



*March 10, 2024  
North Bethesda Middle School  
News and Notes*



## **North Bethesda Middle School Upcoming Events**

**March 11**      **Regular Schedule Phoenix Time Period 2**

**March 12**      **Regular Schedule Phoenix Time Period 3**

**PTSA Meeting Hybrid – Media Center and Zoom 7PM**

**March 13**      **Regular Schedule Phoenix Time Period 3 SEL**

**March 14**      **Regular Schedule Phoenix Time Period 4**

**March 15**      **Regular Schedule Phoenix Time Period 5**

### **[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](mailto:Katherine_B_Rudd@mcpsmd.org)

Grade 7 [tirza\\_carmichaelcollins@mcpsmd.org](mailto:tirza_carmichaelcollins@mcpsmd.org)

Grade 8 [Daniel\\_E\\_Werbeck@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Daniel_E_Werbeck@mcpsmd.org)

Principal [Annemarie\\_e\\_smith@mcpsmd.org](mailto: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:

Last week, the 8th graders completed the Maryland Integrated Science Assessment, which evaluates their understanding of science learned throughout middle school. Friday was particularly exciting as

students participated in our annual Career Day, where they learned from guest speakers, many of whom are parents in our school community. We extend our gratitude to our counseling team for their exceptional organization of the event.

This Monday, students in 8th Grade English, who have been reading "Diary of a Young Girl" by Anne Frank, will have a unique opportunity to hear from Holocaust survivors or children of survivors throughout the day. We extend our thanks to NBMS parent Carolyn Weiss for collaborating with the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) coordinator, Mandy Book, to facilitate this event. Additionally, special recognition goes to Rina Cho, the 8th grade English teacher, for spearheading this initiative. We also appreciate the efforts of all 8th grade English teachers in providing context and guiding students in generating thought-provoking questions for the speakers.

On Wednesday, NBMS parent Ellen Epstein, a former Nazi hunter for the Department of Justice, will speak to our combined English 8 classes on March 13th. She will share her experiences and showcase photographs from her work interviewing former Nazi collaborators in Europe.

In this edition of News and Notes you will find the following information:

1. PTSA Meeting information - The PTSA has invited guest speakers who will share information on gun safety.
2. NBMS Scholastic Book Fair dates. Please consider volunteering to support this event.
3. Change of School Assignment Process for 24-25. Learn MCPS guidelines and deadlines for this process.
4. APRIL 22nd Asynchronous Learning Day. Learn what your child should do in order to be considered present on April 22, 2024 when students will engage in asynchronous learning.
5. Sixth Grade Outdoor Education. Learn the meeting dates for parents and chaperones.
6. Mrs. Rice's Counseling Update
7. MCPS Climate Survey – Please take some time to provide us with valuable feedback on your experiences at NBMS.
8. Eighth Grade End of Year Information for Parents and Caregivers. Learn more about end of year activities for eighth graders and how you as a Parent or Caregiver can contribute to their success.
9. Student Opportunities. Learn about the Montgomery County Community Police Community Engagement Division Youth on the Rise Summer Camp
10. General NBMS and MCPS Information: Find additional details about NBMS and MCPS including the latest MCPS communication update.

## **PTSA MEETING this Tuesday, March 12, 2024**

Dear NBMS Parents and Guardians,

We hope this message finds you well. We are eagerly extending an invitation to our next PTSA meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 12th, at 7pm. As always, we aim to cover critical topics that affect our children and their safety, both inside and outside of school.

## PTSA Meeting Details

Location: Attend in person at the NBMS Media Center or join us virtually via Zoom.

<https://mcpsmd.zoom.us/j/83480369881?pwd=cWRPY3NyMENqTGZ0Y2x6Z05WQzBFdz09>

Meeting ID: 834 8036 9881

Passcode: 289810

Date & Time: Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at 7pm.

## Agenda Highlights

**Principal's Briefing:** Catch up with Dr. Smith for an update on NBMS's achievements and what's on the horizon.

**Special Guest Presentation:** Our focus shifts to a vital issue impacting children across the nation - Secure Gun Storage Saves Kids' Lives. This presentation, developed by Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund, aims to unite adults in a conversation about gun safety and child protection.

Board Presentations: Hear the latest updates from our board members.

### About the Special Guest Presentation

Did you know that over 4.5 million children in the US live in homes with at least one loaded, unlocked gun? Shockingly, 3 out of 4 school shooters obtained their firearm from the home of a parent or close relative. This discussion is not just for gun owners but for anyone concerned about the safety of our children. Learn actionable steps to prevent unsupervised access to firearms by children and teenagers, making our homes and communities safer for all.

### Meet Our Guest Speakers

**James (Jim) Patrick Gallagher:** With a commendable 40-year career in law enforcement, Jim brings invaluable insight into safety and security. His extensive background includes roles as a Detective Investigator, Brooklyn District Attorney's Officer, U.S. Park Police Officer, and U.S. Secret Service Agent.

**Susan Raetzman:** A public health researcher dedicated to improving safety and health systems. Susan's work has significantly contributed to enhancing patient safety and public health initiatives.

Please mark your calendars and stay tuned for additional details on how to join the meeting in person or virtually.

Best Regards,

The PTSA Board at NBMS

[NBMS PTSA](#)

[Website](#)

## **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 are in the below Sign Up Genius. 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

## 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**

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

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.

### 8th Grade End of Year Events

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

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-SZeDK4eeY6xYBJzG2JLkomP0gpO/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

Career Day at NBMS was another smash success. Instead of hearing from me this week, take a few minutes to ask your student who they met and what they learned. Did they learn anything new about themselves or get an idea for a path they weren't thinking about?

### Webinars, Seminars, Announcements, and things...

- **MCPS Girls Summit** - Saturday, March 9th from 9:00am - 1:00pm at Northwood High School. Informative workshops on current topics like: healthy relationships, social media and mental health, eating healthy, body image, self-esteem, and so much more! Plus Zumba, spin bikes, health screenings, a fashion show from White House Black Market and SSL Hours for all who attend (6th-12th grade). [Read more and RSVP!](#)

- [Parent Child Journey](#) with Dr. Shapiro & colleagues
  - **Free Parent Support Group EVERY Monday at 1:00pm: March 11th - What is OCD?; [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
- Caring Matters Spring **Family Night for grieving students** and their families will be Thursday, March 14th on Zoom. Registration is now open. Contact [Gilly Cannon](#) for information or to register.
- PEP Webinar - [Communicating with Tweens & Teens](#), March 6th from 8:00-9:00pm, \$25

## CLIMATE SURVEY

### MCPS Climate Survey

#### Your Voice Matters: Family Survey for School Improvement

We hope this message finds you well! 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 15, 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](#)

## YEARBOOK INFORMATION

**SUBMIT PHOTOS FOR YEARBOOK!!** Does your child have photos they would like to submit for the yearbook? Have you or your child taken pictures of events this year? We hope your answer is YES!

The Yearbook Club is looking for students and families to contribute pictures for the '23-'24 yearbook. They can be classes, clubs, student life, community events, SSL, concerts, sporting events, etc. You can submit photos via the Yearbook Snap app (the app icon is orange!), or the Community Upload website

(<https://snap.yearbookforever.com/snap/index.html#/upload/1-23J-32823>).

The access code is **phoenix** (no caps or spaces). If you have any questions or run into any problems with submissions, please contact Ms. Lui at [Jemi\\_J\\_Lui@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Jemi_J_Lui@mcpsmd.org).

YEARBOOKS FOR SALE! NMBS yearbook sales have begun! 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 pricing 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](mailto: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 9<sup>th</sup>
- 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:StudentID@mcpsmd.net) Gmail account daily for SSL emails (and of course other important emails)



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.

If you have any questions, after reviewing the SSL information above, please send an email to [Carla.A.Jurewicz@mcpsmd.net](mailto: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](#)