



NEWS FROM "THE MILL"

January 1-31, 2020

Watkins Mill High School
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(301) 284-4400 FAX (301) 840-3980

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

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MESSAGE FROM MS. GODDARD, PRINCIPAL

Happy New Year! I hope you and your families had a tranquil Holiday season and have entered 2020 with focus, renewed strength, and commitment to our students' success.

Looking ahead, **report cards** will be distributed to students to take home on February 4, 2020. The third marking period begins on January 28, 2020, and ends on March 27, 2020.

The **second semester** will begin with a homeroom on Tuesday, January 28, 2020, (there is no school for students on Monday January, 27th). During homeroom on January 28th, students will receive new second semester schedules. Note: it is not too late for students to enroll in an advanced class for the second semester. If you are interested in making a change to an advanced-level class, please contact your child's counselor!

PSAT scores have arrived! PSAT Score Reports from the fall administration will be distributed to students during the month of January, with an explanation on how to read the score report. Students and parents can also visit the PSAT website at www.collegeboard.org for more information on reading the score report and on how these scores can help students with college planning. The PSAT Score Report is a valuable tool in predicting performance on the SAT and advanced level classes.

College acceptances and **scholarships** are coming in at a rapid pace for the Class of 2020! So far, thousands of dollars in merit-based scholarships have already been reported to our Career Center. If you receive notice of any merit-based awards or scholarships—whether you intend to go to that college or not—please report it to the

Career Center. We want to hear about all the scholarships that are offered to any school that you applied. We want to tally all of the scholarships offers and have an accurate count. Keep those award letters coming in!

Attendance Matters!

Regular attendance is critical for student success. New policies state that students missing 5 or more days of class PER SEMESTER **can lose credit** in those courses. Please talk with your child about attendance and help ensure that he/she attends regularly.

Attendance matters!

1 or 2 days a week doesn't seem like much but....

If your child misses...	That equals...	Which is...	And over 13 years of schooling that's...
1 day every 2 weeks	20 days per year	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1 ½ years of school
1 day per week	40 days per year	8 weeks per year	Over 2 ½ years
2 days per week	80 days per year	16 weeks per year	Over 5 years
3 days per week	120 days per year	24 weeks per year	Nearly 8 years

EVERY DAY COUNTS!

If you want your child to be successful at school, YES, attendance does matter!

Registration for 2021-22 is underway! Got IB? Juniors and sophomores have begun registering for classes for next year, with underclassmen to follow in the coming weeks. When making decisions about course selections, please call or email appropriate staff with any questions. We expect all students to enroll in the most rigorous academic program possible, especially IB courses. Exposure and successful completion to these courses is known to have a direct correlation to college readiness, and is an enriching educational experience for the 21st century learner. Any student, regardless of their academic profile, can be successful in advanced courses with effective effort and hard work. We also want students to make informed decisions about their elective courses, as the master schedule will be built around student interests and needs.

IMPORTANT DATES

Tuesday, January 7, Booster Club Meeting, 6:30 p.m. in the Media Center.

Wednesday, January 8 & Thursday, January 9, Spring Musical Auditions.

Thursday, January 9, 8th Grade Parent Night: Join us future wolverines at 6:30 pm for this once a year event to learn about our amazing programs & supports, registration process, extracurricular activities and so much more.

Saturday, January 18, Family Food Market, Watkins Mill High School will be hosting another Family Food Market. Please come to school at 8:00 am and shop for food items at NO COST!

Monday, January 20, (Holiday – MLK Day) school and office closed.

Tuesday, January 21, PTSA Meeting, 7:00 p.m. in the Media Center.

Friday, January 24, 1st Semester Ends/2nd Marking Period Ends; Early Release Day.

Friday, January 24, HBCU Fair, held at the Universities of Shady Grove.

Monday, January 27, no school for students due to professional day for teachers.

Tuesday, January 28, 2nd Semester Begins/3rd Marking Period Begins; Homeroom for Schedules.

Wednesday, February 4, Report Card Distribution

Holiday Giving Program: I want to thank all of you who participated in the Holiday giving Program. Thanks to your generosity we were able to feed 44 families for Thanksgiving. We have 40 families that we will be providing food and gifts for the winter break. That is almost 175 family members. Donations include jackets, clothes, toys and much more. Our families especially appreciate the extra food that will be distributed for the long holiday break. So, as you celebrate your holiday, thank you for making all of our Watkins Mill Families holidays the best.

Yearbook: The price is \$80.00 until January 31, 2020. Prices go up after that! You can order at www.jostens.com/yearbooks or come to room A209 and ask Ms. Stahly about placing an order.

https://www.jostens.com/apps/store/productBrowse/1066844/Watkins-Mill-High-School/2020-Yearbook/20190819041839797117/CATALOG_SHOP/

Emergency Planning:

The safety and security of students and staff is our top priority every day. All MCPS schools

have specific emergency response plans, and drills are conducted several times throughout the year. MCPS is in the process of developing new resources for parents, students and staff about our safety and security procedures. The school district has posted a new video and other information on its Emergency Preparedness website. These resources provide details about our school safety procedures, and review the different levels of response—Lockdown, Evacuation and Shelter in Place. Please take some time to learn more about our emergency procedures:

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/emergency/preparedness/>

Throughout the year, we routinely conduct school lockdown/shelter-in-place and reunification drills. In the event of an actual emergency, there will be a “reunification” process in which parents sign out their children, or allow an authorized relative or another person to do so. This process states that when parents or guardians pick up a student, that identification be presented and the student signed out accurately. Please make sure that you keep your student’s emergency contact up-to-date and provide contact information for any adult who is authorized to release your child. This information can be updated on MyMCPS Parent Portal or by contacting the school. Questions? Please call Ms. Rogers at 301-284-4420 or email her at: Lola_R_Rogers@mcpsmd.org.

Thank you for your support of your students and our school community. If we can ever be of assistance, please do not hesitate to email or call. A full staff directory can be found here: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/watkinsmillhs/staff/directory.aspx>

Sincerely,

Carol Goddard, Principal

COLLEGE AND CAREER CENTER NEWS

Seniors, do you still need to submit your FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)? If you have questions, stop by and see Mrs. Heald in the Career Center.

GET FREE HANDS ON HELP WITH THE FAFSA AT THE GAITHERSBURG LIBRARY

The MC-EOC program provides information, guidance/advising and application assistance for enrollment in post-secondary education. Individualized services include: Admissions Counseling, Financial Aid Counseling, FAFSA application assistance Scholarship Search GED counseling Academic Advising Career Advising Financial Literacy and Advising on **the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month**. Schedule an appointment by calling 240-567-9080.

Looking for \$\$ for college? Check out the Local/National Scholarships and the web-based Scholarships on the College/Career Center page. Scroll down to find the latest editions.

The **Central Scholarship Bureau** is a privately funded, non-profit organization whose mission

is to provide access to post-secondary education to students from Maryland. CSB offers **interest-free loans** and **competitive scholarships and grants** to qualified students to **help meet the costs of college, professional or vocational training**. There are **no application fees or loan fees**. **Loans are interest free for the life of the loan**. Applicants must be **permanent residents of the State of Maryland**, but **may attend any accredited U.S. college, university or vocational school**. They must be **full-time students in good academic standing, meet CSB income guidelines and have completed the FAFSA**. For more details go to <https://central-scholarship.org/> . **Deadline to submit the online application is April 1.**

ATTENTION JUNIORS

We will be hosting a FREE SAT Day at Watkins Mill on March 25th, more information to follow!

FREE ONLINE SAT/ACT TEST PREP FOR WMHS STUDENTS

For **FREE SAT prep: Khan Academy:** <https://www.khanacademy.org/>

For **FREE ACT prep:** <https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/test-preparation/act-academy.html>

SAT, and ACT Prep classes offered through Montgomery College

<http://aceitoc.montgomerycollege.edu/course/courselistings.aspx>

Montgomery College will be offering SAT Prep classes in preparation for the March, May, and June tests. ACT prep classes are also available to students who plan to take the ACT in February, April or June. These classes are \$385.00 for 30 hours of classroom instruction. Register early. Classes fill fast! For more information on the schedule of classes, please visit:

www.montgomerycollege.edu/wdce/satprep.html

The HBCU Fair is scheduled for Friday, January 24th, Mark your calendars! More information to follow!

Kate Heald

College/Career Coordinator

[Catharine E Heald@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Catharine_E_Heald@mcpsmd.org)

301-284-4432

INTERNATIONAL NIGHT

March 11th, 2020 - 6:00 p.m.

Volunteers Needed – Parents and Students (SSL hours will be provided)

Looking for anyone who would like to help with the following:

- Performing – Dance, music, theatrical
- Dressing up for the Cultural attire fashion show OR donating traditional garment or national costume
- Creating a display board (i.e. trifold board that has information about a particular culture, region or country)
- Making any dishes to share during the event
- General help with different things like - setting up decorations and cleaning up.

If interested email Ms. Flores at Reina_i_floressesnich@mcpsmd.org

Our first meeting will be Wednesday, January 29th during STEP in room E108.

SEAL OF BILITERACY

Attention all juniors and seniors! Do you speak a language other than English at home? You have the opportunity to gain a special graduation recognition by earning the Seal of Biliteracy. **Please come to D103 during lunch** to learn how you can earn the seal and medal for graduation.

Atención estudiantes del grado 11 y 12! ¿Hablas un idioma que no sea inglés en casa? Tienes la oportunidad de obtener un reconocimiento especial de graduación al obtener el Sello de Biliteracidad. **Ven al D103 durante el almuerzo** para aprender cómo puedes obtener el sello y la medalla para la graduación.

If you have any questions email Ms. Flores at Reina_i_floressesnich@mcpsmd.org

Test date is Wednesday, January 15th but you must have registered by January 10th.

Link to flyer here:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/17K93zz2qKVOvjFE22CIE8pcVGzQGVUaH/view>

TESTING NEWS

Watkins Mill High School Fall Block MCAP (MISA & NSL) Testing Schedule January 7-10, 2020
There will be a regular bell schedule each of these testing days. Only eligible students will test in the Media Center and other designated locations. Students will receive a testing pass prior to the day of testing with testing details. Test Administrators will include RTs, counselors, program coordinators, Bridge Project teachers, and other designated staff members. Those people will receive instructions prior to their testing assignment. Breakfast will take place as usual in the cafeteria, students will move to their assigned testing location at the 7:40 am bell. Eligible students will complete four sessions of the Science and/ or Government Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program tests. Students Makeups to follow as needed: 1/13/20-1/31/20. For more information, please click on the following link:

[https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/uploadedFiles/schools/watkinsmillhs/news/Rev_Dec_9_2019%20Watkins%20Mill%20HS%20Fall%20Block%20MISA_%20NSL%20Testing%20Calendar%20\(3\).pdf](https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/uploadedFiles/schools/watkinsmillhs/news/Rev_Dec_9_2019%20Watkins%20Mill%20HS%20Fall%20Block%20MISA_%20NSL%20Testing%20Calendar%20(3).pdf)

INCLEMENT WEATHER - SCHOOL CLOSING INFORMATION

It is the time of year when winter weather may disrupt school operations, forcing schools to close, dismiss early, or delay opening. Announcements of school closings or delays are made as early as possible, generally in time for news broadcasts that begin at 5 a.m. If schools are closing early, the announcements are made by 11 a.m.

There are several ways to get the latest information on closings.

- MCPS QuickNotes e-mail news service will send emergency information to subscribers.
- To sign up visit: www.mcpsquicknotes.org
- MCPS home page <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org> will display emergency

announcements.

- ASK MCPS Telephone Information Center at 301-309-6277 has English- and Spanish-speaking
- Operators available from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.
- MCPS information line, 301-279-3673, has recorded information 24 hours a day.
- MCPS Cable channel 34 and local radio and TV stations will broadcast the information
- MCPS will Twitter at <http://twitter.com/mcps>

KEY CLUB



From left to right, sophomore Jodeline Pierre, juniors Bethany Hurt, Grace Edwards, Kiko Carbonell, Griffen MacLaren, sophomore Maggie Burgess Leary, and junior Ale Herrera, and Jazlyn Cespedes posing for a picture in front of 50 bags of clothes and shoes. These bags will be donated to Interfaith Works, a non-sectarian non-profit organization in Rockville, dedicated to serving low income families.

For more information, please visit <https://www.iworksmc.org/>
Photo courtesy of Nicole Ryan.

LEAGUE OF LEGENDS TEAM – E-SPORTS TEAM

On Tuesday, December 10th, the Watkins Mill League of Legends team met for the first time in E-106. Eight people attended and played ranked and unranked games and socialized with one another as part of the initial meeting, with more attendees likely for the second meeting on December 17th. This was the first ever meeting of an e-sports team in Montgomery County, as the League of Legends Team intends to compete in interscholastic competitions starting in

March 2020. The team will meet every Tuesday afternoon from 2:45 to 5:00 through the end of the school year.

A NOTE FROM OUR PTSA VICE PRESIDENT

I hope that everyone enjoyed winter break and had a relaxing and enjoyable time with family and friends. Our next PTSA meeting will be Tuesday, January 21, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. in the Media Center. During this meeting, we will be looking for new PTSA Board members for the 2020-2021 school year.

Show your commitment to your student and our school by joining and participating and making a difference! And remember, if you're a parent of a senior, a PTSA membership is required for consideration for PTSA sponsored scholarships.

Are you on Facebook? Then be sure to visit the Watkins Mill HS PTSA/Boosters page and "like" us. It's another great way to get information out to the parents and learn about events and activities.

Thank you,
Pamela Smith
PTSA Vice President

BOOSTER CLUB

We would like to thank all the parents who've volunteered in our concessions so far for Winter Sports. We also like to thank everyone who supported our first fundraiser of the school year at Ledo Pizza. Our next Booster Club meeting is Tuesday, January 7, 2020, at 6:30 p.m. in the Media Center. One Village. One Family.

Thank you,
Rebecca Castillo
Booster Club President

All parent volunteers: Please remember to send your monthly volunteer hours to our Volunteer Coordinator, Mariana Hildesheim, at hildeshm@comcast.net. Here is the link to the form to submit:

[https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/uploadedFiles/schools/watkinsmillhs/news/Volunteer%20Log%20311-56\(2\).pdf](https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/uploadedFiles/schools/watkinsmillhs/news/Volunteer%20Log%20311-56(2).pdf)

Thank you!

SPRING MUSICAL AUDITIONS

Attention: Auditions for the Spring musical, "Once on this Island" will be held January 8 and January 9, with a dance call on January 12th. If you are interested in auditioning, please sign up on the drama board near Room B200. All are welcome, break a leg!

CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION (CTE) PROGRAMS

Registration for the 2020-2021 school year is currently taking place through the Counseling Office. If your child is interested in one of the Career programs, please be certain to have them register for the classes for next year. The classes include Hospitality Management, Child Development, Academy of Finance, and Medical Careers. If they are unsure of whether they want to join one of the programs, taking an introductory class is a great way to help them decide.

For more information, feel free to reach out to any of the Career teachers listed below.

- Emily Nalda – Hospitality Management
- Melissa Cloyd – Child Development
- Sandy Chaplin – Academy of Finance
- Paula Mascendaro – Medical Careers

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE HEALTH ROOM AND HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER!

We are at the start of a new year and we would like to remind you of some very important health policies. PLEASE let the health room know if your student has been diagnosed with an illness that may require medical assistance at school. ALSO, PLEASE let the health room know if your student is carrying his/her own prescribed or over-the-counter medication. This is very important for us to know so we can assist your student if they should require that medication or medical attention while in school. Some examples might be Epi-pens or asthma inhalers.

Also, please inform the health room and the main office of any address or phone number changes in case we need to reach you during the school day. Remember, we are offering **FREE** influenza / gripe, vaccines/vacuna in the health room for students.

Nancy Caruso
Watkins Mill High School/SBWC10301 Apple Ridge Road
Gaithersburg, MD 20886

WATKINS MILL TRAFFIC INFORMATION

Attention Watkins Mill Parents,

To assure safety for all of our students, and staff, please follow the procedures when picking up or dropping off students. The Watkins Mill Security Team are out there directing traffic during student's arrival and departure to make sure traffic rules are being followed. In the link below, you will find the Watkins Mill Traffic Information. Click [here](#) for more information.

IMPORTANT LINKS

WMHS Website Home: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/watkinsmillhs/>

Athletics: <http://www.watkinsmillathletics.com/>

Calendar: <http://coldfusion.mcps.k12.md.us/cfms/webteam/calendar/calendar.cfm?calendarID=watkinsmillhs>

Staff Directory: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/watkinsmillhs/staff/directory.aspx>

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

Booster Club: <http://wmhsboosters.com/>

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>

News From "The Mill" will be published every month on the news page of the school website, emailed to all active Connect-ed accounts, and available by hard copy in the main office.