

Blurbs for School Newsletters, Websites, etc.

Board of Education Seeks Comments on Two Policies

The Board of Education is seeking comment on two policies—*IQD, Academic Eligibility for Extracurricular Activities*, and a new draft policy, *JPH, School Food and Nutrition Programs*. **Public comment for both policies is open until Friday, Feb. 12, 2021.**

The Board is proposing amendments to [Board Policy IQD, Academic Eligibility for Extracurricular Activities](#). As a district committed to nondiscrimination, equity and cultural responsiveness, the Board seeks to balance the state and collegiate expectations with its interest in making extracurricular activities, including interscholastic sports, accessible to as many students as possible. The Board is also proposing a [new draft policy, Board Policy JPH, School Food and Nutrition Services Programs](#).

The new draft policy sets forth guidance regarding the ways in which MCPS is a partner in efforts to address childhood hunger in Montgomery County in order to support students' ability to learn, grow and maintain health. You can [provide comment at this website](#).

Engaging Students in Conversations About the Capitol Building Invasion, Riots and the Election

As the nation continues to reflect on and discuss the invasion at the U.S. Capitol building and ongoing threats of violence as we approach Inauguration Day, MCPS remains steadfast in its commitment to teach students about and modeling civility and respect for our democracy.

All MCPS schools are providing ongoing support for students as well as an opportunity for students to learn and have conversations about the election process, inauguration, race and other challenging global and national issues. Parents are also encouraged to talk with their children about these issues and can find some helpful tips in the resources listed in [this community message](#).

MCPS to Remain in Virtual Learning Until March 15

On Tuesday, Jan. 12, the Board of Education voted to delay the start of returning small groups of students for in-person instruction from February 1, 2021 to **March 15, 2021**, on the condition that health metrics are met or health guidance is adjusted as a result of vaccine distribution. The [COVID-19 new case rate and test positivity in the county](#) remain significantly above the thresholds adopted by the county and state. Read the message [here](#). The Board will meet again on Feb. 23, 2021, to determine if metrics can be met by March 15 for a safe return to in-person learning. More information will be shared with the community following the Feb. 23 Board of Education decision.

Let's Talk Careers Set for Jan. 27 and Feb. 3

Let's Talk Careers has two events coming up. The first, from 10–11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 27, focuses on the bioscience field. The second, from 10–11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 3, features speakers in arts and entertainment.

Let's Talk Careers is a monthly live speaker series hosted by MCPS students who talk with professionals, leaders and entrepreneurs from a variety of fields about their career journeys. More information is available here:

<https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/partnerships/LetsTalkCareers/>

Speakers for the Jan. 27 event will be:

- Dr. Gavin Imperato, Medical Officer, U.S. Food and Drug Administration
- Dr. Katharina Maisel, Assistant Professor, University of Maryland Fischell Department of Bioengineering
- Dr. Stephanie Chung, Lasker Tenure-Track Investigator, National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, National Institutes of Health
- Mr. Aubrey Watkins, Director, Scientific & Technical Assessments, Emergent Biosolutions

Speakers for the Feb. 3 event will be:

- Mr. Lewis Black, comedian and actor from *The Daily Show with Trevor Noah* and voice from the movie, *Inside Out*
- Mr. Brian King Joseph, violinist and contestant on *America's Got Talent*
- Ms. Tatiana Weschler, actor, singer and songwriter

Students can submit questions prior to the sessions [here](#) and live through YouTube chat.

You can watch [here](#) or on [MCPS-TV](#) (Comcast 34, Verizon 36 and RCN 89).

2021 Martin Luther King, Jr. Tribute, Week of Service Set

Montgomery County is hosting the annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. birthday tribute and celebration in a virtual program at 5 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 18. "In His and Their Own Words: Reflecting Our Past While Forecasting the Future" will honor Dr. King's life through dramatic readings and musical and dance performances.

Registration is encouraged to receive a reminder email with the direct link to the event and instructions on how to participate in the live interactive part of the show. For more information, visit the [event registration page](#) or the [Montgomery County Office of Human Rights website](#).

In addition, each year, MCPS works with the Montgomery County Volunteer Center to promote service opportunities and acts of kindness. In recognition of the MLK Week of Service—which is being held from Saturday, Jan. 16, through Sunday, Jan. 24—many MCPS schools will host a virtual schoolwide or class-wide service event.