BAKER PAW PRINTS

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER • JANUARY 17, 2021

John T. Baker Middle School • Louise Worthington, Ed.D., Principal • 25400 Oak Drive, Damascus, MD 20872 • 240-207-2440 • FAX: 301-253-7020 • www.bakerms.org

MCPS Coronavirus Info at https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/coronavirus/

Dr. Worthington's Message

Twitter: DrLouise Worthington@BAKERprincipal

As I'm sure you have heard:

"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."

Go to https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/publicinfo/community/school-year-2020-2021/community-update-20210112.html for the entire message.

On **Tuesday, January 19**, Baker students will participate in the **Culture of Respect: Student Training Module** during Period 8. Parents can access the presentation through ParentVue using the directions here: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Y21WB3wgPpyqQvM4hKFDUgmJXmR6UsnCJb1BWo_lmBo/edit

Also, on **Tuesday, January 19**, the window for choosing **Marking Period 3 Clubs** will open. Students will receive a Sign-Up Genius link during Period 8 on that day. Clubs must be selected using the link between January 19 and January 26. Students who do not select a club will be administratively placed in a club for MP3.

January 20, 2021 Inauguration Day Schedule

On Wednesday, January 20, the United States Presidential Inauguration will be held mid-day. Next Wednesday is a historic day and an opportunity for students to learn and witness the democratic process in real time. The Wednesday schedule will be adjusted as follows:

9:00-9:30 a.m.	Period 1
9:40-10:10 a.m.	Period 2
10:20-10:50 a.m.	Period 3
11:00-11:30 a.m.	Period 4
11:30-1:30 p.m.	Extended Lunch and Opportunity for Inauguration Viewing
1:30-2:30 p.m.	Asynchronous Learning

Asynchronous Learning time may be used for students to process and reflect on the Inauguration with their families.

Here are some links to Inauguration resources for parents:

- https://cea.org/10-inauguration-day-resources/
- https://www.uen.org/general_learner/inauguration/index.shtml
- https://www.loc.gov/classroom-materials/inaugurations/

Students who may need support to discuss Inauguration events should contact their counselor or administrator during the Asynchronous Learning period:

Counselors:

Grade 6 — Mrs. Whited at Corinne_E_Whited@mcpsmd.org
Grade 7 — Mrs. Buffum at Lindsey_C_Buffum@mcpsmd.org
Grade 8 — Mrs. Headdings at Lori_A_Headdings@mcpsmd.org
ESOL — Mrs. Slotkowski at Mary_H_Slotkowski@mcpsmd.org

Administrators:

Grade 6 — Ms. Sanya at Yvonne_Sanya@mcpsmd.org
Grade 7 — Mrs. Pique at Melanie_M_Pique@mcpsmd.org
Grade 8 — Dr. Worthington at Louise_J_Worthington@mcpsmd.org

LOOKING AHEAD ...

January 16–24 — MLK Week of Service
(see page 3)

Monday, January 18
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – schools and offices closed

Tuesday, January 19 — Day 2
Culture of Respect: Student Training Module during Period 8
Marking Period 3 Club Selection window opens

Wednesday, January 20 — Day 1
Special Schedule for Inauguration Day

9:00-9:30 a.m.	Period 1
9:40-10:10 a.m.	Period 2
10:20-10:50 a.m.	Period 3
11:00-11:30 a.m.	Period 4
11:30-1:30 p.m.	Extended Lunch and Opportunity for Inauguration Viewing
1:30-2:30 p.m.	Asynchronous Learning

Thursday, January 21 — Day 4

Friday, January 22 — Day 5

Monday, January 25 — Day 1

Tuesday, January 26 — Day 2

Wednesday, January 27 — Day 5

Thursday, January 28 — Day 4
End of Marking Period 2/Semester 1

Friday, January 29
Professional Day – no school for students

Monday, February 1
Marking Period 3/Semester 2 begin

SEE SOMETHING? HEAR SOMETHING? SAY SOMETHING!

MCPS Student Accounts and Access - Getting Started

Chromebook Troubleshooting Guide

Account	Information	Where to Go	Need Help?
	Students log into **StudentVUE** with their MCPS student ID • The MCPS student ID is six or eight digits • Student passwords are provided by the school Sample MCPS Student ID: • 123456 or 12345678 Students can view grades, schedules, and more in StudentVUE	StudentVUE iOS App - StudentVUE Android App - StudentVUE	Student help materials can be found here
	Students have an **MCPS Google Drive** account • The student MCPS Google account is <studentID>@mcpsmd.net • Student passwords are provided by the school Sample MCPS Google Account: • 123456@mcpsmd.net or 12345678@mcpsmd.net	Google Drive	Log out of any personal Google accounts before logging in with your @mcpsmd.net account, or create a separate Chrome profile first
	Students access courses at **myMCPS Classroom (Canvas)** • Students will use their **MCPS Google account** to log in by clicking the **Students** button Students access myMCPS Classroom (Canvas) courses as the home base for teaching and learning	myMCPS Classroom	Having trouble logging in? Please review the support guide
	Student **MCPS Zoom** accounts are different from a personal Zoom account students may already have • Students can follow the steps in this guide log into the meeting. Students should **always log into the Zoom app or at mcpsmd.zoom.us before attempting to click a Zoom meeting link** • Test your internet connection by joining a test Zoom meeting	MCPS Zoom Test Zoom meeting	Zoom for Students Support Guide

Spanish | Korean | Amharic | Chinese | French | Vietnamese

If the above links do not work,

Go to https://docs.google.com/document/u/1/d/e/2PACX-1vS3mN2oufzx_Zw2Os3AGopMebqxIOgL4Jm8UayWeKmzGbejW36wCGfpY1YgDokRcJG7Po11aT7UcJWe/pub

or

Go to https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/mymcps-classroom/ and look for the third link from the bottom in the FOR PARENTS column. There are also a lot of other resources on that page.

Student and Family Resources

The **Office of Technology and Innovation** has provided links to resources for helping students and their families to troubleshoot account or hardware issues they may encounter during online learning:

- Student Accounts and Access - Getting Started
- Chromebook Troubleshooting
- ParentVUE Guides and Webinars
- Accessing myMCPS Classroom (Canvas) via mobile

SEE SOMETHING? HEAR SOMETHING? SAY SOMETHING!

Resources for Students

- **Safe Schools Maryland Tip Line** is an anonymous reporting system used to report threats to the safety and/or well-being of students. Call 1-833-MD-B-SAFE or download the app. https://schoolsafety.maryland.gov/pages/tipline.aspx
- Contact the **Montgomery County Hotline** at 240-777-4357 or 301-738-2255 (***EveryMind***). A trained staff member or volunteer will provide supportive listening and information, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Students may text the EveryMind hotline telephone number every day, between noon and midnight.
- Students may contact the **Victim Assistance and Sexual Assault Program** (VASAP) for support. VASAP provides information, referrals and advocacy, as well as crisis and ongoing counseling for victims of sexual assault. https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/hhs-program/bhcs/vasap/vasapindex.html

MLK Week of Service 2021

"Life's most persistent and urgent question is,
'What are you doing for others?' "
— Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Honor the life and teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. by serving our community on MLK Day—and throughout the week surrounding the holiday. The Volunteer Center's annual MLK Day of Service event has gone virtual and expanded to a week this year, with a variety of home-based and safely distanced service opportunities, January 16-24, 2021. Projects range from activities like writing letters to isolated seniors to creating toys for service dogs. Choose to participate in one or many! They all help others in our community. (MCPS students can earn SSL hours for most service projects except donations. Details outlined within each opportunity.)

Go to https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/volunteercenter/volunteers/MLK.html to view opportunities. Click on the projects that interest you to view more details and sign up. Note that some projects are expected to fill up quickly and require pre-registration (as indicated).

Parents and students can click on this slideshow link for a quick summary of the MLK Week of Service program and opportunities This slidshow will also be shared with students during their January 12 homeroom class.

Student Service Learning (SSL) News

Be sure to visit the SSL page on our Baker MS class tile in Canvas/MyMCPS Classroom for a lots of information and a link to the site where you can submit your completed SSL Verification Forms. Please do not email forms to Mrs. Nelson.

Students' SSL totals can be viewed in the Course History section of the Synergy StudentVUE and ParentVUE accounts. Please email Becky_L_Nelson@mcpsmd.org if with SSL questions.

Message from the Baker Middle School PTA

President — Aimee Ibacache
Treasurer — Kim Kamensky
Vice President & NAACP Representative — Donald Whitfield

Please join the Baker Middle School PTA! Your membership contributions help us run many programs. We also have many volunteer opportunities throughout the year and are always in need of help. https://johntbakermiddlesc.wixsite.com/bmspta

PTA Meeting Calendar — meetings virtually until further notice.

- **Tuesday, February 9, 2021**
  6:00-7:00 p.m. – 8th Grade Planning Committee
  7:00-8:00 p.m. – PTA Meeting

MCPS HS Student-Led Groups Offering Free Virtual/Remote Tutoring to K-8 Students

As part of MCCPTA's SSL committee's work, we wanted to share information about a number of MCPS HS student-led groups providing free virtual tutoring to K-8 students across the county. These student tutors have either an MCPS faculty or non-profit SSL sponsor and have been through a formal interview process. Tutors have also taken the MCPS Volunteers and Contractors: Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect, online training course.

Many of these student-led groups have posted their services on a platform called Kiddo, which provides families looking for free learning support a single place to search and register for those services. This free virtual tutoring platform is the Central platform for families to search and register for free student-led tutoring services. Families can also contact the student-led tutoring services directly --

Stepping Stone Tutoring- Led by Montgomery Blair HS students

Montgomery County Virtual Tutoring Project- Led by Clarksburg HS students

MoCo Pineapple Tutoring- Led by Winston Churchill HS students

SparkStars Tutoring- Led by Montgomery Blair/Richard Montgomery HS students

Centro de Asistencia Social y Orientación - Led by Montgomery Blair and Richard Montgomery HS students

Generation Z Tutoring- Led by Richard Montgomery HS students

Aurora Tutoring- Led by Walter Johnson HS students

Note — the student-led programs operate independent registration sites, but have joined this central platform. Kiddo is a local Montgomery County startup that is completely free to use for all families and service providers. It was built with the intention of being a central space for families and local enrichment service providers to connect, with a core social mission around driving extracurricular programming accessibility to underserved communities.

Should you have any questions please feel free to contact me at ssl@mccpta.org.

Best,
Garrick Yau, MCCPTA SSL Subcommittee Chair

Student Transfer Application Season Scheduled from
The first school day in February through the first school day in April 2021

ROCKVILLE, Maryland—Montgomery County parents/guardians who wish to request a Change of School Assignment (COSA) for their children from their home school may begin the process during the upcoming transfer season—the first school day in February through the first school day in April 2021.

Students in Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) are expected to attend the school within the established attendance area in which they reside (home school) or assigned in accordance with their Individualized Education Program (IEP). Students may apply for COSA from the home school, or the school of assignment through the IEP process, based on the following criteria:

- When a documented unique hardship is shown. Students may apply for a COSA when extenuating circumstances related to their specific physical, mental, or emotional well-being or their family's individual or personal situation could be mitigated by a COSA.

- When a family moves within Montgomery County who wish to continue attending their former home school may request a COSA without demonstrating a unique hardship. Such requests may be considered for remainder of the current school year only, with the exception that students in Grade 11 or 12 may be granted a COSA to stay through high school graduation.

- When a student seeks to attend the school where a sibling will be enrolled in the regular/general school program, or a special education program, during the year the student wants to enroll.

- *When a sibling attends a magnet, language immersion, or other application program at elementary level, a COSA may be approved to the regular school program for other sibling on a case-by-case basis. Such approval requires consideration of available classroom space, grade-level enrollment, staffing allocations, or other factors that impact the schools involved.

  **The criteria above regarding siblings do not apply if a boundary change has occurred.*

Please note that starting with students who enter Grade 6 during school year 2021–2022, a student attending a middle school on a COSA seeking to attend the high school in that middle school's feeder pattern will have to reapply for a COSA and demonstrate a unique hardship.

The transfer process begins in the home school where parents/guardians may request the Change of School Assignment (COSA) Information Booklet that contains the COSA form, describes the process, and provides useful information. Beginning the first week of February 2021, the COSA booklet will be available in schools and online at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/transfers. The booklet will be available in both English and Spanish. Exempt countywide programs that do not fall under the transfer guidelines are listed in the information booklet.

For information about assignments for students residing in the NEC, DCC, or MSMC areas, please contact the Division of Consortia Choice and Application Program Services at 240-740-2540 or visit the website at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/schoolchoice.

For more information about the transfer process, parents/guardians are encouraged to contact the principal at their home school. Non-English speaking students and parents/guardians who may require assistance may contact ASK MCPS to get the information they need by telephone at 301-309-MCPS (6277). Telephone operators who speak English and Spanish are available from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Parents who speak languages other than English or Spanish who call the ASK MCPS telephone line and identify their language will have their questions answered through a telephone interpreter.

SEE SOMETHING? HEAR SOMETHING? SAY SOMETHING!

MCPS COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE #8 — 1/14/21

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.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

VIRTUAL

MCPS/NAACP

Presents

13th Annual HBCU College Fair

Friday, February 12th 9am-4pm

On-the-Spot Interview Registration: HS Seniors need to contact their CCIC and/or counselor for information

Saturday, February 13th 10am-2pm

College Fair and Virtual workshops

- **HBCU Panel**
- **A variety of workshops including: Financial Aid**

Fair Registration will be closed on (for 2/12/21) for MS/HS students via Eventbrite link:
http://bit.ly/3snjsjy

For more information visit the MCPS Historically Black Colleges and Universities Fair webpage
https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/familysupport/hbcu/

Attachment A

12th Annual Choose Respect Montgomery Video Contest

Sponsored by the

Montgomery County Family Justice Center Foundation

and the

Domestic Violence Coordinating Council of Montgomery County

Contest Rules - PLEASE READ ALL RULES VERY CAREFULLY!

Description: *This contest challenges teens to create an original video to promote awareness of dating abuse and domestic violence among teens. Participants are encouraged to* ***be creative****!*

If you are making a video with other people, please follow Montgomery County Social Distancing Guidelines. Wear a mask inside or outside if 6 feet of social distancing is not possible.

Eligibility: *This contest is open to all 6th - 12th grade students living in Montgomery County. Students can enter the contest on their own or as a group;* ***however****, students may only participate in ONE entry. If a student in any way participates in more than one PSA video, all of those entries will be disqualified.*

Entry Rules:

- *All submissions must have a title.*
- *All submissions must be in either English or Spanish.*
- *All submissions must be 50-70 seconds in length.*
- *All submissions must be uploaded to Google Drive, Dropbox, YouTube, or similar program.*
- *You will then have to provide us with the link via our Online Contest Submission Form (available at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/fjc/chooserespect/video.html)*
- *All submissions must address at least one of the following:*
  - *Physical abuse, emotional/verbal abuse, types of technological abuse, financial abuse or issues around consent).*
  - *Examples of healthy behaviors in a relationship.*
  - *Bystander intervention (how to step in and help a friend).*
- *All submissions must include the* ***Montgomery County Family Justice Center - 240-773-0444*** *as the resource where victims of domestic violence and dating abuse can get help.*
- *Submissions must reflect careful planning, thoughtful insight into the material presented, and accurate and thorough coverage of the content.*
- *All participants must submit a signed consent and release form.*
- *Submissions may NOT include ANY copyrighted music, audio/video clips, characters, logos, or other protected material. Videos may include music only if it is considered "open source" music, or if it is composed and played by a student (or students) in the group.*

Evaluation and Prizes: *All submissions will be reviewed by a judging panel, with cash prizes going to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place, and Honorable Mention prizes going to 4th and 5th place. A "Fan Favorite" will also be selected from the Top 5 via public vote during the month of March, and will receive an additional prize. The winning videos will be announced at an event in Spring 2021. Winning students must participate in the Spring event.*

1st Place: $1,000 ***2nd Place: $750*** ***3rd Place: $500***

To Enter:

1. ***Create your video, and make sure it follows all of the rules listed above.***
2. ***Upload your video to Google Drive, Dropbox, YouTube, or similar program.***
3. ***Go to www.montgomerycountymd.gov/fjc/chooserespect/ and click on our Online PSA Contest Submission Form, where you will have to answer a few questions and provide a link to your video.***

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 2021