Meeting Agenda

Part 1: Introduction to Neelsville (15 min)

Part 2: Important Topics and Information (25 min)

Part 3: Remaining Questions and Answers (10 min)
Questions?

Please enter your questions into the chat, and staff will do their best to answer as we go along!
Keep track of Neelsville’s Community Calendar!

- A calendar of events (including links with extra information). Also includes daily announcements. So important, we will talk about this twice!
Please attend the “Nighthawk Welcome” on Thursday, August 24th at 6:00 p.m. here at Neeslville.
Session 1: Introduction to Neelsville

- Neelsville’s Vision and Mission
- General School Information
- NEW Academic Schedule
- Student Demographics
- Feeder-School Breakdown
Neelsville’s Vision and Mission

We, the Neelsville community, strive to inspire students who think globally and critically, and who promote mutual respect and positive relationships in order to become highly productive leaders of society.

At Neelsville Middle School, through an equity lens, we:

a. Nurture the well-being of our community
b. Hold each other accountable
c. Encourage positive risk-taking
d. Value healthy relationships
e. Embrace the contributions of all our students’ rich backgrounds and cultures
General School Information

- **School Address:** *(Where we are located)*
  - 1170 Neelsville Church Road, Germantown, MD 20876
- **School Phone Number:** *(How to contact the main office)*
  - (301) - 353 - 8064
- **School Start Time:** *(When school begins)*
  - Doors open at 7:50 a.m.
  - Period 1 (late) Bell Rings at 8:10 a.m.
- **School End Time:** *(When school is over)*
  - Dismissal Bell rings at 3:00 p.m.
  - Busses leave at 3:07 p.m. (After-school busses at 4:30 and, 5:30 p.m)
- **New School Construction Updates:** *(Follow the construction of our new building, opening fall 2024)*
  - Visit MCPS Construction Website, Presentation to Board of Education (Dec. 2020)
Neelsville’s NEW Academic Schedule

- During the fall of 2023, Neelsville will begin using a NEW schedule:
  - 8 periods: including 7 classes periods, a 15 minute Advisory Block, and one 30-minute lunch period
  - Start Time: 8:10 a.m., End Time: 3:00 p.m.
  - Visit this link to see Two-Hour Delay and other Bell Schedules.

- Major Positive of New Schedule:
  - Equity
  - Teachers see students everyday
  - Increased structure for students
  - Grade-Level Specific Lunches
  - Heightened Teacher Planning

*Note - “Homeroom” as indicated on this graphic will be referred to as “Advisory.” We will be making this update on our website shortly.*
Neelsville Middle School Bell Schedule

Regular Day

*Note - “Homeroom” as indicated on this graphic will be referred to as “Advisory.” We will be making this update on our website shortly.

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<td>Homeroom</td>
<td>10:46-11:01</td>
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<td>5</td>
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# 6th Grade Schedule

- Students are assigned 7 academic classes, 1 lunch period, and 1 Advisory (formerly Homeroom) period.

- Students attend all classes each day.

- Academic classes last 47-50 minutes.

- 6th Grade students will remain in their 3rd period classes each day for a 15-minute **Advisory Period** (formerly known as “Homeroom”).

- Students are allowed to go outside on the patio after they each lunch, weather permitting.

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<td>Advisory</td>
<td>10:46-11:01</td>
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<td>Lunch 4</td>
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Outdoor Education

- ALL MCPS 6th Graders are expected to participate in Outdoor Education
- Neelsville has two sessions of “Outdoor Ed.” from April 15 - April 19
- Each student has the opportunity to spend one session (2 nights) at the Smith Center in Gaithersburg, MD
- There are 3 Adult Informations Scheduled the Fall and Spring.
- Permission slips may be distributed as early as October
- Our goal is 100% Attendance

Visit this link to view MCPS's Outdoor Education Website
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<th>Demographics, 2023-2024</th>
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**Student Demographics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EML (Formerly “ESOL”)</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SpEd</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FARMS</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gifted</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hawaiian</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi</td>
<td>4%</td>
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Neelsville Feeder-School Organization Breakdown

As of 23-24, Cabin Branch Elementary will also feed into Neelsville!

*Follow this link for more information about School Clusters in MCPS

*Follow this link for more information about School Service Areas in MCPS
Partial Germantown-Area Feeder School Breakdown

Local Cluster Breakdown

- Watkin's Mill High School
- Seneca Valley High School
- Clarksburg High School

- Montgomery Village Middle School
- Dr. MLK Middle School
- Clemente Middle School
- Hallie Wells Middle School

- Neelsville Middle School

- Stedwick ES
- Gibbs ES
- Little Bennett ES

- Whetstone ES
- South Lake ES
- Clarksburg ES
- Fox Chapel ES

- Watkin's Mill ES
- Daly ES
1. Neelsville’s Mission Statement includes the phrase, “Embrace the contributions of all our students’ rich backgrounds and cultures.”

**True**
2. Students can earn high school credit in Middle School. **TRUE**
True or False Review: What do you remember?

3. Students attend all of their classes everyday. **TRUE**
4. School starts at 8:15 a.m.

False

School starts at 8:10 a.m.
Let’s Pause for Reflection

We will now pause for 3 minutes: take time to write down any questions on notecards. Hold them above your head to be collected.
Session 2: Important Topics and Information

- Attendance
- Transportation
- Communication
- Lunch (Free Lunch Program)
- Extra-Curriculars
- Student Service Learning
- Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA)
- ParentVUE
Attendance

ATTENDANCE/AUSENCIAS

Neelsville Middle School
2023-2024
Transportation - Bus Routes 2023 - 2024

- Central Office Communication
  - Letter from Department of Transportation (English)
  - Carta del Departamento de Transporte (Spanish)

- Bus Routes, Neelsville Middle School 2023 - 2024
  - Arrival Routes and “First Stop” Times
  - Departure Routes and “First Stop” Times

- Bus Expectations
  - “What You Should Know About Riding the Bus” (English)
  - “Lo que debe saber sobre el transporte en autobús” (Spanish)
Transportation - Busses

- We are fully bussed (although many adults drop-off their students) and NO students walk home.

- Students who arrive late due to a county bus being behind schedule will be given an “Excused Tardy.”

- If alternate arrangements need to be made, a signed note must be submitted to the main office beforehand.

- Students who miss their bus home will have to wait in the main office for an adult to pick them up.
Transportation - Adult Drop-Off and Pick-Up

- Students must be dropped off in the morning using the parent drop-off lane. Adults should not enter the bus lane.

- Students who arrive late, who were not on a county bus, must sign-in the main office. They will be marked “Unexcused Tardy” *until documentation excusing it is provided.

- Adults picking up students should line up in the center lane in two rows (not the bus lane, nor the parking area). Once the 3:00 p.m. bell is rung, students will exit the building and be able to cross to the pick-up area. At 3:07, adult pick-up will pause to allow busses to exit.
Communication

- **Click to Visit the Neelsville Middle School Website**: Our main communicative informational resource, including hosting our Ms. Escobar’s Newsletter, announcements, event reminders, academic and family supports, bus routes, schedules, menus, and much more.

- **Weekly Newsletter**: [https://www.smore.com/qp3vz](https://www.smore.com/qp3vz) - main method of mass communication from our Principal, Ms. Escobar. Very important information is given, so please review each week!

- **Emailing Teachers and Staff**: Email is the quickest way to contact teachers. Teachers will often reach out to adults through calls, emails, text, and other means. They may be contacted using [ParentVue](https://www.smore.com/qp3vz) email or through their official email listed on our [Staff Directory](https://www.smore.com/qp3vz). If you need to get in touch with a counselor, you may email and call.

- **Community Calendar** - A calendar of events (includes link with extra information). Also includes daily announcements.
IMPORTANT
Meal prices: Breakfast—$1.30; Lunch—$2.80 (Middle and High) Beginning this year, students in Maryland who qualify for reduced-price meals will not be charged for breakfast or lunch meals!

Apply online NOW so that benefits will be in place when school starts! Families who meet certain federal income standards are eligible for free or reduced-price meal benefits. All children use their MCPS ID number at the register so confidentiality is maintained and no child is overtly identified as receiving free or reduced-price meals. Only one application is needed for all students in a household. A new application must be completed for any family requesting assistance this school year.

Apply online NOW at MySchoolApps.com (translations available).

- Click here for an English video tutorial.
- Click here for a Spanish video tutorial.
We will now break for 3 minutes: take time to write down any questions on notecards and hand them in.
Extra-Curricular Activities

Although MCPS 6th graders cannot participate in Team Sports, they have many opportunities to get involved in a variety of extracurricular activities. We add clubs and activities each year as students generate interest and seek sponsors.

Neelsville-Sponsored Clubs and Activities
- Student Government Association
- National Junior Honors Society
- Minority Scholars
- Beautification Club
- Girl Leaders

“NMS Activity Bus” leaves at 4:30 p.m.

Excel Beyond the Bell (EBB) and More
- Sports and Fitness
- Cooking
- Robotics
- Art
- Girl Leaders
- IDENTITY

“EBB Bus” leaves at 5:30 p.m.
Student Service Learning (SSL) Hours

“Student Service Learning (SSL) is a Maryland state graduation requirement. Students must earn 75 SSL hours to graduate from high school and can start earning SSL hours the summer after grade 5. Students may continue to earn SSL hours throughout middle school and high school.” - MCPS

- Must be completed OUTSIDE of school hours unless noted below.
- “All students that successfully pass 6th grade science this year will earn 10 hours the following September.
- Successful completion of project in 7th grade English and successful competition of project in 8th grade History also provide students 10 hours each.
- There are Documentation Due Dates for SSL forms, depending on the time of year service was completed.
- Many staff create opportunities for students to volunteer, while students often seek their own opportunities. Most opportunities occur outside the school setting.
- Ms. Parikh is our new SSL Leader this year: jignasha_u_parikh@mcpsmd.org
- Much information is posted on Website, see the links below:

  - Watch this video, “SSL in Action,” from MCPS
  - Visit this link to see the MCPS SSL Website
  - Visit this link to find MCPS SSL Opportunities
Welcome from your Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA)!

Click here to visit the Neelsville’s PTSA Website

How to Become a PTSA Member & Make Donations:

- PTSA is a membership-based organization and your student benefits when you join! Anyone can join - Parents, grandparents, guardians, teachers, staff, and community members. Membership is simple and in NO WAY commits you to volunteering or attending meetings. If you are not interested in joining, please consider donating instead. Your tax deductible membership and donation dollars bring to our school the activities, special events, and experiences that are not funded by MCPS.

- You can purchase an annual membership or make a donation here: https://neelsvillems.memberhub.com/store
Welcome from your Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA)!

Social Media:
Connect with the PTSA and the NMS Community by joining our Social Groups to get more information about what’s going on in our school, how to support your student, how to access resources, and how to make your voice heard:

- https://www.facebook.com/groups/533102008605077
- https://chat.whatsapp.com/BauRA3HVU
- https://chat.whatsapp.com/DsSLnsHsy

Volunteers:
We are also seeking volunteers to be part of the change in making our school stronger! Volunteer opportunities will be sent out through our Facebook Group, WhatsApp Channel, and in Mrs. Escobar's weekly updates.
Everything you need to know about ParentVUE!

Thumbs up if you have USED ParentVUE before

Thumbs to the side if you have HEARD of it before

Thumbs down if this is brand NEW!

¡Todo lo que necesita saber ParentVUE!

Ms. Sheri Snyder, 6th Grade Counselor
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What is ParentVUE for? ¿Para qué sirve ParentVUE?</th>
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<tr>
<td>Allows you to access Le permite acceder...</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Student Schedule Horario del Estudiante</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Current and Past Grades Grados actuales y pasados</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Email teachers, counselors, and other staff Envíe un correo electrónico a los maestros, consejeros y otro personal</strong></td>
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<td>[Email icon]</td>
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<td><strong>Online registration Registro en línea</strong></td>
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<td>... at any time online en cualquier momento en línea</td>
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Where do I go to find ParentVUE? ¿Dónde puedo encontrar ParentVUE?

Go to: https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/mymcps-classroom/
Where do I go to find ParentVUE? ¿Dónde puedo encontrar ParentVUE?
Where do I go to find ParentVUE? ¿Dónde puedo encontrar ParentVUE?

But I don’t have an account! Pero no tengo una cuenta!
ParentVue Home Page

Important Info on Left of Screen

**Can update Annual Verification Under Online Registration**
Session 3: Self-Selected Breakout Stations

Station 1: Questions and Answers (Note Cards)
Station 2: ParentVue Sign-Up
Station 3: Free and Reduced Lunch Sign-Up
Station 4: Tips for Success
Station 5: PTSA
Station 6: Self-Guided School Tour