

Mr. Levine's Message

Greetings Baker Bulldogs Families!

On October 3, MP1 Interims will be available on ParentVue. Please make sure that your account is active.

ParentVUE is the parent portal to MCPS's Synergy Student Information System that is available in the MCPS supported languages on the web or mobile device. It is a secure way to access information about attendance, class schedules, grades, report cards, online school enrollment, athletic registration, Synergy mail, a link to the MyMCPSClassroom digital learning platform, and much more.

ParentVUE Quick Guides

[English/español/中文/français/Português/tiếng Việt/ភាសាខ្មែរ](#)

[Activating Your ParentVUE Account](#)

[Navigating ParentVUE Mobile App](#)

[Navigating StudentVUE Mobile App](#)

[Athletic Registration with ParentVUE Online Registration](#)

Additional information can be found [here](#).

Please contact the Counseling Office at 240-207-2410 if you need assistance with accessing your ParentVUE account.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can support your child's experience at Baker Middle School in any way.

Thank you for your support and partnership!

Best,

Sam Levine

Summer SSL Hours Due by September 26

Students who completed Student Service Learning (SSL) hours over the summer must submit their [Activity Verification forms](#) to their school's SSL coordinator by **Friday, Sept. 26**. All MCPS students must earn 75 SSL hours to graduate from high school. Students who enroll in MCPS after Grade 6 will receive a waiver that prorates the SSL requirement.

A full list of in-person and virtual opportunities, reminders and updates are available on the [SSL website](#).

Please see pages 4–7 of this newsletter for lots of good information about SSL.

Everything Baker Resource Event

We are making preparations for our annual **Everything Baker Resource Event**. The purpose of this event is to educate and assist our school community with MCPS technology usage and/or community resources. We are going to be holding this support night on **Thursday, October 16, 2025, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Baker Middle School Café**.

The following resources will be available:

1. Navigating the Baker Middle School Website (Direct school information)
2. Navigating the MCPS website (County-wide information)
3. Community Resources (Food, Housing, Medical, Transportation, etc.)
4. Health and Human Services (County-wide information)
5. Housing (County-wide information)
6. Mental Health (County-wide information)
7. PTA Collaboration

I am reaching out for your help and participation in this event for our families. Please contact David_H.Moyler@mcpsmd.org if you would like to volunteer your assistance, present resources, or attend this wonderful event.



Looking Ahead

September 15–October 15

Hispanic–Latino Heritage Month

Tuesday, September 23

No school for students and teachers

Wed, September 24 — Activity Buses

MAP–M Testing (see page 2)

Cross Country vs. MLK, Home

Softball vs. Poole, Boys Away

Softball vs. Neelsville, Girls Home

Damascus ES Community Mtng, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, September 25 — Activity Buses

MAP–R Testing (see page 2)

Cross Country, Mr. Bozicevich, Blacktop

Homework Club, Ms. Laraia, Room 131

Jazz Band, Ms. Fell, Room 107

NJHS, Mr. Conner, Room 234

Friday, September 26

Early Release Day for Students,

Baker dismisses at 12:30 p.m.

7th Grade Team-Building Day

Back to School Block Party at Blackrock

Center for the Arts (see page 12)

Tuesday, September 30 — Activity Buses

Cross Country vs. Neelsville, Away

Softball vs. Lakelands Park, Boys Away

Softball vs. Rosa Parks, Girls Home

eSports, Mr. Conner and Mr. McKay,

Rooms 233 and 234

October — National Principals' Month

Wednesday, October 1 — Activity Buses

Wellness Wednesday during Advisory

Cross Country, Mr. Bozicevich, Blacktop

Thursday, October 2

No school for students and teachers

Friday, October 3

Interims available on ParentVUE and

mailed to households without an active

ParentVUE account

Tuesday, October 7 — Activity Buses

Cross Country vs. Rocky Hill, Away

Softball vs. Rocky Hill, Boys Home

Wednesday, October 8 — Activity Buses

Wellness Wednesday during Advisory

Lifetouch Fall Picture Day

Cross Country, Mr. Bozicevich, Blacktop

SGA, Ms. Blankenship, Room 208

Thursday, October 9 — Activity Buses

Cross Country, Mr. Bozicevich, Blacktop

Homework Club, Ms. Laraia, Room 131

Jazz Band, Ms. Fell, Room 107

NJHS, Mr. Conner, Room 234

Tuesday, October 14 — Activity Buses

Cross Country vs. Hallie Wells, Home

Softball vs. Hallie Wells, Boys Away

Softball vs. Kingsview, Girls Home

PTA Meetings

Wednesday, October 15 — Activity Buses

Thursday, October 16 — Activity Buses

5:30–8:30 p.m. All Things Baker

Fri, October 17 — Non-Instructional Day

No school for students and teachers

MAP ASSESSMENTS

The MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) assessment is designed to measure a student’s academic achievement and growth over time in reading and mathematics. Together with other classroom-based information, MAP results can help teachers make instructional decisions that match the needs of each child.

Please make sure that on assessment days your child comes to school on time, well-rested, and having consumed a nutritious breakfast. Please avoid scheduling appointments that would pull your child out of school during the testing blocks.

Baker students will be taking the MAP-M and MAP-R assessments — MAP-M on the morning of Wednesday, September 24, and MAP-R on the morning of Thursday, September 25. The Bell Schedule below is applicable to both days.

Students are to report directly to their testing location on these days.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 — MAP-M THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25 — MAP-R			
BELL TIMES	GRADE 6	GRADE 7	GRADE 8
8:15–10:11	MAP TESTING BLOCK		
10:15–10:48	Period 1/Announcements	Period 1/Announcements	Period 1/Announcements
10:52–11:24	Period 2	Period 2	Period 2
11:28–12:00	Period 3	Period 3	Period 3
12:04–12:36	Period 4	Period 4	Period 4 — Lunch
12:40–1:12	Period 5	Period 5 — Lunch 7	Period 5
1:16–1:48	Period 6 — Lunch	Period 6	Period 6
1:52–2:24	Period 7	Period 7	Period 7
2:28–3:00	Period 8	Period 8	Period 8



Chromebook Repairs, Costs, and Obligations

Each student is financially responsible for damage or loss to any Chromebook and charger that is checked out to the student. The device is loaned to the student to be used for instructional purposes only and in accordance with Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) Regulation IGT-RA, [User Responsibilities for Computer Systems, Electronic Information, and Network Security](#). No cost is associated for a student to borrow, possess, or use a Chromebook. A family is only financially responsible when there is avoidable damage to the device. If the device is faulty, there is no charge to the family; however, if the damage is considered avoidable or the device or charger is lost, the family will be charged according to MCPS current parts and replacement costs.

Charging for avoidable damage to Chromebooks is required and not left to an individual's discretion. All such damages must be assessed and charged accordingly. Families may request an appeal after the charge has been issued, but the obligation should be recorded and processed at the time of the incident.

MCPS Chromebook Acceptable Use Policy

This Chromebook is the property of Montgomery County Public Schools. For MCPS educational use only. All actions are subject

to MCPS review and may be monitored, logged, and archived. All users are required to follow MCPS Regulation IGT-RA, *User Responsibilities for Computer Systems and Network Security*. *MCPS retains the sole right of possession of this device.*

User Responsibilities

Students:

- Must treat the device with care and never handle it inappropriately or in such a way that could cause possible damage or loss. If such damage or loss occurs, students and/or their families will be financially responsible for damages or replacement to their Chromebook.
- Must never leave their Chromebook in an unsecured location.
- May not remove or interfere with the serial number and other identification of the Chromebook.
- May not attempt to remove or change the physical structure of the Chromebook, including keys, trackpads, the screen cover, or plastic casing.
- May not attempt to install or run any operating system or extensions on the Chromebook other than MCPS-approved extensions.
- May not deface Chromebooks with writing, carvings, stickers, etc.

[Responsabilidades del usuario](#)

*Costs include School Cash Online fees		Repair/Replacement Cost
Charger Replacement Fee	<i>Charger replacement - Loss, damage, theft, or failure to return after unenrollment</i>	\$41.00
Tier 1 Device Fee	Examples	\$30.00
	<i>If your device is missing keys</i>	
	<i>If your device has its trackpad peeled up</i>	
	<i>If your device has a broken camera</i>	
Tier 2 Device Fee	Examples	\$60.00
	<i>If your device has moderate chassis/casing damage</i>	
	<i>If your device has moderate damage to the keyboard and/or</i>	
	<i>Combined Tier 1 damage</i>	
Tier 3 Device Fee	Examples	\$160.00
	<i>If your device has a damaged screen</i>	
	<i>If your device has a damaged mainboard</i>	
	<i>Combination of Tier 1, Tier 2, or Tier 3 damage</i>	
Tier 4 Device Fee	Example	\$225.00
	<i>Combination of Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3 damage exceeding \$160</i>	
Chromebook Replacement Fee	Examples	\$350.00
	<i>Device replacement due to fluid damage</i>	
	<i>Device replacement due to destruction (nefarious behavior)</i>	
	<i>Device replacement due to loss or theft</i>	
	<i>Device replacement - Failure to return after unenrollment</i>	



Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) Student Service Learning (SSL) Program



What is SSL?

- ▶ Student Service Learning is a state graduation requirement for all students between grades 6-12.
- ▶ Students learn from volunteering and providing meaningful service to the community.
- ▶ Service learning promotes civic knowledge, civic engagement, academic success, and character and social development in students.
- ▶ Check out the MCPS SSL Hub of Resources for students and families (<http://bit.ly/SSLHubMCPS>) and this video that shares SSL information with sample SSL projects (<http://bit.ly/mcpssslvideo>)!

MD state and MCPS requirements

- ▶ All Maryland and MCPS students will earn 75 SSL hours for graduation.
- ▶ MCPS students may begin to work on this graduation requirement **the summer after completing Grade 5**. They can continue to earn hours throughout high school.
- ▶ Students who enroll in MCPS after Grade 6 will receive a waiver that pro-rates the SSL requirement.

How do MCPS Students earn SSL Hours?

Students can earn their 75 SSL hours required for graduation in two ways:

1. **Students can earn 50 SSL hours through successful completion of the courses listed below. The teachers lead them through a class research and service project.**

10 Hours	Grade 6 Science
10 Hours	Grade 7 English
10 Hours	Grade 8 Social Studies
5 Hours	High School Health B
+ 15 Hours	High School Class— National, State, and Local Government
50 Hours Total for In-School Classes	

2. **25 SSL Hours from outside of school (non-profit agency)**

Students can find an MCPS SSL Organization and Opportunity by visiting the Montgomery County Volunteer Center (MCVC) website (www.montgomeryserves.org) to find approved SSL opportunities. (They all have a graduation cap and "MCPS SSL" label on them to make it very clear that they are preapproved. Please see tips for searching the MCVC website on the attached handout.)

Students can also find their own non-profit agency (including faith-based agencies or institutions) not on the MCVC website and fill out **MCPS Form 560-50: Individual Student Service Learning Request Form** (<http://bit.ly/SSLPreApproval>), and submit it to their school-based SSL coordinator (during the school year) or to ssl@mcpsmd.org (during the summer) to get it approved BEFORE service.

All MCPS SSL Opportunities must be:

- For a registered non-profit agency
- In a public place
- Supervised (not by a parent or relative)
- For volunteer service only (not paid)
- For no more than 8 hours in a day



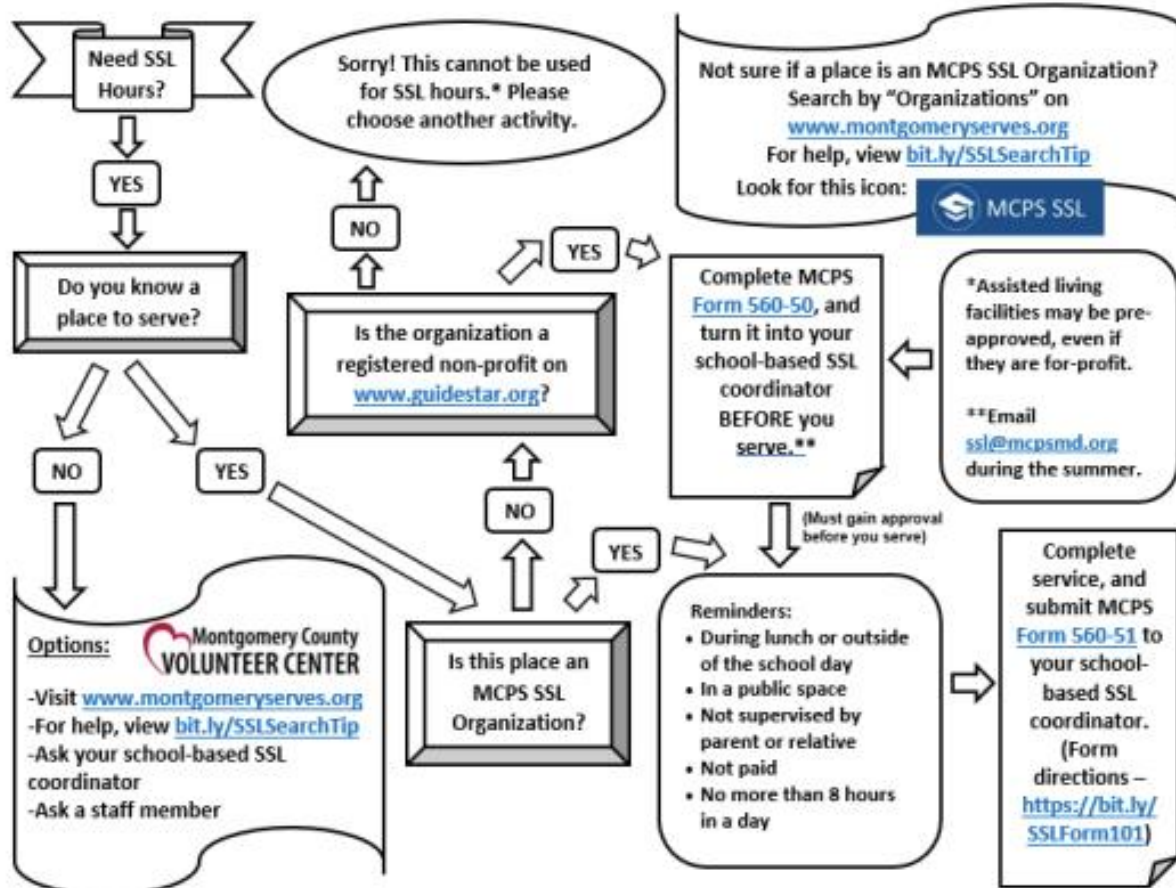
To find nonprofit-hosted SSL opportunities, please visit <https://bit.ly/SSLOpportunities>

MCPS Form 560-51: Student Service Learning Activity Verification <https://bit.ly/SSLReflection>

This form is used to document a student's SSL hours and submitted to the school-based SSL Coordinator who reviews and adds hours to students' SSL records. (Form directions can be found at <https://bit.ly/SSLForm101>).

Use this flowchart to determine the steps an MCPS Student needs to take to earn SSL Hours.

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) Student Service Learning (SSL) Program



There are two (2) kinds of SSL Awards for students meeting special SSL benchmarks.

Grade	Award
Grades 6, 7, & 8	Superintendent's Service Learning Award (75 Hours earned while in middle school; only awarded one time)
Grade 12	Certificate of Meritorious Service (240 Hours earned by senior year in high school)

All SSL Forms for service completed any time during the current school year and the summer before the current school year are **REQUIRED** to be submitted to the school-based SSL coordinator no later than the **last Friday in May**.

Montgomery County Volunteer Center Webpage:
www.montgomeryserves.org

MCPS SSL Webpage:
www.mcps-ssl.org

Follow us!
 @mcps_ssl



Searching the Montgomery County Volunteer Center (MCVC) Website for Student Service Learning Opportunities and Organizations



Searching for MCPS SSL Opportunities

Step 1: Go to www.montgomeryserves.org.

Click "MCPS SSL Opportunities" in the red box at the top of the page.




Step 2: Use the Search Tools to search and/or filter opportunities:

- To search by Keywords, enter words in this box (ex. hunger, children, animal, etc.):

- To filter opportunities, use the "Filter By" feature:
(on Mobile Devices, click the wrench icon  to bring up the filter options)

Each filter contains a custom search box.

You can stack/add as many filters as you'd like to find the best opportunity for you!

Step 3: When you find an opportunity that interests you, click the  button to send a message of interest directly through the website.

If you would like to call or email the organization instead, you may find their contact information by clicking the Organization page to the right of the Opportunity Description.

Searching for MCPS SSL Organizations

Step 1: Go to www.montgomeryserves.org.

Click "MCPS SSL Organizations" in the red box at the top of the page.



Step 2: Within the Search Tools, use the "Filter By" feature, and select "Name."




Step 3: Type the organization name in the search box, and click "Search."



Step 4: Click on the Organization page. If you see this MCPS SSL icon in the "What We Do" section, you may earn SSL hours for serving with this organization.



Step 5: Scroll down to view any Organization Opportunities that have been posted.

Step 6: Click  if you want regular updates on this organization's latest opportunities.

Searching for Date-Specific Opportunities

Step 1: Go to www.montgomeryserves.org.

Click "Calendar" in the red box at the top of the page to find date-specific opportunities.



Step 2: Click on a specific opportunity.

If you see this banner at the top of the Opportunity page, then you may earn SSL hours for participating in that opportunity:



UPCOMING PTA MEETING DATES:

Tuesday, Oct. 14

6 pm – 8th Grade Committee
7 pm – PTA Meeting

Tuesday, Nov. 11

6 pm – 8th Grade Committee
7 pm – PTA Meeting

Tuesday, Dec. 9

6 pm – 8th Grade Committee
7 pm – PTA Meeting

Tuesday, Jan. 13

6 pm – 8th Grade Committee
7 pm – PTA Meeting

PTA EXECUTIVE BOARD:

Amy Bartosch, President –
BakerPTA@yahoo.com

Shannon West, Treasurer –
BakerPTATreasurer@yahoo.com

Stacy Smith, Secretary –
BakerPTASecr@yahoo.com

Jaime Kemp, 8th Grade Comm –
Baker8thGrade@yahoo.com

Visit our webpage!



Visit our Facebook Page!



PTA UPDATES

Still thinking about joining us? If you're thinking you just don't have the energy to devote to the PTA – Don't worry - there's good news! The PTA at the middle school level doesn't require a huge time commitment. We have a few events during the year that require manpower, but mainly we need ideas & feedback from our families during our monthly meetings. (Zoom or in-person!)

Our annual events will be the upcoming Everything Baker Event in October, Staff Appreciation Weeks (December & May), Silent Auction (coincides with International Night), and 8th Grade end of year activities (field trip, dance, & promotion ceremony). That's only 5 or 6 times all school year – think you could spare a few nights to help us out?

If you think you may be interested (Or maybe still have questions?) Please email BakerPTA@yahoo.com!



Scan the QR code to link to our online membership form!

Shoe Donation Drive now until mid-November!

- ◆ Boxes in the main office vestibule & Media Center
- ◆ Any new or still useable shoes accepted, any sizes!
- ◆ Donations help support the DES PTA

Have an 8th Grade Student?

- ◆ Please fill out the attached form
- ◆ Donations cover - DHS Class of 3030 t-shirt, 8th Grade Dance and Promotion Ceremony in June
- ◆ Donations can be made via check (Baker PTA with student's name in the memo line) or via PayPal @BakerMSPTA or scan the QR code below.



PRÓXIMAS FECHAS DE REUNIONES DE LA PTA:

Martes 14 de octubre

6 pm – comité de octavo grado
7 pm – reunión de la PTA

Martes 11 de noviembre

6 pm – comité de octavo grado
7 pm – reunión de la PTA

Martes 11 de diciembre

6 pm – comité de octavo grado
7 pm – reunión de la PTA

Martes 13 de enero

6 pm – comité de octavo grado
7 pm – reunión de la PTA

JUNTA EJECUTIVA DE LA PTA:

Amy Bartosch, Presidenta –
BakerPTA@yahoo.com

Shannon West, Tesorera –
BakerPTATreasurer@yahoo.com

Stacy Smith, Secretaria –
BakerPTASecr@yahoo.com

Jaime Kemp, comité de 8 grado –
Baker8thGrade@yahoo.com

Visita nuestra página web!



Visit nuestra página de Facebook!



ACTUALIZACIONES DE LA PTA

¿Sigues pensando en unirte a nosotras? Si crees que no tienes energía para dedicarte a la PTA, ¡no te preocupes, tenemos buenas noticias! La PTA de secundaria no requiere mucha dedicación de tiempo. Tenemos algunos eventos durante el año que requieren personal, pero sobre todo necesitamos ideas y comentarios de nuestras familias durante nuestras reuniones mensuales (¡por Zoom o en persona!).

Nuestros eventos anuales incluyen el próximo Evento Todo Panadero en octubre, las Semanas de Reconocimiento al Personal (diciembre y mayo), la Subasta Silenciosa (coincide con la Noche Internacional) y las actividades de fin de curso de 8.º grado (excursión, baile y ceremonia de graduación). Esto solo ocurre 5 o 6 veces en todo el año escolar. ¿Te gustaría ayudarnos un par de noches?

Si cree que puede estar interesado (¿o tal vez todavía tiene preguntas?) envíe un correo electrónico a BakerPTA@yahoo.com!



¿Quieres ser miembro?

¡Escanee el código QR para vincularlo a su formulario de membresía en línea!

¡Campaña de donación de zapatos!

- ♦ Cajas en el vestíbulo de la oficina principal y centro de medios
- ♦ ¡Se aceptan zapatos nuevos o aún utilizables, de cualquier talla!
- ♦ Las donaciones ayudan a apoyar la DES PTA

¿Tienes un estudiante de octavo grado?



- ♦ Por favor, rellene el formulario adjunto
- ♦ Las donaciones cubren:
- ♦ Camiseta de la clase 3030 de DHS para todos los estudiantes, ceremonia de baile y promoción de octavo grado y junio
- ♦ Las donaciones se pueden hacer mediante cheque (Baker PTA con el nombre del estudiante en la línea de notas) o mediante PayPal @BakerMSPTA o escanee el código QR a continuación.



John T Baker Middle School PTA

8th Grade Promotion and End of Year Activities

Lets Celebrate our Middle School Graduates!

What does your donation cover?	Your donation covers a DHS Class of 2030 t-shirt for each student, the 8th grade dance that includes food and drinks , a DJ , and photo booth , as well as decorations for the promotion ceremony .
Contribution	We ask that families contribute \$35 or more for each child – see what it covers above!
Want to do more?	We would love if families consider signing up to help with the various events and activities for our 8 th graders. We appreciate both your financial contributions and your time and efforts to help create wonderful memories for our children. 8th Grade Committee meetings are from 6 -7 pm before PTA meetings.
To Do: 	Please complete the form below and return to Baker's main office along with your contribution. Checks should be made payable to "BAKER PTA" with a note in the memo AND on the envelope: "8 th Grade Promotion." Return to: Baker Middle School PTA, 25400 Oak Drive, Damascus, MD 20872. You can also use this link to fill out the form online or use the QR code to the right.
Digital Payment Options	Digital payments may be made through PayPal using @BakerMSPTA or by scanning the following QR code: 

Stay connected so you know what the plan is and to see how you can help. Email questions to the 8th Grade PTA Committee at Baker8thGrade@yahoo.com . We greatly appreciate your support!

Your 8th Grader's full name: _____

Let us know how you can help! Circle one or more:

Dance/Celebration
T-Shirt Distribution

Promotion Ceremony
Fundraising

Class Gift

Name: _____



Email: _____ Phone Number: _____

Enclose your \$35 check payable to Baker PTA, and mark in the memo "8th Grade Promotion"

John T Baker Middle School PTA

8th Grade Promotion and End of Year Activities

¡Celebremos a nuestros Graduados de Escuela Intermedia!

¿Qué cubre su donación?	Su donación cubre una camiseta de la Clase DHS de 2030 para cada estudiante, el baile de octavo grado que incluye comida, bebidas, un DJ y una cabina de fotos, así como decoraciones para la ceremonia de promoción.
Contribución	Pedimos que las familias contribuyan con \$35 o más por cada estudiante — ¡vea lo que cubre arriba!
¿Quiere hacer más?	Nos encantaría que las familias consideraran inscribirse para ayudar con los diversos eventos y actividades para nuestros estudiantes de octavo grado. Agradecemos tanto sus contribuciones financieras como su tiempo y esfuerzo para ayudar a crear recuerdos maravillosos para nuestros niños. Las reuniones del Comité de Octavo Grado son de 6 a 7 p.m. antes de las reuniones del PTA.
Pendiente: 	Por favor complete el formulario a continuación y devuélvalo a la oficina principal de Baker junto con su contribución. Los cheques deben hacerse a nombre de "BAKER PTA" con una nota en el memo Y en el sobre: "8th Grade Promotion" (Promoción de Octavo Grado). Envíelo a: Baker Middle School PTA, 25400 Oak Drive, Damascus, MD 20872. También puede usar este enlace para completar el formulario en línea o escanear el código QR a la derecha.
Opciones de Pago Digital	Los pagos digitales pueden hacerse a través de PayPal usando @BakerMSPTA o escaneando el siguiente Código QR: 

Así sabrá cuál es el plan y cómo puede ayudar. Envíe sus preguntas por correo electrónico al Comité de Octavo Grado del PTA a: Baker8thGrade@yahoo.com. ¡Agradecemos mucho su apoyo!

Nombre completo de su estudiante: _____

¡Háganos saber cómo puede ayudar! Marque una o más opciones

Baile/Celebración

Ceremonia de Promoción

Regalo de Clase

Distribución de Camisetas

Recaudación de Fondos

Nombre: _____

Correo electrónico: _____ Teléfono: _____

Adjunte su cheque de \$35 a nombre de Baker PTA y anote en el memo "8th Grade Promotion."

HOSTED BY COUNCILMEMBER MARILYN BALCOMBE

BACK TO SCHOOL BLOCK PARTY

SEPTEMBER 26, 2025 FROM 1-4PM
BLACKROCK CENTER FOR THE ARTS

A free event for middle and high school students!
Receive 3 SSL hours for your participation.

FEATURING:

Free food, a resource fair, student performances, lawn games, a soccer skills station, arts activities, & much more!

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

If you have any questions please contact the office at **240-777-7960**
or councilmember.balcombe@montgomerycountymd.gov

