Francis Scott Key Middle School is Recognized!

As the principal and member of the Francis Scott Key Family, I am proud to share that Francis Scott Key Middle School has recently recognized. Please refer to the information below and take a look at us on MCPSTV. Super proud of my students, staff, and families!

Key Middle Celebrates Environmental Leadership

Representatives from the U.S. Department of Education’s Green Ribbon Schools Program visited Francis Scott Key Middle School Oct. 8 to recognize the work the school has done to promote environmentally sustainable best practices. Key Middle is a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold certified facility, featuring geothermal heating and cooling and solar panels. Students and staff gave tours and described their work to conserve energy and recycle.

Starting the Day Right

MCPS helped kick-off the 2014 Maryland Breakfast Challenge with an event at Francis Scott Key Middle School September 19. The statewide program seeks to increase the number of students who get a healthy breakfast at school. Key MS, one 74 MCPS schools enrolled in the statewide school breakfast program, has a participation rate over 90 percent.

I was honored to meet Governor Martin O’Malley this past week when we were inducted into the NoKidHungry 2014 Hall of Fame!
2014 State of the Schools
Building Our Future Together

Superintendent Joshua P. Starr will deliver his State of the Schools address at The Music Center at Strathmore on Tuesday, November 11, 2014. Dr. Starr will share his vision for how we can prepare all students for success in their future. We also will celebrate the outstanding students of Montgomery County Public Schools. Tuesday, November 11, 2014. The Music Center at Strathmore 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda, 20852

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<td>7:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Enjoy a light breakfast and student performances and artwork throughout the Music Center.</td>
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| 8:30 a.m. | Dr. Starr presents his State of the Schools address.  
*Foreign language and sign language interpretation will be available.* |

Let us know you’re planning to join us on November 11. Please RSVP at [www.mcpsstateoftheschools.org](http://www.mcpsstateoftheschools.org). The event is free and should conclude by 9:30 a.m.

*Help spread the word-please share this invitation with others in the Montgomery County community.*
Health Corner

We are entering the time of year when we see more incidences of Influenza (flu) and other illnesses in our school. We take the health and well-being of our students seriously and work very hard to keep these viruses from spreading. With flu season upon us and recent media reports about other infections, such as Enterovirus D68 and Pertussis (whooping cough), I want to let you know what steps we are taking to keep our school community healthy and how you can help us in that effort.

Respiratory infections, such as colds, flu, Pertussis and Enteroviruses are spread when people come in close contact with sick individuals and inhale airborne droplets, or come in direct contact with contaminated surfaces. Each day, the staff of Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), in collaboration with School Health Services, takes steps to prevent the spread of infections in our schools.

At our school, we regularly clean and sanitize frequently touched areas, such as door knobs, stair rails, telephones, computer keyboards, and bathroom faucets and fixtures. We also encourage our students and staff to—

- Wash hands often with soap and water or use alcohol-based hand sanitizers, especially before eating and after using the bathroom;
- Cover coughs with a disposable tissue or cough into their sleeve;
- Avoid touching their eyes, nose, and mouth;
- Avoid hugging and close contact with sick individuals;
- Avoid sharing cups and eating utensils; and, most importantly;
- Stay home when sick.

Parents can help us maintain a healthy school environment in a variety of ways, including reinforcing all of the above behaviors as well as—

- Making sure children get plenty of exercise, sleep, and healthy food;
- Keeping sick children at home, especially if they have a fever above 100°F or have symptoms such as diarrhea, vomiting, or a severe cough;

Making sure children receive recommended immunizations and an annual flu vaccine. You will be receiving notification of upcoming free flu clinics in MCPS—please take advantage of this opportunity to protect the health of your child and others.

Since some of the infections mentioned in this letter can have serious respiratory symptoms, please notify your healthcare provider if your child has cold-like symptoms accompanied by difficulty breathing or a new onset of wheezing. If your child has asthma, please make sure our health room has a copy of your child’s Asthma Action Plan and, if needed, an inhaler.

I know that many of you have also been hearing reports about the spread of the Ebola virus around the globe. Ebola is a rare illness that is only spread by direct contact with infected blood and body fluids. Federal, state, and local health officials are closely monitoring the situation and, as always, we will follow their guidance should it become an issue in our area.

The Centers for Disease Control website has a tremendous amount of information about the viruses and infections mentioned in this letter. Simply go to www.cdc.gov, and click on “Diseases & Conditions” or enter a keyword in the search box. Information is available in Spanish at www.cdc.gov/spanish/.
October Newsletter

A primary focus for FSKey as an IB world school is preparing students to be successful 21st century learners. One way we accomplish this goal is by teaching our students about the MYP learner profile. The Learner Profiles are 10 attributes used to develop, reinforce, and cultivate caring global citizens who are life-long learners. Students are learning all about the Learner Profile (open-minded, thinker, knowledgeable, caring, risk-taker, inquirer, communicator, balanced, principled, and reflective) throughout the day and applying them during classroom instruction. Developing these qualities in our students will take them a long way on their journey from earning an IB Diploma in high school to college, careers, and beyond.

Each month, the Key Middle School staff and teachers honor two students from each grade level to receive the MYP Learner Profile Awards. This month, we would like to recognize the following students:

Grade 6

Joshua Katenga K. – (Caring) – Joshua is a very polite student to both staff members and his peers. He helps to explain things to other students when they do not understand. He cares about his school work and doing his best. Joshua is a natural leader. He is mature beyond his years and sets a positive example for other students.

Nakiya A. – (Thinker) - Nakiya is a thinker who is also an active participant in class and consistently completes assignments. She often talks out her ideas with her classmates during group work and is then able to compose a well-developed writing piece reflecting those ideas.

Grade 7:

Devonte D. – (Principled) – Devonte demonstrates principled behavior by being respectful to everyone inside and outside of the classroom. He follows directions from staff at all times and does not hesitate to speak up for what is right whether it is popular or not. Devonte is honest with a strong sense of fairness. He demonstrates responsibility by completing all homework and classwork assignments.

Aryanna B. – (Open-Minded) – Aryanna demonstrates open-mindedness and is always willing to embrace new concepts. She is open to the ideas and perspectives of others. Aryanna enjoys learning new things about the culture of others and makes connections to herself and the world. She is respectful of the traditions of others and appreciates varied points of view.

Grade 8:

Patrice D. – (Communicator) – Patrice is able to confidently express ideas and information in written and oral communication. She has consistently demonstrated the ability to work effectively and willingly in collaboration with her peers regardless of the subject matter.

Yousefsaid A. – (Inquirer) - Yousefsaid is an inquirer who persists until he understands a concept. He is a team player who is always willing to share with his group or the entire class. He even takes risks by attempting to answer questions that require deep analysis.
Science Newsletter

We are very excited now that all students have been introduced to their first projects. Students are engaged in a variety of activities and making connections between the content and their projects. They have been asking questions, identifying variables and making conclusions. They are collecting authentic data, displaying the data, and analyzing the data based on patterns and trends. Please take a moment to ask your student what they learned today in science or better yet, come in and join us for a day. I’m sure you will be amazed!

Also, if you have not checked out our FSK Science Website, we encourage you to check it out. There are great resources that support all grade levels and you can even view our online version of the textbooks used in class.

http://fskms.montgomeryschoolsmd.libguides.com/sciencedepartment. We are looking forward to a great year in science. Please don’t hesitate to contact me if you need anything.

Abby Hendrix, Science Content Specialist
Abby_R_Hendrix@mcpsmd.org
301-422-5618

Investigations in Science 6

Students are discovering that electrical currents that move through a wire produce a magnetic force on materials placed near the wire. Students are investigating electrical energy and are learning that energy comes from a variety of sources. They are also learning that energy can be transferred into different types of energy. It has been very exciting watching students create circuits and electromagnets.

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Scott_Hanna@mcpsmd.org
Katie_D_Spann@mcpsmd.org

Investigations in Science 7

Seventh grade students have been learning about hydroponics. All students worked in small groups to build a hydroponics system to grow basil. Students could choose between a variety of mediums and systems. Many students chose to use perlite or peat moss for their medium and used the wick method or the raft method for their system. Now, as their plants are budding, they are collecting data and analyzing their results. If their system is not yielding results, they might want rebuild and start again. As all this is happening, they have been learning about cells and how cell development supports the growth of their plants. At this point, students should know the parts of a cell and how they function. Now, they are moving onto matter and how elements and molecules support the development of their basil plants.

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Denise_Gray@mcpsmd.org
Amy_White@mcpsmd.org

Honors Earth Space Systems

Eighth grade students have been learning about solar energy and weather. All students have been assigned a location somewhere in the World. They have learned about heat transfer, the global energy budget, latitude, and seasons. They have also been collecting, displaying, and analyzing data about climate and temperatures around the world and making inferences based on them. We even got to demonstrate these concepts using a solar balloon. Meanwhile, they have been using these concepts to generate ideas for their own location. It’s been exciting watching them apply the knowledge they learned. You can even see it in the public service announcements they created on why you shouldn’t leave an animal in a car on a hot day around the school.

Abby_R_Hendrix@mcpsmd.org
Keianna_L_Henry@mcpsmd.org
Kristine_L_Menna@mcpsmd.org
During the months of September and October all students are participating in a variety of writing workshops and activities. Talk with your student(s) about the writing topics and what they are learning about writing for different purposes. As part of our year-long preparation for the transition to the new standardized assessment, PARCC, English teachers are working to include more evidence-based writing tasks. All writing tasks will be accompanied with writing rubrics. These rubrics will detail the criteria needed for students to write their drafts. Meeting all learners’ needs and differentiating have always been a priority at Francis Scott Key. English teachers will continue with a focus on this priority utilizing a variety of workshop models and best practices to engage all students in classroom instruction. Whether a student is learning a concept for the first time, getting additional support, or reviewing current events, we want to ensure all students are being challenged and engaged. Critical reading and thinking about diverse points of view coupled with inquiry-based discussion leads to effective writing.

**What we’re learning in English classes!**

**Ask your 6th grader about...**
- Writing a brief scene showing a character’s personality.
- Writing and presenting an argument defending or challenging a quotation.
- Analyzing how an author develops a character in a text.
- Comparing how a print and non-print text express a central idea.
- Using the Chrome Books!

**Ask your 7th grader about...**
- Presenting a brief speech to the class that highlights an aspect of a person’s identity.
- How a character is revealed through interactions with other characters.
- Writing a personal narrative about a significant influence.
- Writing an argument about a central idea or issue raised in a text.

**Ask your 8th grader about...**
- Incorporating sensory language when writing.
- Writing a description of a setting.
- Writing a personal narrative about a significant event.
- Evaluating a product, service, or experience.

LaKresia D. Whittington
English Content Specialist
PHYSICAL EDUCATION, HEALTH and ARTS

As we near the end of the first quarter students are still enjoying being outside in the beautiful weather. Students have switched to new units which will continue until the end of the quarter.

During fitness students set a goal to reach by the end of the quarter. This involved them having to think of ways to increase their physical activity. Many stated that they would be jogging after school or doing push-ups and curl-ups every evening. Hopefully their efforts will help them reach their fitness goal.

This year, for the first time ever, we sold out of youth large and adult small sizes of our Physical education T-shirts. The good news is that we have received a new order so anyone still wanting to buy a t-shirt in smaller sizes can now do so. Uniforms are sold every day before school from the Physical education offices. Just stop by Ms. Haskins or Mr. Moir.

As we approach the end of the year, we can expect to see the sniffles, sneezes, coughs, and runny noses! Please impress on your student the importance of not sneezing into the air. Sneezing into your elbow is a good strategy if you have no time to get a hanky or paper tissue. Also have your students wash their hands often, especially when they are around others. By doing these two simple things we can cut back on the number of students and staff who may get sick and miss school.
MATH DEPARTMENT

Our students have been hard at work in the FSK Math Department. All of our math classrooms are set up and designed around group discourse - students are learning how to and improve their ability to question each other and share their own thinking by being effective communicators. We are implementing the Math 2.0 Curriculum in Math 6 and Honors Geometry for the first time and Algebra 1 for the 2nd time. We would like to invite all of you to our first Common Core Math Night on Thursday October 23 in the FSK Cafeteria. Everyone is welcome, even if your child is not currently in a Common Core Curriculum 2.0 class. Bring your questions and experience a lesson from the NEW Math 6 Curriculum. Our Math 6 teachers will be leading you through the kind of learning your child is experiencing in class on a daily basis.

Please be sure you have an EdLine account set up so that you are able to keep track of your child's progress. Many of our math teachers offer lunch or after school tutoring for extra help, so please ensure your child is taking advantage of all opportunities to clear up misconceptions and improve his/her understanding.

We are currently wrapping up our first session of MAP-M testing for the quarter. Be sure to check in with your child as to how he/she did. All of our students are having conversations about what those scores mean with their classroom teacher. We will be using this data in designing instruction to meet the needs of all of our students.

Several of our 8th grade students have expressed interest in attending one of the magnet high school programs next year. If you are interested in learning more about high school opportunities, check out the website: [http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/enrichedinnovative/events/high.aspx](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/enrichedinnovative/events/high.aspx). Interested students are HIGHLY encouraged to join the FSK Math Team to practice the skills that they will likely need for the entrance exam in December. If you have any questions about the math team, please contact Cardell Williams (Cardell_williams@mcpsmd.org).

Every month, we will feature a different course in our newsletter. This month, check out the photos below of our Algebra Prep students working through a discovery activity - they are building cubes to show what a cube root is measuring and recording observations on their capture sheets. They are expanding their understanding of real numbers this year to include estimating square roots and work with cube roots.
INDIVIDUALS and SOCIETIES

Exciting Upcoming Events!

Junior Achievement at Francis Scott Key on October 16, 2014

Next week, Junior Achievement is coming to Francis Scott Key Middle School for a fun filled day of learning, discussion and career preparation. Junior Achievement is built on the pillars of financial literacy, entrepreneurship and workforce readiness. JA gives young people the knowledge and skills they need to own their economic success, plan for their future, and make smart academic and economic choices. The volunteers will make a connection between what the students learn in school and how it can be applied in the real world.

Volunteers from E*TRADE Financial will be coming to teach our 6th grade classes the JA Economics for Success program. Over the course of the day, the 6th grade classes will discuss their career aspirations, learn how to create a budget and expand their knowledge of credit cards, insurance, credit score and much more! You can learn more about Junior Achievement by visiting the website, www.myja.org.
OPEN HOUSES FOR GRADE 8 PARENTS AND STUDENTS

NEC high schools will host open houses highlighting their Signature programs and other features of each school. Each open house will begin promptly at 7:00 pm. PLEASE ATTEND ALL!!!

❖ Wednesday, October 22, James Hubert Blake H.S.

❖ Wednesday, October 29, Springbrook H.S.

If you have any questions, please contact the school’s Counseling Department for more information.

Internet Essentials Program from Comcast

The Comcast Internet Essentials Program provides discounted Internet service to households with children who are eligible to receive free and reduced-price meals. While participating in Internet Essentials, customers receive free internet training, a low-cost computer and affordable Internet at $9.95/month. For more information, call 1-855-8-INTERNET or visit www.internetessentials.com.

Programa Internet Básico (Internet Essentials) de Comcast

El programa Internet Básico de Comcast proporciona servicio de internet con descuento a las familias con niños que son elegibles para recibir comidas gratis y a precios reducidos. Al participar en Internet Essentials, los clientes reciben capacitación gratuita de internet, una computadora de bajo costo y servicio de internet asequible de $9.95/mes. Para obtener más información, llame al 1-855-8-INTERNET o visiten www.internetessentials.com.

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Fall 2014 Parent Academy is Under Way!

The MCPS Parent Academy is back with an exciting lineup of free workshops for parents. The 2014 fall session is under way and includes sessions on positive discipline, study and organizational skills, student service learning, preparing for parent-teacher conferences, special education, cybersafety, and more. All workshops are free and are held at schools and locations throughout Montgomery County. The schedule of workshops is available at www.mcpsparentacademy.org

¡La Sesión de Otoño 2014 de la Academia Para Padres está en marcha!

La Academia para Padres de MCPS está de vuelta con una variedad de talleres gratuitos para los padres. La sesión de otoño 2014 está en marcha e incluye talleres sobre disciplina positiva, el estudio y la capacidad de organización, aprendizaje mediante servicio estudiantil, preparación para las conferencias de padres y maestros, educación especial, seguridad cibernética, y más.

Todos los talleres son gratuitos y se imparten en las escuelas y otros lugares alrededor del condado de Montgomery. El horario de los talleres está disponible en www.mcpsparentacademy.org