



January 5, 2025
North Bethesda Middle School
News and Notes



PLEASE NOTE: A revised schedule will be sent out in event of any additional weather closures and delays

Monday, January 6, 2025

~~6th Grade MAP-R -- Special Schedule, NO PT~~

CODE RED SNOW DAY

Tuesday January 7, 2025

6th Grade MAP-R -- Special Schedule NO PT

Wednesday, January 8, 2025

6th Grade MAP-R Special Schedule No PT

Thursday, January 9, 2025

Regular Schedule Period 7 PT

Friday, January 10, 2025

Regular Schedule Period 1 PT

Reminder: Parents, please drop off students in the drop off loop (entrance on Bradmoor Drive – note: Johnson Drive is for buses only). Also, at dismissal – please do not stop to wait for your child on Bradmoor by the NBMS sign. This blocks people’s access to line up for the drop off loop and in turn causes people to block Bradmoor Drive for people who are passing through.

2024-2025 SCHOOL HOURS: 8:15 – 3:00 p.m.

[Bell Schedules 2024-2025](#)
[MCPS CALENDAR](#)

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

[Bus Route Links](#) – scroll down to North Bethesda Middle School for the most up to date bus routes. If you have any questions, please contact the Department of Transportation Bethesda Bus Depot at **240-740-6580**.

Click [here](#) to learn more about Extracurricular activities and Activity Bus Routes

[Administrators](#)

Grade 6 Daniel_E_Werbeck@mcpsmd.org

Grade 7 Katherine_B_Rudd@mcpsmd.org

Grade 8 tirza_carmichaelcollins@mcpsmd.org

Principal Annemarie_e_smith@mcpsmd.org

Greetings North Bethesda Families:

As you may have heard or will hear soon, schools are closed with a Code Red tomorrow.

MCPS Operating Status and Notifications: In the event of inclement weather, please refer to the **MCPS color codes** for operational decisions, including school closures, delayed openings, or early dismissals. The color codes are available in multiple languages <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/emergency/closings/>.

Where to Find Winter Weather Information: For the latest updates on MCPS decision-making processes and communications during inclement weather, please visit the following resource:

[MCPS Winter Weather Preparedness.](#)

This page contains comprehensive information for you.

In this week's News and Notes, you will find information about the following topics:

- Inclement Weather Information
- Information about MAP R TESTING for 6th graders
- NBMS rising 6th grade parent meeting on Zoom 1/9/25 7:00 PM
- Walter Johnson High School Information Night for rising 9th graders 1/9/25
- Ms. Rice's Counseling Update on goal setting for the new year.
- MCPS Meal Viewer - the new way to view breakfast and lunch menus
- Yearbook information (Early Bird discount price of \$35 if purchased before 2/28)
- Opportunities for students including an HBCU College Fair in February
- Other helpful information

MAPR TESTING FOR 6TH GRADERS

On **Tuesday, January 7**, and **Wednesday, January 8**, 6th graders will participate in the **Measures of Academic Progress for English (MAP-R)** assessment. ***In the event of an additional snow closure, the test will be administered on the first-day students return to school.***

Important Details:

- **Testing Schedule:** North Bethesda will follow a special bell schedule on these days. The schedule can be found [here](#).
- **Untimed Test:** The MAP-R is untimed. Students who do not finish during the scheduled sessions will have the opportunity to complete the test later in the week during a make-up session.
- **Snow Closure Contingency:** If school is closed due to snow, the test will be administered on the first-day students return to school.

Attendance:

We kindly ask all parents to ensure their child attends school on MAP R testing days.

Make-Up Sessions:

Make-up dates will be determined and communicated once we assess the number of students needing to complete the test.

Thank you for your support in ensuring a smooth and successful testing period!

NBMS ARTICULATION MEETING FOR INCOMING 6TH GRADE PARENTS

***** We realize that parents with rising 6th and rising 9th graders will have a conflict with these two meetings. We apologize; however, rest assured, the NBMS meeting will be on Zoom and we will record it and distribute it on Friday, 1/10/2025.*****

[Course Registration Letter](#) for rising 6th graders.

Here is the Zoom Webinar Link for the Incoming 6th Grade Parent Meeting next week:

When: Jan 9, 2025 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Topic: NBMS Elementary Articulation Meeting 1.9.2025

<https://mcpsmd.zoom.us/j/85957716308?pwd=5bBLQza6mt4HPZH6B3K4X0301aU5Um.1>

Passcode:593828

WALTER JOHNSON HIGH SCHOOL ARTICULATION MEETING FOR RISING 9TH GRADERS

Walter Johnson High School will host Parent & Student Information Night on Thursday, January 9th at 6:30 pm at WJ! WJ administration and school counselors will hold a plenary session in the auditorium welcoming parents, provide an overview of the academic advisement process, share information about what to expect at WJ, and discuss available resources to help students select courses and succeed in high school. Then students and parents will be invited to break out and visit the various locations in the school building to learn more about our academic departments, career and technical education programs, electives, and more. Each department Resource Teacher will have an assigned classroom where that department chair will be available to discuss course options and pathway sequences. Special programs and elective teachers, as well as school counselors, will also have a designated space for students and parents to visit, ask general questions, and learn more.

WJ extends a special invitation to current 8th grade (rising 9th grade) students and parents who have the most to learn about our school. However, the event is open to all WJ students and parents who wish to attend.

Nicole J. Morgan

Principal
Walter Johnson High School
Nicole_J_Morgan@mcpsmd.org
240-740-6900

MS. RICE'S COUNSELING UPDATE

Why is it that New Year's is always associated with goal setting? Have you ever wondered how many of those resolutions come to fruition? I went to a yoga class once where the teacher talked about setting intentions for the new year, not goals. She had us close our eyes, concentrate on our breath, and bring to mind one word, something we wanted to focus on for the year to come. In the time she gave us to breathe and think many words floated into my mind - kind, compassion, patience, confidence - but she encouraged us to stick with the first word we'd thought of - "it's probably the one you need the most," she said. I walked away with a word, an intention, something to work on, something to find in my life each and every day.

So, what if we all set intentions rather than goals? What if we lived and worked to achieve things in the present moment, rather than in the future? I think eventually if we manifest our intentions we would also achieve our goals. Displaying our intentions slowly shows us how incredibly powerful we are, that we can change our own fate by attracting to our life what we want more of.

Consider setting an intention this year, it's not too late. It can be broad like improved health, strengthening relationships, studying astronomy, being more compassionate, increasing attention, or it can be more focused like dedicating time to homework, painting in color, saying hello to new people. Remind yourself of your intention daily - write it on the bathroom mirror, make a note about it each night in your journal, stick it on a post-it in your binder, or tell it to a friend.

Intentions give you purpose, as well as the inspiration and motivation to achieve your purpose and thus your 2025 New Year's Resolution. Happy New Year! May your intention be with you.

Webinars, Seminars, Announcements, and things...

- Are you interested in being an NBMS Career Day Speaker? We are always looking to bring new and exciting careers on board. This year's Career Day will be Thursday, April 3rd, from 7:45-10:45 am. If you're interested in being a part of greatness, complete this [Speaker Information Form](#) and we will be in touch.
- Spread the word to your neighbors and friends with incoming 6th graders - this Thursday, January 9th, at 7:00pm, is our **Rising 6th Grade Parent Information Night** on [Zoom](#); Passcode: 593828
- [Parent Child Journey](#) with Dr. Shapiro & colleagues

- **Free Parent Support Group EVERY Monday at 1:00pm:** January 6th - Parent Depression and Anxiety; [register in advance for zoom link](#)
 - [Winter 2025 Journey beginning for Parents of Challenging Children](#) Preschool through Pre-adolescence - 10 Tuesday mornings, Jan 28-April 1 from 11:00am - 12:00pm with Dr. Dan, pay what you can
 - [Medication for Struggling Children and Adolescents with ADHD, Anxiety, Depression and/or Severe Irritability.](#) on zoom, pay what you can, Tuesdays, January 7-21 from 10:00-11:00 am
 - [Parents of Challenging Adolescents.](#) on zoom, pay what you can, Thursdays, January 9-23, 7:00-8:00pm
- [PEP: Nurturing the Nurturers: Prioritizing Parent Well-Being for Strong Families.](#) a PEP Critical Topics in Parenting Webinar, January 29, 2025- 7:30-9:00 pm, free

OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

HBCU COLLEGE FAIR

The 17th annual Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) College Fair will be held on Friday, February 14, 2025, from 6:00–8:30 p.m.

The in-person event will take place at The Universities at Shady Grove for students in Grades 8–12 and their families to meet with representatives from over 50 historically black colleges and universities.

The HBCU College Fair will include the following:

- On-the-spot scholarship opportunities for Grade 12 students;
- Workshops on financial aid assistance, Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), scholarship opportunities, presentations from the Thurgood Marshall College Fund, an overview of HBCUs, and how to find your best-fit HBCU;
- A panel discussion on college life with representatives from the Montgomery County National Pan-Hellenic Council Fraternities and Sororities. During the fair, students and parents can interact with college admission representatives and attend workshops, including a separate workshop and activities for middle school students
- Registration for the college fair will open on Friday, December 13, 2024, and can be found on the HBCU Fair website. We strongly encourage school counselors and College and Career Information Coordinators (CCICs) to attend the fair.
- This event is an excellent opportunity for school staff to meet with HBCU admissions representatives and learn more about HBCUs. We will also provide FAFSA completion support for any Grade 12 student and their caregivers seeking assistance, which is scheduled to open in December 2024.

Representatives from the Maryland Higher Education Commission, Educational Opportunity Center, and Montgomery College's financial aid outreach office will be onsite to help. Please encourage administrators and staff to attend or volunteer to help with this event. Staff at all grade levels are welcome to volunteer. The volunteer registration information is located on the HBCU Fair website.

HELPFUL RESOURCES and 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. or send an excuse note by email.

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.**

School Meal Viewer

MealViewer, the new interactive menu platform for Montgomery County Public Schools breakfast and lunch menus. MealViewer will launch on Sunday, December 8, 2024. Portable document format (PDF) menus will remain available through December 2024. Starting January 1, 2025, PDF menus will no longer be available.

Here is the NBMS MealViewer [link](#).

<https://schools.mealviewer.com/school/NorthBethesdaMS>

Here is a [link](#) to the MCPS Division of Food and Nutritional Services where you can find more information in different languages.

CAFETERIA FEES

It may be necessary to periodically review the cafeteria balance and funding source on your student's account to check for accuracy and for appropriate monetary funds. As a reminder, a traditional school lunch is \$2.80, but students have the option to purchase additional a la carte items for additional purchase. We find it appropriate for you to review with your child expectations and norms around cafeteria spending, and to support them in establishing boundaries and budgeting accordingly. We do not want any surprises for you and your child in terms of their daily

spending. Prepay and check your child's account at www.myschoolbucks.com This service is optional—schools will continue to accept checks and cash for meals in the cafeteria.

Support Call the Schoolbucks toll-free customer support center at 1-855-832-5226 for assistance with enrollment or questions about your account. MySchoolBucks support staff are available Monday to Friday, from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. eastern standard time.

FREE and REDUCED MEALS

Students in Maryland who qualify for reduced-price meals will not be charged for meals.

Applications: Free and Reduced-price Meals System (FARMS) applications have been updated for the new school year and are now available online at www.MySchoolApps.com; this is the preferred application method.

Apply online NOW at MySchoolApps.com (Translations available) Click [here](#) for an English video tutorial. Click [here](#) for a Spanish video tutorial.

- **Federal eligibility guidelines change each school year; therefore, a new application must be submitted each school year.** All students in the family should be listed on one household application. A notice will be mailed home to each student if you are approved for meal benefits or do not qualify for meal benefits. Please keep this important document for your records and use throughout the school year. Families may apply for meal benefits at any time during the school year.
- Households that are unable to apply online should contact their school or the Division of Food and Nutrition Services at 240-740-7400. If you would like a paper application, please contact the main office.

STUDENT HANDBOOKS

Updated online versions of *A Student's Guide to Rights and Responsibilities*, the *Student Code of Conduct in MCPS*, *Guidelines for Respecting Religious Diversity* and *Guidelines for Student Gender Identity* are available on the [MCPS website](#).

STUDENT SERVICE LEARNING (SSL)

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


Resources:

[SSL Information and FAQ flyer](#); hard copies are available in the Counseling Office

For SSL forms, guidelines, resources, and much more click on the MCPS SSL Hub => <https://bit.ly/SSLHubMCPS>

All students should check their SSL hours quarterly, step-by-step directions for checking SSL hours => <https://bit.ly/SSLonVUE>

Students, please check your StudentID@mcpsmd.net Gmail account daily for SSL emails (and of course other important emails)

	<p>Make sure to join the NBMS SSL MyMCPS Classroom.</p> <p>To join, click on the NBMS SSL MyMCPS Classroom link => https://mcpsmd.instructure.com/enroll/FC6DG7. Please share this link with students, family, and friends.</p>
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If you have any questions, after reviewing the SSL information above, please send an email to Carla.A.Jurewicz@mcpsmd.net. Thank you!

YEARBOOKS FOR SALE!

NBMS yearbook sales have begun! If you would like to order a yearbook this year, please use this link to place your order <https://yearbookforever.com/>

Enter "North Bethesda Middle School" in the search bar and it will take you to the order page. The pricing for a yearbook is as follows: **Early Bird Discount: \$35 (1/1 until 2/28)**; Regular Price: \$40 (3/1 onwards). Yearbook orders will only be done online this year. There are a LIMITED AMOUNT of yearbooks. **Please get your order ASAP to reserve your copy!**

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Lui at Jemi_J_Lui@mcpsmd.org.

SUBMIT PHOTOS FOR YEARBOOK!!

Do you have photos you would like to submit for the yearbook? Have you taken pictures of events this year? We hope your answer is YES! The Yearbook Club is looking for students and families to contribute pictures for the '24-'25 yearbook. They can be classes, clubs, student life, community events, SSL, concerts, sporting events, etc. You can submit photos via the Yearbook Snap app (the app icon is orange!), or the Community Upload website

<https://snap.yearbookforever.com/snap/index.html#/upload/1-23J-32823>

The access code is: phoenix (no caps or spaces).

If you have any questions or run into any problems with submissions, please contact Ms. Lui at Jemi_J_Lui@mcpsmd.org.

Warmly,

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

Principal

North Bethesda Middle School

[North Bethesda Middle School Website](#)