



*March 17, 2024
North Bethesda Middle School
News and Notes*



North Bethesda Middle School Upcoming Events

March 18 Regular Schedule Phoenix Time Period 6

7PM 6th Grade Outdoor Education Parent Meeting on Zoom (more details below)

<https://mcpsmd.zoom.us/j/86703042269?pwd=QmJsVUdRTUV4THVkQk03Y0prUDV0UT09>

March 19 Regular Schedule Phoenix Time Period 7

Orchestra Festival -Watkins Mill High School Depart 9:30 a.m.

March 20 Regular Schedule Phoenix Time Period 1

7PM 6th Grade Outdoor Education CHAPERONE Meeting on Zoom (more details below)

<https://mcpsmd.zoom.us/j/86703042269?pwd=QmJsVUdRTUV4THVkQk03Y0prUDV0UT09>

March 21 Regular Schedule Phoenix Time Period 2

Book Wars Competition - students leaving @ period 2 & return @ 1:50 Hoover MS
Band Festival-Seneca Valley HS - M. Hepburn, Depart 11:00 a.m.

March 22 Regular Schedule Phoenix Time Period 3

MARCH 23 - APRIL 1, 2024, SPRING BREAK

April 2 **BACK TO SCHOOL** Regular Schedule Phoenix Time Period 4

April 3 Regular Schedule Phoenix Time Period 4 SEL LESSON

Boys Soccer Game v. Silver Creek @ Home

Girls Soccer Game away @ Silver Creek

Choral Festival

April 4 Regular Schedule Phoenix Time Period 5

April 5 Regular Schedule Phoenix Time Period 6

[Regular Schedule](#)

2023-2024 SCHOOL HOURS: 8:15 – 3:00 p.m.

Parents, please drop off students in the drop off loop.

(Entrance on Bradmoor Drive – note: Johnson Drive is for buses only)

Administrators

Grade 6 Katherine_B_Rudd@mcpsmd.org

Grade 7 tirza_carmichaelcollins@mcpsmd.org

Grade 8 Daniel_E_Werbeck@mcpsmd.org

Principal Annemarie_e_smith@mcpsmd.org

GRADE LEVEL UPDATES/QUARTERLY VOCABULARY

Please click on this [link](#) to go to the NBMS webpage where you can find the weekly grade level updates and quarterly vocabulary lists. The grade level updates can be found under the Academics tab on our school webpage.

MCPS Calendar

To report Bullying and Harassment, please use this [Bullying and Harassment Form](#)

Dear North Bethesda Families:

Because of the spring break holiday, the next News and Notes will be published on April 7, 2024. I will send other updates as needed via Connect Ed and/or Synergy. In this news and notes edition, you will find information about the following topics.

1. MCPS Climate Survey - Please take some time to provide us with valuable feedback on your experiences at NBMS.
PTSA Meeting information - You can find the links to the recordings and slides from last week's meeting!
2. Sixth Grade Outdoor Education. Learn the meeting dates for parents and chaperones and learn how to order the correct size for your sixth grader's outdoor education tee shirt.
3. Mrs. Rice's Counseling Update about the impact of spring on adolescents and teens!
4. Eighth Grade End of Year Information for Parents and Caregivers. Find a link to the Hershey Park field trip permission form and fill it out as soon as possible!
5. NBMS Scholastic Book Fair dates. Please consider volunteering to support this event.
6. Student Opportunities. Learn about the Montgomery County Community Police Community Engagement Division Youth on the Rise Summer Camp
7. General NBMS and MCPS Information: Find additional details about NBMS and MCPS including the latest MCPS communication update.

scheduled for Wednesday, June 12, 2024, at 1:00 PM.

Your Voice Matters: Family Survey for School Improvement

MCPS Climate Survey -- To date only 8% of our parents and caregivers have completed this survey. *The deadline has been extended to March 22, 2024.* Please take a few moments to complete the survey because... your voice matters! At North Bethesda Middle School, we believe in the power of collaboration and the importance of your perspective. Your family's input is crucial in shaping the future of our school community, and we invite you to participate in our Family Survey.

This survey aims to gather valuable insights into your experiences and opinions regarding various aspects of our school district. Your honest feedback will help us understand what is working well and identify areas where we can improve to create a more supportive and engaging learning environment for all students.

Participating in this survey is easy, and it will only take a few minutes of your time. Your responses are completely confidential, and the information you provide will be used solely for the purpose of enhancing our educational programs and services. The survey opened on February 12, 2024, and closes March 22, 2024.

To access the survey, please click on the link provided below:

<https://parentsurvey.mcpsmd.org/>

We appreciate your commitment to our school community and value the unique perspectives each family brings. Together, we can continue to build a positive and thriving educational environment.

Thank you for your time and input. We look forward to hearing from you!

See links below for information about the survey in different languages.

[English](#), [Español](#) / [中文](#) / [Français](#) / [Português](#) / [한국어](#) / [Tiếng Việt](#) / [አማርኛ](#)

PTSA INFORMATION

PTSA MEETING Tuesday, March 12, 2024

[March 12, 2024, Slides](#)

[March 12, 2024, meeting recording.](#)

[NBMS PTSA](#)

[Website](#)

SIXTH GRADE OUTDOOR EDUCATION INFORMATION

Greetings 6th Grade Families,

We are so excited that our preparations for our Outdoor Education program have begun. We have two information meetings coming up in March. Both will be through Zoom and links will be sent out closer to the dates.

Monday, March 18 7:00 pm - Parent Information Night

<https://mcpsmd.zoom.us/j/86703042269?pwd=QmJsVUdRTUV4THVkQk03Y0prUDV0>

[UT09](#)

Wednesday, March 20 7:00 pm - Chaperone Information Night

<https://mcpsmd.zoom.us/j/86703042269?pwd=QmJsVUdRTUV4THVhQk03Y0prUDV0>

[UT09](#)

This is one of the most memorable events in 6th grade. We hope that all our sixth graders will be able to attend and that you will be able to attend the parent information night to learn all about this amazing program for our sixth graders.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR 6th GRADE FAMILIES - As part of our upcoming Outdoor Education program, we're excited to provide each student with a class t-shirt to commemorate the experience. These shirts not only foster a sense of unity and belonging among the students but also serve as practical attire for outdoor activities, helping ensure that everyone is easily identifiable and safe. To enable us to order the right t-shirt size for your student, we kindly request that you complete this [OUTDOOR EDUCATION T-SHIRT SIZE FORM](#) by **MONDAY, APRIL 8, 2024**. If the form is not completed by that date, we will ask your student to provide their preferred t-shirt size.

8th Grade End of Year Events

8th Grade Social and Celebration - May 31, 2024, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Most students have submitted their permission slips. Please do so as soon as possible so we can ensure we have enough buses for all students who want to participate.

8th Grade Trip to Hershey Park - June 11, 2024, 8:15 a.m. to 7:45 p.m.

Here is the link [to the Hershey Park permission slip](#)

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PvMm-SZeDK4eeY6xYBjzG2JLkomPOgpO/view?usp=sharing>

8th Grade Promotion

Due to space constraints at North Bethesda Middle School, our tradition involves hosting a staff-student only promotion celebration. This event is recorded and shared with families for their convenience. The celebration includes speeches from both students and staff, recognition of academic and extracurricular achievements, special awards, musical performances, student slides, and messages from teachers. This year, the celebration is scheduled for Wednesday, June 12, 2024, at 1:00 PM.

MS. RICE'S COUNSELING UPDATE

We had a taste of spring last week, and with that our students were frisky. It happens every year when the weather first gets warm! We see more students wandering the halls during class, more conflicts between students, and often a drop off in assignment completion and

grades. But the year isn't over yet, and as parents, you probably aren't too thrilled about a drop in grades right now.

For some of our students, they just need to get back to their good habits. For others, this is when we see that they truly don't know how to study and organize their schoolwork. I think I've had this conversation at least three or four times already this week, so I thought it would be beneficial to share with all of you and talk about study skills.

Student habits at home are just as important as habits at school in terms of student achievement. It's beneficial to stress the importance of continuing the learning at home. Teachers don't give homework just to give work, they give homework for completion of an assignment or to reinforce learning (like practicing a math concept.)

My rule of thumb is that every student should have a home routine that includes a set time and space to do their at home learning. I recommend beginning with at least one hour for this time in 6th grade and gradually increasing as the time is needed. There may be days your child comes home and says they have no homework, but routine is routine, so on those days they should use the set time for something learning related (like reading a book or reviewing class notes.) This is a habit that will serve your child through high school and beyond.

Once you've got the space set, make sure it's free from distractions like the phone, tablet, television, and friends! Encourage your child to check their handbook and their Canvas pages daily for assignments and consider checking their grades weekly together to comb for missing assignments. If they truly have nothing to do after checking those places, they can read a book or study. To be honest, they should be studying in advance of all quizzes and tests, at least for 2-3 days. You might be thinking, "I don't think my student knows how to study." That is probably true! The good news is the ways we used as kids are still tried and true and effective. It's been a while, so I'll remind you!

- Make flashcards (you can quiz yourself this way)
- Read class notes and then summarize.
- Read notes aloud.
- Rewrite the main ideas from different assignments/notes.
- Use the study guide.
- Teach it to a sibling, parent, or teddy bear.
- Have a parent, sibling, or friend quiz you.

These new tips and tricks should help you get your child through the end of the school year and set good habits for next year. Flashcards were always my favorite! Happy studying!
Ashley

[Webinars, Seminars, Announcements, and things...](#)

- [Parent Child Journey](#) with Dr. Shapiro & colleagues
 - **Free Parent Support Group EVERY Monday at 1:00pm:** *March 18th - What If My Child Does Not Think Have A Problem (or they don't think treatment will help);* [register in advance for zoom link](#)
 - [Spring Parent Child Excursions](#), Tuesday mornings from 10:00-11:00am on Zoom beginning April 9th with Dr. Dan Shapiro, "pick what you like, pay what you can" - April - Medication for ADHD, May 7,14 - Helping Your Anxious Child, and May 21, 28 - Helping Your Child Experience Social Success
- CASE Webinar: [How to Address "Common" Issues Facing LGBTQ+ Families and Keeping Up Contemporary LGBTQ+ Language](#) - Thursday, March 21st from 1:00-2:30pm - presented by Gary Mallon, DSW, Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College in NYC; use the code EXPLORE for free registration, \$15 per registration after the first 600
- Thrive Parent Support Group - [Neurospicy: Life Hacks for Families with Neurodivergent Kids](#) - Thursday, March 21st from 6:30-8:00pm on zoom

NBMS SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

Our NBMS Spring Book fair is approaching! The dates are April 15th-19th. We are excited for a great book fair! All funds raised from the Book Fair will go to buying new books for our NBMS Media Center. The Book Fair will be open from 7:45am-3:00pm on Monday thru Thursday. On Friday, the Book Fair will be open from 7:45am-1:00pm.

Our Media Center staff, Mrs. Woods & Mrs. Kennedy, will be running the Book Fair, but would love some parent help assisting students and running the cash register. They will show each parent who helps with the cash register how to use it at the book fair.

The days & time slots that the Media Center staff need assistance with are in the Sign-Up Genius below. Thanks in advance for your help!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409094EAAAD2BA0F58-nbms>

APRIL 22nd Asynchronous Learning Day

Students will be sent home with assignments to complete independently. Asynchronous learning describes educational activities and assignments that engage students in learning without live instruction or use of technology. Students must complete assignments to count towards their attendance for the day. Additional time for students to complete assignments will be granted for any challenges or unforeseen circumstances.

At NBMS, students will find their assignments in their Canvas classroom and will have ten days to complete. Once the assignments for a class are completed, the student is considered present. If they fail to complete the assignments within 10 days, they will be marked absent for April 22nd.

CHANGE OF SCHOOL ASSIGNMENT INFORMATION FOR SCHOOL YEAR 24-25

The Change of School Assignment (COSA) process allows families to submit a request for their children to transfer out of their assigned home school. All COSA requests must be submitted no later than Tuesday, April 2, 2024. COSA requests submitted after April 2, 2024, will only be accepted if the student is a new resident of Montgomery County or there is an emergency event that could not have been foreseen prior to April 2, 2024. Information on the COSA process, including two different ways to submit a request, can be found on this web page:

<https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/transfers/>

Please direct any questions to the Division of Pupil Personnel and Attendance Services at 240-740-5620

YEARBOOK INFORMATION

YEARBOOKS FOR SALE! If you would like to order a yearbook this year, please use this link to place your order (<https://yearbookforever.com/>). Enter "North Bethesda Middle School" in the search bar and it will take you to the order page. The price for a yearbook is now the regular price: \$40 (3/1 onwards). Yearbook orders will only be done online this year. There are a LIMITED NUMBER of yearbooks. Please place your order ASAP to reserve your copy! If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Lui at Jemi_J_Lui@mcpsmd.org.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Click [here](#) to review extracurricular activities and start dates offered by the school.

Click [here](#) for activity bus routes.

- Buses begin on Tuesday, September 12
- Buses end of Friday, May 9th
- No buses are scheduled for Halloween, 10/31

MCPS PARENT RESOURCES

[MCPS COMMUNICATION UPDATE FOR 2.29.2024](#)

[Parent Academy](#)

[Pathway to College, Career, and Community Readiness](#)

[MCPS News Center](#)

Webpage featuring the latest MCPS news and press releases updated regularly.

Ask MCPS / Spanish Hotline

General information about MCPS

Call: 240-740-3000 | Spanish Hotline: 240-740-2845

E-mail: ASKMCPS@mcpsmd.org

PARENTVUE ACCESS

Instructions for getting started with ParentVue can be found at <http://bit.ly/synergyparent>.

If you need an activation code, please contact our registrar, marybeth_turska@mcpsmd.org

In the counseling office or ask our main office staff.

NBMS HELPFUL INFORMATION

ATTENDANCE

Our attendance secretary is Maria Stefanias. The best way to reach her for questions or updates about attendance is to send her an email at Maria_Stefanias@mcpsmd.org

TO REPORT AN ABSENCE

Call the Attendance Line at 240-740-2101 by 9 a.m. Upon return to school, send a note to the main office: include student's full name, grade, dates, and reason for absence. You can use this [Attendance Note](#) template for Absences, Tardies, or Early Dismissals. **MCPS requires a doctor's note for absences of 5 days or more.** For an absence of 3 days or longer, homework may be requested by calling the Counseling Office at 240-740-2110.

Teachers enter attendance for each period into Synergy, the attendance system. **All class absences generate an automated call/email to parents. If you believe there is an error, please contact the teacher and the attendance office.**

If you have any questions, please contact the Department of Transportation Bethesda Bus Depot at **240-740-6580**.

STUDENT SERVICE LEARNING (SSL)

[NBMS Student Service Learning \(SSL\) Website](#)


Resources:

[SSL Information and FAQ flier](#); hard copies are available in the Counseling Office

For SSL forms, guidelines, resources, and much more click on the MCPS SSL Hub => <https://bit.ly/SSLHubMCPS>

All students should check their SSL hours quarterly, step-by-step directions for checking SSL hours => <https://bit.ly/SSLonVUE>

Students, please check your StudentID@mcpsmd.net Gmail account daily for SSL emails (and of course other important emails)

	<p>Make sure to join the NBMS SSL MyMCPS Classroom. To join, click on the NBMS SSL MyMCPS Classroom link => https://mcpsmd.instructure.com/enroll/FC6DG7. Please share this link with students, family, and friends.</p>
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If you have any questions, after reviewing the SSL information above, please send an email to Carla.A.Jurewicz@mcpsmd.net. Thank you!

Warmly,

AnneMarie Kestner Smith, Ed.D. (She, Her, Hers)
Principal
North Bethesda Middle School
[North Bethesda Middle School Website](#)