

Mr. Levine's Message

Greetings Baker Bulldogs Families!

I would like to congratulate **Mrs. Fell, Mrs. Ehrenspeck** and the **band and orchestra students** for outstanding performances this past week.

Many thanks to **Mrs. Liuzzi, Mrs. Fell, Mrs. Enhrenspeck, and Mr. Williams, Jr.** for their tireless efforts in preparation for these wonderful events. Thank you, also, to our narrators during the Baker Bands Concert — **Mr. Gardner and Mr. McKay.**

This week, we have some fun with an **SGA Spirit Day on Thursday when students (and staff) pick a friend and dress up for Twin Day. And ... Friday is our annual Winter Hat Day.**

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

Time to Bundle Up

With the cold temperatures in the morning we want to remind you that our doors open for students at 7:50 a.m. on regular school days and 9:50 a.m. on days when there is a two-hour delay. Staff are not on duty until those times and, thus, there is no one to supervise students or to let them in the building. Please make sure students come bundled warmly in preparation for the cold temperatures outside. Thank you!



Winter Hat Day Friday, December 19

Students and staff are invited to wear favorite holiday or winter hats at school



Winter Sweater Day Monday, December 22

Students and staff are invited to wear favorite holiday or winter sweaters at school



Winter Pajama Day Tuesday, December 23

Students and staff are invited to wear favorite holiday or winter pajamas at school



Staff v. Student Basketball Games Tuesday, December 23

8th grade	Period 3	10:10–10:43
7th grade	Period 4	11:00–11:36
6th grade	Period 5	11:53–12:29



Looking Ahead

Monday, December 15

PTA Staff Appreciation Breakfast

Tuesday, December 16 — Activity Buses

Basketball Tryouts — Girls, Mr. Smith, Gym eSports, Mr. Conner and Mr. McKay, Rooms 233 and 234

FCA, Mrs. Paredes, Room 219

Wed, December 17 — Activity Buses

Fidos for Freedom Therapy Dogs, in the Media Center

Wellness Wednesday during Advisory

Basketball Tryouts — Girls, Mr. Smith, Gym

Thursday, December 18 — Activity Buses

PTA Staff Appreciation Luncheon

SGA Spirit Day: Twin Day (Dress up with your friends as your favorite duo)

Basketball Tryouts — Girls, Mr. Smith, Gym

Bracelet Club, Ms. Walsh, Room 101

Homework Club, Ms. Laraia, Room 131

Jazz Band, Ms. Fell, Room 107

NJHS, Mr. Conner, Room 234

Friday, December 19

PTA Staff Appreciation Hot Cocoa Bar

Winter Hat Day

Interims available on ParentVue and

mailed to families without active ParentVue accounts

Monday, December 22

Winter Sweater Day

Tuesday, December 23

Winter Pajama Day

Stff vs. Student Basketball Games

December 24–January 2

Winter Break

Monday, January 5

Welcome Back!

Paw Prints on Winter Break

The 12/28/25 and 1/4/26 issues will not be published.

The next issue will be published on Sunday, January 11, 2026.



Students in Ms. Kelley's Academic Literacy classes completed surveys to find their top three RIASEC themes. After discovering their top themes, they spent some time exploring careers in line with their themes and interests. They viewed a video on a specific job chosen from the Career Clusters page. After learning about the specific job, they wrote an explanatory paragraph explaining what they like about the job as well as the activities that people do on the job. By the end they learned their top RIASEC theme as well as all about a specific job they may be interested in in the future!

As you can see all of the RIASEC themes were represented!

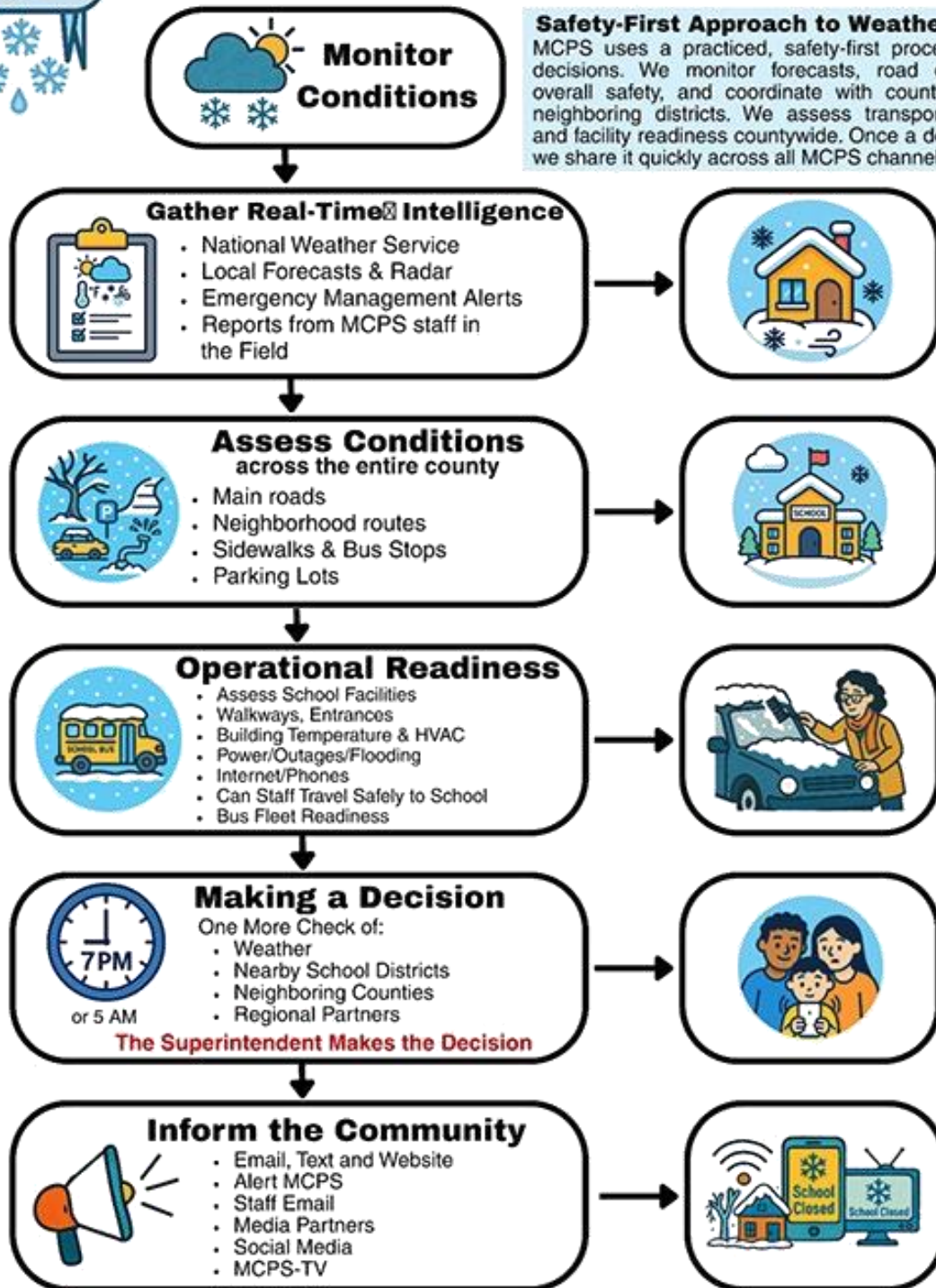


Picture of the bulletin board displaying some of the students' paragraphs representing careers in the different RIASEC themes



Weather Decisions

How We Decide Whether to Open, Delay or Call a Snow Day



Frequently Asked Question: It's not snowing where I am—why close my school?

Answer: Weather varies across our 500-square-mile county. Buses and staff travel through many areas, some of which may be icy or unsafe. Decisions must be made for systemwide safety, not individual neighborhoods.

How to Receive MCPS Emergency Information
<https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/emergency/>

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

C-SPAN StudentCam Competition:

Students in grades 6 through 12 are invited to create a video documentary on a topic that relates to the theme, "Exploring the American Story through the Declaration of Independence." Top prize is \$5,000.

Deadline: Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2026.

Choose Respect Video Contest:

Open to secondary students, this contest challenges teens to create an original video promoting awareness of dating violence/abuse among teens. Videos can be in English or Spanish. Top prize is \$1,000. **Deadline: Sunday, Feb. 15, 2026.**

America's Field Trip:

This contest invites students in grades 3-12 to submit writing or artwork in sharing their perspectives on what America means to them — and earn the opportunity to travel for field trip experiences at historic and cultural landmarks. **Deadline: March 30, 2026.**

THE 2026 YEARBOOK

Jostens



Everyone belongs in the
BAKER MIDDLE SCHOOL yearbook.

ORDER NOW:

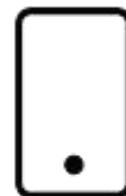


ONLINE

JOSTENS.COM/BUYYEARBK



SCAN



CALL

1 (877) 767-5217
8 A.M.–5 P.M. CST MONDAY–FRIDAY

JOSTENS.COM/BUYYEARBK

YEARBOOK RECOGNITION ADS ARE NOW FOR SALE!

Baker Middle School

Dear Parent or Student,

Yearbook Recognition Ads are the perfect way to commemorate achievements and celebrate milestones. In addition, revenues from Recognition Ads help our school create a better yearbook. To purchase your ad online, follow the instructions listed below. Jostens is responsible for our school's yearbook ad sales. Please do not contact or send materials to the school. Please also consider our school's ad content guidelines below during the creation of your ad online. All orders must be placed by 01/30/2026.

DEADLINE: 01/30/2026

ORDER BY 01/30/2026

COLOR AD

1/4 Page	\$155.00
1/8 Page	\$100.00

Taxes, service fees, and shipping fees will be added, if applicable. Jostens payment plan available; minimum purchase requirements and eligibility restrictions apply.

3 EASY STEPS TO CREATE A YEARBOOK RECOGNITION AD!



Step 1

Choose your ad size and layout
(Options may vary by school.)



Step 2

Add your photos



Step 3

Enter your text

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are the guidelines for recognition ad content?

Schools may review and edit ads per their guidelines. Jostens retains the right to remove any explicit text, graphic photos or copyright-protected imagery or photos.

School Ad Content Guidelines

Our school reserves the right to edit ads per our guidelines.

Please make sure all submitted materials are appropriate for school publication.

How are the ad prices determined and what is the money used for?

Recognition ad prices are determined by our school. Revenue from recognition ads helps the school create a better, more affordable yearbook.

How is the ad deadline determined?

The ad deadline is set by our school based on the production schedule for the yearbook.

Can I create my student's ad on my mobile device?

Yes, yearbook ads can be created online from both desktop and mobile devices.



(800) 358-0800

jostensadservice.com/student



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PTA Dates & Contacts

UPCOMING PTA MEETING DATES:

Tuesday, Jan. 13

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

Tuesday, Feb. 10

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

Tuesday, Mar. 10

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

Tuesday, Apr. 14

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!



STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK IS HERE!

Please sign up for any or all of the events this week to show our appreciation to all of the Baker teachers & staff for all of their hard work! Email BakerPTA@yahoo.com if you would prefer to donate funds. Items can be dropped off in the Main Office.

Breakfast on Monday, 12/15!

- ◆ Please drop off items by 7:30 am on Monday
[SignUp Genius here!](#)

Luncheon on Thursday, 12/18!

- ◆ Please drop off items by 10 am on Thursday
[SignUp Genius here!](#)

Hot Cocoa Bar on Friday, 12/19!

- ◆ Please drop off items by 7:30 am on Friday
[SignUp Genius here!](#)

Krispy Kreme Fundraiser – Going on Now!

- ◆ Purchase a “Digital Dozen” online and head to your nearest Krispy Kreme for your dozen Original Glazed!
- ◆ 50% of each dozen sold will go directly to our 8th Grade.
- ◆ [Use this link to purchase!](#)

Have an 8th Grade Student?

- ◆ Please fill out the attached form
- ◆ Donations cover end of year activities & 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.



Want to join us?

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



PTA Dates & Contacts

PRÓXIMAS FECHAS DE REUNIONES DE LA PTA:

Martes 13 de enero

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

Martes 10 de febrero

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

Martes 10 de marzo

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

Martes 14 de abril

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!



¡APRECIACIÓN AL PERSONAL!

Inscríbase en cualquiera o todos los eventos de esta semana para agradecer a todos los maestros y el personal de Baker por su arduo trabajo. Envíe un correo electrónico a BakerPTA@yahoo.com si prefiere donar. Puede entregar los artículos en la oficina principal.

¡Desayuno de agradecimiento al personal, 15 de diciembre!

- ♦ Por favor, deje los artículos antes de las 7:30 a. m. del lunes.
[¡Regístrate Genius aquí!](#)

¡Almuerzo el jueves 18 de diciembre!

- ♦ Por favor, deje los artículos antes de las 10 a. m. del jueves.
[¡Regístrate Genius aquí!](#)

¡ Barra de chocolate caliente el viernes 19 de diciembre!

- ♦ Por favor, deje los artículos antes de las 7:30 a. m. del viernes.
[¡Regístrate Genius aquí!](#)

¡Campaña de recaudación de fondos de Krispy Kreme – ¡En marcha ahora mismo!

- ♦ ¡Compra una “Digital DOzen” en línea y dirígete a tu Krispy Kreme más cercano para obtener tu docena de Original Glazed!
- ♦ El 50% de cada docena vendida se destinará directamente a nuestro Comité de 8º Grado.
[¡Utiliza este enlace para comprar!](#)

¿Tienes un estudiante de octavo grado?

- ♦ Por favor, rellene el formulario adjunto
- ♦ Las donaciones cubren: camiseta de la clase 2030 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.



¿Quieres ser miembro?

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

Support our PTA with



Krispy Kreme Digital Dozens!

\$15 / dozen

Same as the in-store price, but the PTA gets 50% of the funds!



Proceeds will benefit the 8th Grade End of Year activities!



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."