

THE LION'S DEN

Bethesda Elementary / Bethesda Elementary PTA Newsletter

December 7, 2018

Seymour's Shout Out...

Curriculum Updates:

Dr. Navarro sent out an email to all MCPS families recently regarding curriculum proposals and asking for parent feedback by December 9th.

Dear MCPS Community:

Over the past several weeks, a team of 118 staff members reviewed the proposals received to our [Request for Proposal](#) for English Language Arts and Mathematics Curricular and Instructional Materials for Elementary and Middle School. Based on their recommendations, three elementary and two middle school English Language Arts curricular products, as well as two elementary and three middle school Mathematics curricular products, are being considered for implementation in Montgomery County Public Schools.

For each product, vendors have been asked to create a presentation for teachers, staff, parents and the community to view. Each presentation is available in English and Spanish and can be accessed from the [MCPS Curriculum Review – Vendor Presentations webpage](#) until Sunday, December 9, 2018. In addition to the presentation, there is a feedback form that asks your opinion on the following areas:

- Student Experience: Does the product actively engage students and differentiate instruction to address the learning needs of all students?
- Teacher Experience: Does the product support all teachers to plan and deliver high quality instruction to meet the learning needs of all students?
- Parent Experience: Does the product provide parents/guardians with information about the curriculum and enable parents/guardians to support student learning outside the classroom?

To be included in the curriculum selection process, all feedback forms should be submitted by December 9, 2018. Instructions for completing the forms can be found on the [MCPS Curriculum Review – Vendor Presentations webpage](#).

We look forward to receiving your input on this very important endeavor.

Thank you.

Best regards,

Maria V. Navarro, Ed.D.
Chief Academic Officer
Montgomery County Public Schools

Mark your calendar...

December 12th– Winter Concert
(6:30 PM– GYM) Instrumental
Music & Chorus

December 24th -January 1st-
WINTER BREAK– NO SCHOOL

January 2nd – return to school
from Winter Break

January 21st– NO SCHOOL

January 25th– Early Release
Day (12:55 PM)

January 28th– NO SCHOOL for
students (possible make up day
for SNOW DAY/Emergency
school closure)

January 29th– 2nd semester
begins– 3rd Quarter

[Sign up for ALERTMCPS](#)

Alert MCPS is a way that you can receive text messages or e-mail from Montgomery County Public Schools during weather-related emergencies and other major events that impact school system operations. Alert MCPS is administered by Montgomery County Public Schools and is part of the Montgomery County Alert System.

<https://member.everbridge.net/index/1332612387832009#/>

Check out MCPS Quick Notes
Issue:



[http://
news.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/
current-issue-quicknotes/](http://news.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/current-issue-quicknotes/)

State Report Card...update from Dr. Smith

On Tuesday, December 4, the Maryland State Department of Education will release a new accountability report card for every school in the state of Maryland, designed to measure the success of schools and identify areas for improvement. The report card was developed in response to the requirements of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), a federal law that seeks to ensure public schools provide a quality education for all children.

The Maryland Report Card is designed to measure school success in several ways, including state tests in English Language Arts and math; postsecondary readiness; progress of English learners in achieving English language proficiency; graduation rate; and students with access to and earning credit for a well-rounded curriculum. In future years, the Maryland Report Card will also include science and social studies achievement (grades 5 & 8 and grade 8, respectively), and the results of a student/educator climate survey. Based on these performance indicators, the state will give each school a percentile rank, a total earned points percent and a star rating, on a scale of 1 to 5 stars.*

[Watch this [video](#) to learn more about the Maryland Report Card.]

While the Maryland Report Card uses multiple indicators in several categories, academic achievement and growth for students is measured solely on one data point—the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) results. The PARCC score simulates an end-of-course view of students' performance or progress. While this is one useful measure, we can't wait until the end of the year, or even semester, to systematically measure how students are doing and respond accordingly.

While the Report Card does provide important information about our schools, its selected data points must be comparable to other districts and therefore, provide a limited view into the progress of our nearly 163,000 students. School improvement is inherently a local responsibility. We know our students best, how they are impacted, who is thriving, and who needs our support.

To address the limitations of the Maryland Report Card, MCPS has developed an [Equity Accountability Model](#) that provides a more detailed and focused report of school success. The Equity Accountability Model uses [multiple and frequent measures](#) of students' progress to determine if a school is meeting the needs of ALL students with a special emphasis on reducing and eliminating disparities in student achievement. Both the report card for Maryland and the local equity accountability model will include measures of student well-being in the future and that is a positive step forward.

[Watch this [video](#) to learn more about the MCPS Equity Accountability Model.]

The MCPS strategy for student success must be multi-faceted and designed to meet the needs of all students. We remain committed to ensuring our graduates are ready to be successful in college, career and the community.

Sincerely,
Jack R. Smith, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

*Primary schools serving only grades prekindergarten through 2 will not get a star rating

-Lisa Seymour

A Wider Circle...

The Bethesda Elementary Student Council is on a mission to brighten the holidays for members of our community. Your generosity and spirit will help to bring joy and hope to the families of A Wider Circle during this holiday season.

Our school has been assigned 3 families to sponsor. Our school will be working together to help collect items from each family's wish list. We're attaching the names, ages, gender, and 'wish lists' for each family. We hope you will use this list as a guide; please feel free to be creative and have fun! **Gift Cards are always welcome!!!**

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Please deliver all **gifts wrapped and individually tagged with the recipient's name (and family: Robinson, Bell, Senn)**. If you're purchasing clothing, please include the **gift receipt** in the package. Please **bring in wrapped presents in a bag to your child's classroom between 12/10/18 and 12/13/18** so we can prepare to deliver them.

- If you'd like to make a personal delivery to a family- please contact: Beth Levine at beth_e_levine@mcpsmd.org or Christopher Zukoski at christopher_j_zukoski@mcpsmd.org

If you would like to include a note for a sponsored family, please do so, as we're sure they will be greatly appreciated.

Digital Citizenship...

Students at Bethesda Elementary will be learning about digital citizenship and how to be responsible users of technology. Students will learn about rules for using the computer safely, effective online searching, cyberbullying, and creative credit and copyright. Lessons are from the Common Sense Media website which also includes tips and strategies for parents. To learn more visit: <https://www.common sense media.org>

Center for Enriched Studies - Information Meeting for Parents of Third Grade Students

* More Information can be found online- <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms/admissions/applications.aspx>

January 23, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

Richard Montgomery High School
250 Richard Montgomery Drive
Rockville, MD 20850

MCPS Communications Update...

What Does Your School of the Future Look Like? (English and Spanish)

The physical classroom and school environment affects teaching and learning and MCPS wants to know how students use those spaces on a daily basis. Students in all grade levels are invited to participate in a survey for them to share their feedback.

Parents/guardians of elementary students are encouraged to talk with their children about their learning environments and help them complete this survey: docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSerCMOXTGuVCeThRki6Dz7I4m2eVha_A5Ba_MSNmiurPUkv-w/viewform.

Middle and high school students may share their feedback here: docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfAH--vCIE-36XnLccMmss3MaB0GPtMRF1u3nBujsxaewr4Dg/viewform.

MCPS will collect survey results through the beginning of January and the information will be used to support continuous improvement of its educational facilities. After results have been collected, students will have the opportunity to participate in a contest to envision the future of schools and help influence future design. More information about the contest will be provided in the coming weeks.

¿Cómo Te Parece Que Debería Ser Tu Escuela del Futuro?

La apariencia física del salón de clase y el ambiente escolar afectan a la enseñanza y al aprendizaje y MCPS desea saber cómo los estudiantes usan esos espacios diariamente. Los estudiantes de todos los niveles de grados académicos están invitados a participar en una encuesta creada para que ellos compartan su opinión.

Se alienta a los padres/guardianes de los estudiantes de las escuelas elementales a que hablen con sus hijos sobre sus entornos de aprendizaje y que les ayuden a completar esta encuesta: docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSerCMOXTGuVCeThRki6Dz7I4m2eVha_A5Ba_MSNmiurPUkv-w/viewform.

Los estudiantes de las escuelas de enseñanza media y las escuelas secundarias pueden compartir su opinión aquí: docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfAH--vCIE-36XnLccMmss3MaB0GPtMRF1u3nBujsxaewr4Dg/viewform.

MCPS recogerá los resultados de la encuesta hasta principios de enero, y la información se utilizará para apoyar el mejoramiento continuo de sus instalaciones educacionales. Una vez que se hayan recopilado los resultados, los estudiantes tendrán la oportunidad de participar en un concurso para imaginar el futuro de las escuelas y ayudar a influenciar diseños futuros. En las próximas semanas se proveerá más información sobre el concurso.

Comment Sought on Four Board of Education Policies (English and Spanish)

The Montgomery County Board of Education is seeking comment from parents and members of the community on four policies—Policy BBB, *Ethics*; Policy BFA, *Policysetting*; Policy IGK, *Career and Technology Education*; and Policy KEA, *Political Campaigns and Political Materials*. Visit www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/policy/policy-for-public-comment.aspx to read the draft policies and to offer comment.

Public comments on Policy KEA, *Civic Engagement*, *Political Campaigns*, and *Political Materials* are due by Sunday, December 16. Comments on Policy BBB, *Ethics*; Policy BFA, *Policysetting*; and Policy IGK, *Career and Technology Education* must be submitted by January 13, 2019.

MCPS Communications Update Continued...

Se Solicitan Comentarios sobre Cuatro Políticas del Consejo de Educación

El Consejo de Educación del Condado de Montgomery está solicitando comentarios de los padres y miembros de la comunidad sobre cuatro políticas—la Política BBB, *Ética*; la Política BFA, *Establecimiento de Políticas*; la Política IGK, *Educación Profesional y Tecnológica*; y la Política KEA, *Participación Cívica, Campañas Políticas y Materiales Políticos*. Visite www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/policy/policy-for-public-comment.aspx para leer el borrador de las políticas y para aportar su comentario.

El plazo límite para los comentarios del público sobre la Política KEA, *Participación Cívica, Campañas Políticas y Materiales Políticos*, es el domingo, 16 de diciembre. Los comentarios sobre la Política BBB, *Ética*; la Política BFA, *Establecimiento de Políticas*; y la política IGK, *Educación Profesional y Tecnológica*, deben ser presentados a más tardar el 13 de enero, 2019.

Restorative Justice Workshop Set for December 4 (English and Spanish)

Parents/guardians and community members are invited to attend a workshop on Tuesday, December 4 at Neelsville Middle School from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. to learn more about the district's restorative justice vision and how this social justice platform allows students to actively engage and problem-solve physical, psychological, social, and disciplinary issues that affect their lives and the community at large. Please contact 240-740-3951 for more information about the first of three parent workshops this school year.

Taller sobre Justicia Restaurativa Programado para el 4 de Diciembre

Se invita a los padres/guardianes y miembros de la comunidad a que asistan a un taller el día martes, 4 de diciembre, de 6:30 a 8:30 p.m., en Neelsville Middle School, para conocer más acerca de la visión del distrito escolar sobre la justicia restaurativa y cómo esta plataforma de justicia social permite a los estudiantes participar activamente y resolver problemas físicos, psicológicos, sociales y disciplinarios que afectan a sus vidas y a la comunidad en general. Por favor llame al 240-740-3951 para más información sobre este taller, que es el primero de tres talleres para los padres que habrá durante este ciclo escolar.

Special Education Parent Workshops Set for December 5 (English and Spanish)

MCPS is holding special education workshops for parents and guardians to learn more about the Individualized Education Program (IEP) documents and process. The workshops will be held from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 5, in three locations—

Gaithersburg High School, 101 Education Boulevard in Gaithersburg

Northwood High School, 919 University Boulevard West in Silver Spring

Paint Branch High School, 14121 Old Columbia Pike in Burtonsville

Interpretation services are available on request. For more information, call 240-740-3884.

Talleres de Educación Especial para los Padres Programado para el 5 de Diciembre

MCPS está realizando talleres de educación especial para los padres y guardianes, para conocer más acerca de los documentos y el proceso del Programa Educativo Individualizado (Individualized Education Program—IEP). Los talleres se realizarán de 7:00 a 8:30 p.m., el día miércoles, 5 de diciembre, en tres lugares—

Gaithersburg High School, 101 Education Boulevard, en Gaithersburg

Northwood High School, 919 University Boulevard West, en Silver Spring

Paint Branch High School, 14121 Old Columbia Pike, en Burtonsville

Habrá servicios de interpretación de idiomas disponibles a petición. Para más información, llame al 240-740-3884.

Community Forum—Measuring the Achievement Gap (English and Spanish)

The Montgomery County African-American Student Achievement Action Group is hosting a community forum on Wednesday, December 5, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Argyle Middle School. MCPS parents, guardians, students, and staff are invited to attend to learn more about the district's efforts to close the achievement gap; learn about the new Maryland State Report Card and what it means for MCPS students; and hear from newly elected County councilmembers and Board of Education members. To register for the event, visit www.eventbrite.com/e/aasaag-community-forum-tickets-3635919132.

MCPS Communications Update Continued...

Foro Comunitario—Midiendo la Brecha de Rendimiento Académico

El Grupo de Acción sobre el Rendimiento de los Estudiantes Afroamericanos del Condado de Montgomery (Montgomery County African-American Student Achievement Action Group) está presentando un foro comunitario el miércoles, 5 de diciembre, de 6:00 a 8:00 p.m., en Argyle Middle School. Se invita a los padres, guardianes, estudiantes y empleados de MCPS a que asistan para conocer más sobre los esfuerzos que el distrito escolar realiza para eliminar la brecha de rendimiento académico; conozca acerca del nuevo Boletín de Calificaciones del Estado de Maryland (Maryland State Report Card) y lo que el mismo significa para los estudiantes de MCPS; y escuche a los recientemente electos concejales del Condado y miembros del Consejo de Educación. Para inscribirse en el evento, visite www.eventbrite.com/e/aasaag-community-forum-tickets-3635919132.

Winter Coat Drive Under Way (English and Spanish)

The Prekindergarten/Head Start Programs is seeking donations to provide students with new winter coats. They are collecting coats for boys and girls in sizes 5, 6, and 7, along with other winter wear, such as hats and gloves. Monetary donations are welcome. Donations can be sent to Rocking Horse Road Center, 4910 Macon Road, Room 141, Rockville, Maryland 20852. For more information, please contact [Lisa Conlon](#), social services specialist, at 240-740-4530.

Está en Marcha la Campaña de Recolección de Abrigos de Invierno Los programas de Prekindergarten/Head Start están pidiendo donaciones para proporcionar nuevos abrigos de invierno a los alumnos. Están recolectando abrigos para niños y niñas de tallas 5, 6 y 7, además de otras prendas de invierno, tales como sombreros/gorros y guantes. Se aceptan donaciones monetarias. Las donaciones pueden ser enviadas a Rocking Horse Road Center, 4910 Macon Road, Room 141, Rockville, Maryland 20852. Para más información, por favor llame a [Lisa Conlon](#), especialista en servicios sociales, teléfono 240-740-4530.

MCPS Students to Hold Used Car and Computer Sale (English and Spanish)

Students in the Montgomery County Students Automotive Trades Foundation (ATF) and Information Technology Foundation (ITF) will be selling used cars and computers that they have refurbished on **Saturday, December 8**, at Gaithersburg High School, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

A list of available cars for purchase is available at: www.cars2purchase.org/. For information on the computers that will be sold, call 240-740-2050. The cars and computers are refurbished and reconditioned by the students as part of their classroom and lab studies. The sales provide students with the opportunity to practice their sales skills, earn Student Service Learning hours, and develop a deeper appreciation for community involvement.

Members of the community are welcome to donate vehicles to the program. Vehicles may be donated at any of the automotive programs located at Damascus, Gaithersburg, Seneca Valley high schools or Thomas Edison High School of Technology. Donations may be tax deductible.

Estudiantes de MCPS Tendrán Venta de Automóviles y Computadoras Usados

El **sábado, 8 de diciembre**, de 9:00 a 11:00 a.m., en Gaithersburg High School, los estudiantes de la Fundación de Profesiones Automotrices para Estudiantes del Condado de Montgomery (Montgomery County Students Automotive Trades Foundation—ATF) y de la Fundación de Tecnología de Informática (Information Technology Foundation—ITF) venderán computadoras y vehículos usados que ellos han restaurado.

Se puede ver una lista de vehículos disponibles para comprar en: www.cars2purchase.org/. Para más información sobre las computadoras que estarán a la venta, por favor llame al 240-740-2050. Los vehículos y las computadoras han sido re-equipados y restaurados por los estudiantes como parte de sus estudios en el aula y en el laboratorio. Estas ventas proveen a los estudiantes con la oportunidad de practicar sus aptitudes para ventas, sumar horas de Aprendizaje Mediante Servicio Estudiantil (Student Service Learning—SSL) y desarrollar un aprecio más profundo por el involucramiento en la comunidad.

El programa acepta vehículos donados por miembros de la comunidad. Los vehículos pueden ser donados en cualquiera de los lugares donde están ubicados los programas automotrices, en las escuelas secundarias Damascus, Gaithersburg y Seneca Valley o en Thomas Edison High School of Technology. Las donaciones pueden ser deducibles de impuestos.