MCPS news and press releases updated regularly.

Ask MCPS / Spanish Hotline

General information about MCPS

Call: 240-740-3000 | Spanish Hotline: 240-740-2845

E-mail: ASKMCPS@mcpsmd.org

PARENTVUE ACCESS

Instructions for getting started with ParentVue can be found at <http://bit.ly/synergyparent>. If you need an activation code, please contact our registrar, marybeth_turska@mcpsmd.org

In the counseling office or ask our main office staff.

NBMS HELPFUL INFORMATION

ATTENDANCE

Our attendance secretary is Maria Stefanias. The best way to reach her for questions or updates about attendance is to send her an email at Maria_Stefanias@mcpsmd.org

TO REPORT AN ABSENCE

Call the Attendance Line at 240-740-2101 by 9 a.m. Upon return to school, send a note to the main office: include student's full name, grade, dates, and reason for absence. You can use this [Attendance Note](#) template for Absences, Tardies, or

Early Dismissals. **MCPS requires a doctor's note for absences of 5 days or more.** For an absence of 3 days or longer, homework may be requested by calling the Counseling Office at 240-740-2110.

Teachers enter attendance for each period into Synergy, the attendance system. **All class absences generate an automated call/email to parents. If you believe there is an error, please contact the teacher and the attendance office.**

If you have any questions, please contact the Department of Transportation Bethesda Bus Depot at **240-740-6580**.

STUDENT SERVICE LEARNING (SSL)

****All SSL Forms for service completed after June 1, 2023, through the end of the 2023-2024 school year, are REQUIRED to be submitted to the school SSL Coordinator no later than May 31, 2024**** Forms turned in after May 31, 2024 for hours earned during the 2023- 2024 school year (before May 31, 2024) may NOT be approved or processed.

To clarify, if a student earned hours this school year before May 31, 2024, then your completed SSL Verification form NEEDS to have been turned in BY MAY 31, 2024.

Completed SSL Verification forms for hours earned after May 31, 2024, including during the summer, should be submitted in September 2024. Ms. Jurewicz might host SSL Opportunities after MAY 31, 2024; however, she does not process forms from June to October.

Current 8th grade students should submit completed SSL Verification forms dated May 31, 2024, or later to their high school SSL Coordinator.

[NBMS Student Service Learning \(SSL\) Website](#)

Warmly,

AnneMarie Kestner Smith, Ed.D. (She, Her, Hers)

Principal

North Bethesda Middle School

[North Bethesda Middle School Website](#)