



NEWS FROM "THE MILL"

September 1 - 30, 2022

Watkins Mill High School
10301 Apple Ridge Road
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20879
(301) 284-4400 FAX (301) 840-3980

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/watkinsmillhs/>

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MESSAGE FROM MS. GODDARD, PRINCIPAL

The **2022-2023** school year is off to a great start! Students will arrive with clear excitement of a new school year, eager to get their schedules, make new friends, and meet their teachers. I can attest that this will be one of the best openings of school ever! Our staff is just as excited to welcome students back to school, and have classes get off to a great start. I am looking forward to seeing students and staff as I visit classrooms and offices. There is a definite "buzz" in the air and anticipation of a great school year ahead. GO RINES!!

Watkins Mill HS - New Social Worker

Watkins Mill has received a new Social Worker position. We are pleased to introduce our new Social Worker, Ms. Danielle Johnson, who will be available to support students daily. We are fortunate to have you as part of our Watkins Mill Community. [Danielle Johnson-Social Worker](#)

Community Test Kit Distribution /COVID-19 Guidelines

We are excited to welcome students and staff back to school on August 29th for the start of the 2022-2023 school year. We know many of our families have spent time over the summer traveling, visiting with friends and family, and engaging in fun community activities. To achieve our goal of a healthy start to the school year, MCPS is recommending that all students and staff take an at-home rapid COVID-19 test prior to the first day of school. Visit this [link](#) for more information.

Face coverings for All MCPS students, staff, and visitors are optional in school buildings and offices, regardless of vaccination status. We encourage you to closely monitor your child for symptoms of COVID-19, such as fever, cough, and shortness of breath.

If your child develops any of these symptoms, do not send them to school. You should contact your healthcare provider immediately for advice. Please contact the school if your child develops COVID-19-like symptoms.

Students who develop symptoms, or test positive for COVID-19, will not be able to return to the building until they are medically cleared.

As a reminder, here are the steps that we can all take to keep ourselves, our families, and the school community safe:

- If you test positive, wear a mask, or appropriate face covering, when in school and other public spaces.
- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water, especially before and after eating.
- Cover your cough and/or sneeze and immediately wash your hands for 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer.
- Stay home if you are sick.

Back -to School Night with Entire Family Picnic & Open House events are scheduled for September 8, 2022.

Back-To-School Night with Entire Family!

Picnic - 5:00pm – 7:00 pm

Senior College Night - 6:00 pm – 6:55 pm

Open House - 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

As we approach the date additional information will be sent to parents via email.

As always, I would like to thank the hardworking parents of our **PTSA and Booster Club**, for their fantastic support of our school. Parents, please show your support by becoming a member now! It's very easy to become a member of both organizations, with one fee and one registration form. [PTSA/Booster Registration Form](#)

Twitter and Snapchat are a great way to stay connected with all that is happening at the Mill. Students are still allowed to use their phones before school, between classes, at lunch, after-school, and in class at teacher discretion for learning activities.

On that note, I need to remind everyone that as students bring valuable electronic devices to school, in the past we have had more incidents of missing items. We are reminding all students to keep their valuables with them at all times. While we will investigate and take action for any thefts, we also need students to avoid carelessness, leaving phones and Airpods in bathrooms, on desks, charging, etc.

The WMHS staff are committed to **PROSPER** by:

- A positive, safe school environment;
- Personalization of the educational experience and knowing our students well;
- A culture of high expectations;
- College and career readiness for all students;
- The International Baccalaureate (IB) education;
- High levels of student engagement, collaboration, innovation, and communication in the classroom;
- Supporting students' social/emotional learning;
- Student/parent involvement, school pride, and engagement that permeates the entire community.
- Fun! Enjoyable, memorable, exciting high school years.

To that end, we continue to strongly encourage our students to take the most challenging courses possible, particularly in the IB Programme. In addition, course offerings in Advanced Placement (AP), Honors, Pre-IB, the arts, world languages, engineering/technology, physical education/health, and multiple career academies remain available for enrollment this fall.

I am also thrilled to be in the 9th year of the School-Based Wellness Center, in partnership with the Department of Health and Human Services. All students have access to a wide range of medical and social/emotional services matched to their individual needs. These services are complemented by a multitude of positive youth development programs, student groups, and mental health services. Wellness Center programs and services will be offered exclusively to Watkins Mill students and their families. To access these services, parents must complete a Wellness Center registration form, which is available [here](#).

It is our primary goal is to ensure a **positive, safe learning environment** for all students and staff. The grade-level administrators will host grade-level townhalls on Thursday, September 1 and visit classrooms throughout the year. During the townhalls, administrators will discuss expectations for student behavior, keys to success, and the MCPS Student Code of Conduct. They will also be covering other policies and procedures, such as policies about dress code, electronic devices, and attendance.

Please note that the school administration will not tolerate any forms of **bullying**, harassment, or intimidation, whether physical, verbal, or online. All incidents of bullying or harassment should be reported to a staff member, counselor, or administrator, and immediate action will be taken. I would like to draw your attention to the [Bullying and Harassment form](#) which parents and students can use to submit a formal bullying complaint. The form should be turned in to the main office, counselor, or administrator, and an investigation will be conducted immediately.

We are very excited about our **fall sports season**, and we are anticipating great things from all of our teams. We promote sportsmanship and tenacity while competing against other high schools. We need your help in getting off to a winning start by getting involved and packing the stands! Don't forget you can also have dinner at our concession stand, sponsored by the Booster Club. Please plan to come out and support the Wolverines at an athletic contest this year. We hope the entire community comes out to support our student athletes! The complete schedule can be found here: <http://www.watkinsmillathletics.com>.

Please note that **SEASON ATHLETIC PASSES** can be purchased for \$70.00 through this [gofan](#) link.

Thanks for all of your support of our school and community, and have a great first marking period.

Sincerely,

Carol Goddard, Principal

NEWS AND HAPPENINGS AROUND THE MILL:

ONLINE SCHOOL PAYMENTS

Parent/Guardian,

Montgomery County Public Schools has transitioned to a new online payment system called SchoolCash Online as its preferred method of payment for school-related fees such as fundraisers, field trips, obligations, etc. (Please note that the new payment system is NOT related to school cafeteria accounts) SchoolCash Online helps parents/guardians and community members pay school-related fees safely, quickly, and easily. SchoolCash Online will help increase efficiency and security at schools by making payments directly into schools' bank accounts and eliminating the need for teachers to handle money. In addition, once registered, you will be immediately informed about school activities! Powered by KEV Group, SchoolCash Online is the industry leader in the management of school fees. The new system puts all of the school-related fees online for purchase so users can make purchases online using a credit card or e-check. A processing fee will be included on all items available for purchase, regardless of the type of payment used on SchoolCash Online or at the school. Parents/guardians can register now at <https://mcpsmd.schoolcashonline.com/>

Parents/guardians will receive a notification with their student(s) PIN information required for adding a student to their account beginning **Monday, August 15, 2022**. Communication will be in the form of MCPS email or USPS mailer for those that do not currently have email on file with MCPS.

The MCPS Help Desk has set up a community support drop box (see below) for community support.

communitytechsupport@mcpsmd.org

Additional resources are currently being developed and will be added to the parent portal and MCPS website as soon as they are available.

FREE AND REDUCED MEALS

Apply Online Now for Free and Reduced-Price Meals Benefits. Families of students who may qualify for free or reduced-price meals can now apply for assistance for school meals. Eligibility is based on family size and gross income. Students in Maryland who qualify for reduced-price meals will receive free breakfast and lunch meals.

[Apply here. Learn more about the program.](#)

ANNUAL NOTICE FOR DIRECTORY INFORMATION AND STUDENT PRIVACY FORM

Parents/guardians may direct the principal not to release any or a specific part of this directory information be withheld.

Parents/guardians and school staff must understand that if they withhold directory information, the decision affects all lists of or references to students' distribution or used outside MCPS, whether prepared by the school, organizations of any combination of parents, teachers, and students, or central services. The form remains in effect until the end of the school year on June 30.

MCPS Form 281-13, Annual Notice for Directory Information and Student Privacy, contains the

appropriate information, and is available below.

[English](#)
[Spanish](#)
[French](#)

Identity Is Offering Assistance to County Residents Families enrolled at the Wellness Center can get the following services:

Identity is receiving clients and offering services for:

- Vaccination information and free COVID-19 testing
- Food and SNAP (food stamps)
- Care for Kids and referrals to Proyecto Salud Clinic and Care for Your Health
- Connections to other social services in Montgomery County

Identity ofrece asistencia a los residentes del condado

Identity está recibiendo clientes y ofreciendo servicios para:

- Información de vacunación y pruebas gratuitas de COVID-19
- Alimentos y SNAP (cupones de alimentos)
- Care for Kids y referencias a la Clínica Proyecto Salud y Care For Your Health
- Conexiones con otros servicios sociales en el condado de Montgomery

Lisette Dardon
Site Manager
Watkins Mill High School Wellness Center
240-380-8714

PARKING PERMIT APPLICATIONS:

Student parking permits are available in the Financial Office. Please pick up an application for you and your parent/guardian to fill out. After it has been completed, return it to the Financial Office. Upon completion of form, parking fees can be paid online through School Cash On-line. After payment is received, a parking pass will be issued.

Permit Parking Fees:

- 1) \$39.00 for each semester.
- 2) \$78.00 for the entire school year.
- 3) Seasonal:
 - a) Fall - from 8/29/22 through 12/16/22: \$26.00
 - b) Winter - from 12/17/22 through 3/17/23: \$26.00
 - c) Spring - from 3/18/23 through 6/15/23: \$26.00

Along with the application, please bring a copy of your driver's license and insurance card. A paper copy of your pending driver's license is not acceptable. Copies can be made in the Financial Office. **You have until September 17, 2022, to purchase your passes before Security starts ticketing.** For any questions, please call Ms. Holderman at 301-284-4416 or email at Lisa.A.Holderman@mcpsmd.org or stop by the financial office.

2023 MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM (MCAP) INFORMATION

WMHS is developing a comprehensive testing plan and will communicate with staff, students, and caregivers when additional information is available. The table below indicates which assessments will be given, who will take the assessments, and the window when the assessments will be given. For additional information and questions, please contact Kerrin Torres, Assistant Principal and School Testing Coordinator, at Kerrin_a_torres@mcpsmd.org or 301-284-4400.

Assessment	Who	When
Avant STAMP 4S (Seal of Biliteracy)	Grades 11-12	October 10, 2022 – February 3, 2023
PSAT School Day	Grades 10 – 11 (10 th grade tests paid by MCPS, 11 th grade tests \$19)	October 12, 2022
Fall MCAP Assessments: • ELA 10 • Algebra I	Grades 9-12 (select students)	Paper: December 5, 2022–January 13, 2023 Online: December 5, 2022–January 20, 2023
Winter MCAP Assessments: • LS-MISA (Science) • NSL Government	Grades 9-12 (select students)	Paper & Online: January 3 – 13, 2023
ACCESS for ELLs	Grades 9-12 (select students)	Primary: January 9 – February 17, 2023 Make up: February 21 – March 3, 2023
Spring SAT School Day	Grade 11	Primary Day: March 22, 2023
Spring MCAP Assessments: • ELA 10 • Algebra I	Grades 9-12 (select students)	Paper: April 3 – May 12, 2023 Online: April 3 – May 26, 2023
Spring MCAP Assessments: • LS-MISA (Science) • NSL Government	Grades 9-12 (select students)	Paper & Online: May 1 – 12, 2023
Summer MCAP Assessments: • ELA 10 • Algebra I	Grades 9-12 (select students)	TBD by Maryland State Department of Education
Summer MCAP Assessments: • LS-MISA (Science) • NSL Government	Grades 9-12 (select students)	Paper & Online: July 24 – 28, 2023

WMHS PTSA & BOOSTER CLUB NEWS

FROM THE PTSA PRESIDENT

Parents:

Join the team that's making a difference in the Watkins Mill HS community! Become a member today! Follow QR Code to the PTSA page to sign up:



Why sign up? Here is what PTSA did last year for Watkins Mill High School:

Between concessions, school store, and mulch sale, as well as other fundraising events, we

raised \$13,483. to benefit Watkins Mill High School. What did we do with these funds?

- We granted **\$4,660** on the projects you, our Watkins Mill community, requested: washer/dryer for theater department, hospitality for a Minority Scholars Program event, yard signs for our seniors, equipment for our football team, and more!
- We gave away **\$3,000** in scholarship money to deserving graduating seniors.
- We held two **staff appreciation** breakfasts to encourage and honor the hard-working educators pouring their lives into our youth.
- We re-opened the **school store**, we recruited two **new Latino parents** to our board, we coordinated the charter bus to **graduation**, we recognized **outstanding teachers**, and we lifted up your concerns to the administration and to MCPS.

If this inspires you, JOIN THE MOVEMENT and sign up now to be a part of PTSA in 2022-2023!

DEL PRESIDENTE DE LA PTSA

Padres:

¡Únase al equipo que está marcando la diferencia en la comunidad de Watkins Mill HS! ¡Hazte miembro hoy! Siga el código QR a la página de PTSA para registrarse:



¿Por qué registrarse? Esto es lo que hizo la PTSA el año pasado para Watkins Mill High School:

Entre las concesiones, la tienda escolar y la venta de mulch, así como otros eventos de recaudación de fondos, recaudamos \$13,483. en beneficio de la Escuela Secundaria Watkins Mill. .

¿Qué hicimos con estos fondos?

- Otorgamos \$4,660 en los proyectos que ustedes, nuestra comunidad de Watkins Mill, solicitaron: lavadora/secadora para el departamento de teatro, hospitalidad para un evento del Programa de Becarios de Minorías, letreros de jardín para nuestros adultos mayores, equipo para nuestro equipo de fútbol y más.
- Regalamos \$3,000 en dinero de becas a estudiantes de último año que lo merecen.
- Llevamos a cabo dos desayunos de agradecimiento al personal para alentar y honrar a los educadores que trabajan arduamente y que dedican sus vidas a nuestra juventud.
- Reabrimos la tienda de la escuela, reclutamos a dos nuevos padres latinos para nuestra junta, coordinamos el autobús chárter para la graduación, reconocimos a maestros destacados y transmitimos sus inquietudes a la administración y a MCPS.

Si esto lo inspira, ¡ÚNASE AL MOVIMIENTO e inscribábase ahora para ser parte de PTSA en 2022- 2023!

Norm Gordon

President

WMHS PTSA

ngordon0522@gmail.com

ATTENDANCE FRIENDLY REMINDERS

In June we had a significant number of parents picking up their students after 2:15 p.m. This is a friendly reminder that parents are not allowed to sign out students after 2:15 p.m. without prior authorization. It creates a safety issue with buses at dismissal, and it interrupts class instruction. If you need to pick up your student early, please send in a note, so the student is prepared to leave class at the requested time.

Reporting Student Absences

To report student absences please email or send in a note to Ms. Alberti -at betty_a_alberti@mcpsmd.org. All phone calls will be sent to voicemail with the voicemail instructing you to email or send in a note.

FAMILY FOOD MARKET:

The next family food market being held at Watkins Mill High School will be on Saturday, October 22, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (or until supplies run out).

YEARBOOK

If you ordered a 2021 yearbook or a 2022 yearbook and still have not picked them up, please come by the Financial Office before or after school (until 3:00 pm) or during STEP!

IMPORTANT DATES

September 5 Labor Day—Schools and offices closed
September 8 Back-To-School Night with Entire Family
Picnic - 5:00pm – 7:00pm
Senior College Night- 6:00 pm – 6:55pm
Open House - 6:00pm – 8:00pm

September 14 Early Release Day for students
September 26 No school for students and teachers
September 30 Early Release Day for students
October 5 No school for students and teachers
October 24 Professional Day for teachers; no school for students
November 7 Professional Day for teacher; no school for students
November 8 Election Day- School and Offices Closed
November 21, 22 Early Release Days for students
November 23 Systemwide Closure-Schools and Offices Closed
November 24, 25 Holidays-School and offices closed

STUDENT SERVICE LEARNING HOURS (SSL)

MSDE graduation requirements is 75 required SSL hours for all students. Please turn in completed SSL forms to SSL Coordinator, Krista Jiron, at Krista_L_Jiron@mcpsmd.org by 9/24/2022.

To explore volunteer opportunities in the area, please visit <https://bit.ly/SSLOpportunities> and <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/ssl/>
Continue to check out our [WM Opportunities](#) page:

Krista Jiron
School Counselor (GOO-LOL)
SSL Coordinator
[Opportunities to Earn Hours](#)
Watkins Mill High School
(301)284-4420
An International Baccalaureate World School

SUMMER OFFICE AIDES (SSL) FORMS

A big **(THANK YOU!)** to the students that were Summer Aides in the main office. You all did a wonderful job helping staff, students, and parents. Please remember to complete the SSL form and return it to the main office before 9/24/2022. [SSL Form Link](#)

COLLEGE AND CAREER CENTER NEWS:

A **Senior Parent Meeting** will be held before Back-to-School night on Thursday September 8th from 6:00-7:00 PM. Important information about applying to college, financial aid/FAFSA, and scholarships will be shared. Parents/guardians AND students are highly encouraged to attend!

A **Financial Aid Night** will be held virtually on Thursday September 15th from 6:30-8:30 PM. Rob Maddox, Director of Financial Aid at St. Mary's College of Maryland will present information on numerous types of financial aid and answer questions. Zoom link for meeting:
<https://smcm.zoom.us/j/87625256446?pwd=WnVqc1hraXZiZWl0QzRUWUswWW9mUT09>

Seniors & Juniors – please check your email regularly! Information about college & military visits, applications, scholarships, career opportunities, and more is emailed every Friday to students' MCPS Gmail and parent/guardians with an email on file in Naviance. If you would like to receive this information, your email must be registered in Naviance. Please contact Ms. Kessler at Sarah_H_Kessler@mcpsmd.org if you need assistance.

Seniors: if you are not already a member of ACES or CollegeTracks, please sign up for **CollegeTracks** at: <https://bit.ly/wmhsctreg>. CollegeTracks provides workshops and individual meetings to help with college applications, FAFSA/financial aid, and scholarships.

In-Person College Visits will be held at Watkins Mill beginning on September 8th. The weekly schedule is sent in the College & Career Bulletin to Juniors and Seniors, registration is done on the Naviance home screen. If you sign up for an in-person visit, be sure to remember to attend and make-up any work you missed in that class.

Check out the [WM College & Career Center](#) website for links to important resources. If you have any questions, please email Sarah Kessler, College & Career Coordinator at Sarah_H_Kessler@mcpsmd.org.

Please follow the WM College/Career Center on Twitter @WMHS_CCIC for news & updates.

HEALTH ROOM NEWS

Hello and welcome to or welcome back to Watkins Mill. I hope that everyone had an enjoyable and restful summer. My name is Lisa Frost, and I am the school nurse here at Watkins Mill HS and Wellness center. This is my 6th year working in the county as a school nurse and my 2nd year here in this community. I am looking forward to the new school year and seeing everyone back at the Mill. Covid is still showing its face, but thankfully "the current conditions of this pandemic are very different from those of the last 2 years" according to the CDC. The new guidelines are much less restrictive currently, thankfully. Do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns. My office phone is (301) 284-4455 or email lisa_a_frost@mcpsmd.org.

Lisa Frost, RN, BSN
School Community Health Nurse
Montgomery County Health & Human Services

MEDIA CENTER NEWS

[September Media Center Newsletter](#)

WMHS ATHLETICS NEWS

[September Athletics Newsletter](#)

IMPORTANT LINKS September Athletics Newsletter

WMHS Website Home:

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/watkinsmillhs/>

Athletics: <https://watkinsmillathletics.com/>

Staff Directory:

<https://www2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/watkinsmillhs/staff/directory/>

PTSA Information:

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/watkinsmillhs/ptsa/>

Booster Club: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/watkinsmillhs/boosters/boostersClub.aspx>

Lunch Pre-Payments: <https://www.mylunchmoney.com/>

Student Service Learning:

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/ssl/>

Bullying:

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/forms/230-35.shtm>

Free & Reduced Lunches: <https://www.myschoolapps.com/Application>