

Mr. Levine's Message

Greetings Baker Bulldogs Families!

The 8th Grade Panoramic Picture will be taken this Thursday morning. Order forms have been distributed to the students and online ordering is available (*see page 2*). **Online orders must be placed before picture day or the order form with exact payment must be submitted to the photographer on picture day. The code will deactivate after picture day, so orders will not be able to be placed once picture day has been completed.**

Please let me know if you have any questions or if I can be of assistance in any way. Thank you for your support and partnership!

Best,
Sam Levine

SGA Seeking Donations

Attention Baker MS community, please help us collect donations for students in foster care by dropping off any of the following items in the Main Office or Media Center until April 30:

- Small Duffel Bag or Backpack
- Pajamas, Child Size 10 to Adult 3XL
- Blanket (no larger than 50"x60")
- Adult Toothbrush (1 – 3 pack)
- Toothpaste (travel size)
- Shampoo & Conditioner (travel size)
- Lotion (travel size)
- Soap or Body Wash (travel size)
- Deodorant
- Stuffed Animal (12" or smaller)
- Journal
- Pens & Pencils
- Book

Superintendent's SSL Award

Any middle school student who completes 75 SSL hours in middle school will earn the Superintendent's SSL award. **The DEADLINE for submitting SSL documentation that qualifies students for this SSL Award is March 27, 2026.** If you turn in hours after March 27th, and no later than May 29, 2026, they will still count towards your record, but will not count towards the Superintendent's award. No SSL hours from this school year will be accepted after May 29, 2026.

Mrs. Tricia Paredes, SSL Coordinator

Student Reminders & Opportunities

Water Safety Poster Contest: Open to artists in grades K–12, this contest asks participants to create a poster that highlights the importance of water safety. **Deadline: Sunday, March 15.**

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.**

Keeping It Safe Video Contest: Open to middle and high school students, the contest invites students to create a 30-second video on the risks and dangers of under 21 alcohol use. **Deadline: Tuesday, March 31.**

Sustainability Poster Contest: MCPS Students and staff. This contest aims to increase awareness of energy conservation, waste reduction and responsible recycling. **Deadline: April 3.**



Looking Ahead

COSA Application Season is open from February 2, 2026, through April 7, 2026 (*see page 9*)

February

African American Heritage Month

February 14–22

Schaeffer's Piano Company, Inc.
Liquidation Sale (*see page 10*)

Monday, February 16

Holiday — schools and offices closed

Tuesday, February 17

No school for students and staff

Wednesday, February 18 — Activity Buses

Wellness Wednesday
Fidos for Freedom Therapy Dogs
Workout Club, Mr. Fisher, Weight Room

Thursday, February 19 — Activity Buses

8th Grade Panoramic Picture (*see page 2*)
Basketball vs. MLK, Boys Away/Girls Home Bracelet Club, Ms. Walsh, Room 101
Homework Club, Ms. Laraia, Room 131
Jazz Band, Ms. Fell, Room 107
NJHS, Mr. Conner, Room 234
Workout Club, Mr. Fisher, Weight Room

Tuesday, February 24—Activity Buses

Lifetouch Spring Picture Day (*see page 2*)
eSports, Mr. Conner and Mr. McKay, Rooms 233 and 234
FCA, Mrs. Paredes, Room 219

Wednesday, February 25 — Activity Buses

Wellness Wednesday
Basketball vs. Kingsview,
Boys Home/Girls Away
SGA, Ms. Blankenship, Room 208
Workout Club, Mr. Fisher, Weight Room

Thursday, February 26 — Activity Buses

Basketball vs. Neesville,
Boys Home/Girls Away
Bracelet Club, Ms. Walsh, Room 101
Homework Club, Ms. Laraia, Room 131
Jazz Band, Ms. Fell, Room 107
Workout Club, Mr. Fisher, Weight Room

Friday, February 27

Early Release Day for Students — Baker dismisses at 12:30 p.m.

March — Women's History Month

Friday, March 6

7th Grade Medieval Times Field Trip
Interims available on ParentVue and mailed to households without an active account

Sunday, March 8

Daylight Saving Time Begins at 2:00 a.m.

2025-2026 Spring Soccer Season

The middle school interscholastic athletics program is available for students in seventh and eighth grade only.

Season runs from: **March 10—May 22, 2026**

Baker Athletic Coordinator: Scott Frye Scott.Frye@mcpsmd.net

Boys' Coach: Rob Wilkie Robert_C_Wilkie@mcpsmd.org

Girls' Coach: Ken Diehl kendiehl@erols.com

Registration Opened January 26, 2026 @ 12:00PM

All students who want to participate in sports, as part of the MCPS interscholastic athletics program, must have their Parent/Guardian complete the online registration process by going to [ParentVue Portal](#) in order to participate. All forms must be up to date in order to be able to participate. There are no exceptions.

Parents/Guardians who have difficulty with registration (forgot Login or Password) please contact:

Bonnie Nichols at Bonnie_J_Nichols@mcpsmd.org

Any other difficulties please contact Scott.Frye@mcpsmd.net

Registering Your Student/Athlete

When you are in [ParentVue Portal](#) click on "Online registration" in the upper right hand corner. Then choose "Middle school registration" from the four drop downs. From there, please follow along and fill out all of the information. During your registration it will ask you to upload a copy of your child's physical. After you are finished please **HIT SUBMIT**.

You must have a physical in order to participate. Your proof of physical must be filled out on the MCPS [SR-8 Physical](#) Form only. **No** other forms will be accepted. Proof of your physical **MUST** be submitted through your [ParentVue Portal](#).

You cannot tryout for a team until your physical is up to date and is filled out on the SR-8 physical form only and the registration is complete

There are tryouts for all sports teams (which means there will be cuts).

Tryouts will be held **March 10, 11, and 12** from 3:15-4:30 p.m.

Activity buses are available on tryout days.

PICTURE DAY:
EL DÍA DE LA FOTO.

Thursday, February 19, 2026
Jueves, 19 de febrero, 2026
John T. Baker Middle School

Order today on 
Encarga hoy en mylifetouch.com

Picture Day ID: MJ075014T0

Exclusive discounts online!
¡Descuentos en línea exclusivos!

This is the only chance to order a group picture.
Esta es tu única oportunidad de encargar una foto grupal.

Package A **\$17**
10x30 Panoramic Group Picture
Foto grupal panorámica de 10x30

Lifetouch Spring Picture Day is Coming!
¡Ya llega el Día de la Foto de primavera!

Tuesday, February 24, 2026 **Martes 24 de febrero de 2026**

Scan to order now!
¡Echa un vistazo para encargar ahora!

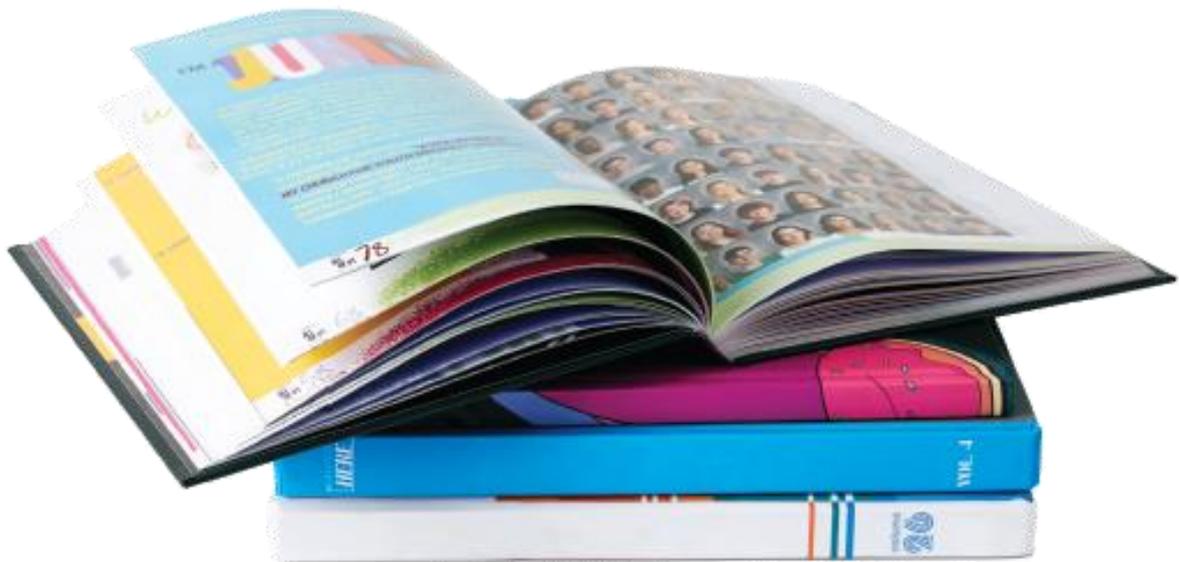

Pre-order today on mylifetouch.com.
Create an account or login with your Picture Day ID:
EVTQTGHS


Students are photographed on Picture Day.


Orders will be sent home with your student after Picture Day.

THE 2026 YEARBOOK

Jostens



Everyone belongs in the
BAKER MIDDLE SCHOOL yearbook.

ORDER NOW:



ONLINE

[JOSTENS.COM/BUYYEARBK](https://jostens.com/buyyearbk)



SCAN



CALL

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

[JOSTENS.COM/BUYYEARBK](https://jostens.com/buyyearbk)

PTA Dates & Contacts

UPCOMING PTA MEETING DATES:

Tuesday, Mar. 10

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

Tuesday, Apr. 14

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

Tuesday, May 12

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!



Looking forward...

The PTA needs more volunteers... Our current PTA Board has served for the last two years, so in order to keep the PTA active, we need new volunteers who are willing to step into these roles. Without additional volunteers, the PTA will be forced to close our charter and the school will no longer have a PTA to support our students, staff, & school. Please reach out to BakerPTA@yahoo.com if interested or would like to discuss.



Scan the QR code to link to our online membership form! We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting in March!

Wellness Wednesdays – Donations Needed!

- ◆ Our students have “Wellness Wednesday” during their Advisory periods on Wednesday. The PTA is asking for donations of items for the classrooms for this event.
- ◆ Please see the [Wishlist](#) for the requested items
- ◆ Donations can be dropped off at the Main Office
- ◆ Would you rather donate funds? Use PayPal @BakerMSPTA and indicate it’s for Wellness Wednesday!

Our 2nd Annual Silent Auction coming soon!

- ◆ Are you a local business willing to donate a service, lesson, or gift card? Do you have gift cards or presents from the holidays that you’re just not going to use?
- ◆ Keep our Silent Auction in mind – we can use it all!

Have an 8th Grade Student?

- ◆ Please fill out the attached form
- ◆ Donations cover - DHS Class of 2030 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.



PTA Dates & Contacts

PRÓXIMAS FECHAS DE REUNIONES 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

Martes 12 de mayo

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!



Pensando en el futuro...

La PTA necesita más voluntarios... Nuestra junta directiva actual ha estado en funciones durante los últimos dos años, así que para mantenerla activa, necesitamos nuevos voluntarios dispuestos a asumir estas funciones. Sin más voluntarios, la PTA se verá obligada a cerrar nuestra escuela autónoma y la escuela ya no contará con una PTA para apoyar a nuestros estudiantes, personal y a la escuela. Si está interesado o desea conversar al respecto, comuníquese con BakerPTA@yahoo.com.



Escanea el código QR para acceder a nuestro formulario de membresía en línea. ¡Esperamos verte en nuestra próxima reunión en marzo!

¡ Miércoles de Bienestar - ¡Se necesitan donaciones!

- ◆ Nuestros estudiantes celebran el "Miércoles de Bienestar" durante sus sesiones de asesoramiento. La PTA solicita donaciones de artículos para las aulas para este evento.
- ◆ Consulte la [lista de deseos](#) para ver los artículos solicitados.
- ◆ Las donaciones se pueden dejar en la oficina principal.
- ◆ ¿Prefieres donar fondos? Usa PayPal @BakerMSPTA e indica que es para el Miércoles de Bienestar.

¡Subasta silenciosa esta primavera!

- ◆ Después de una subasta silenciosa inaugural muy exitosa, nuestra segunda será durante la Noche Internacional de esta primavera.
- ◆ ¿Tiene un negocio local dispuesto a donar un servicio o una tarjeta de regalo? ¿Tiene tarjetas de regalo o regalos de las fiestas que no va a usar?
- ◆ Tenga en cuenta nuestra subasta: ¡podemos usarlo todo!

¿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.



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.
To Do:	8th Grade Committee meetings are from 6 -7 pm before PTA meetings. 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!

<p>¿Qué cubre su donación?</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Contribución</p>	<p>Pedimos que las familias contribuyan con \$35 o más por cada estudiante — ¡vea lo que cubre arriba!</p>
<p>¿Quiere hacer más?</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Pendiente:</p> 	<p>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.</p>
<p>Opciones de Pago Digital</p>	<p>Los pagos digitales pueden hacerse a través de PayPal usando @BakerMSPTA o escaneando el siguiente Código QR:</p> 

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: _____

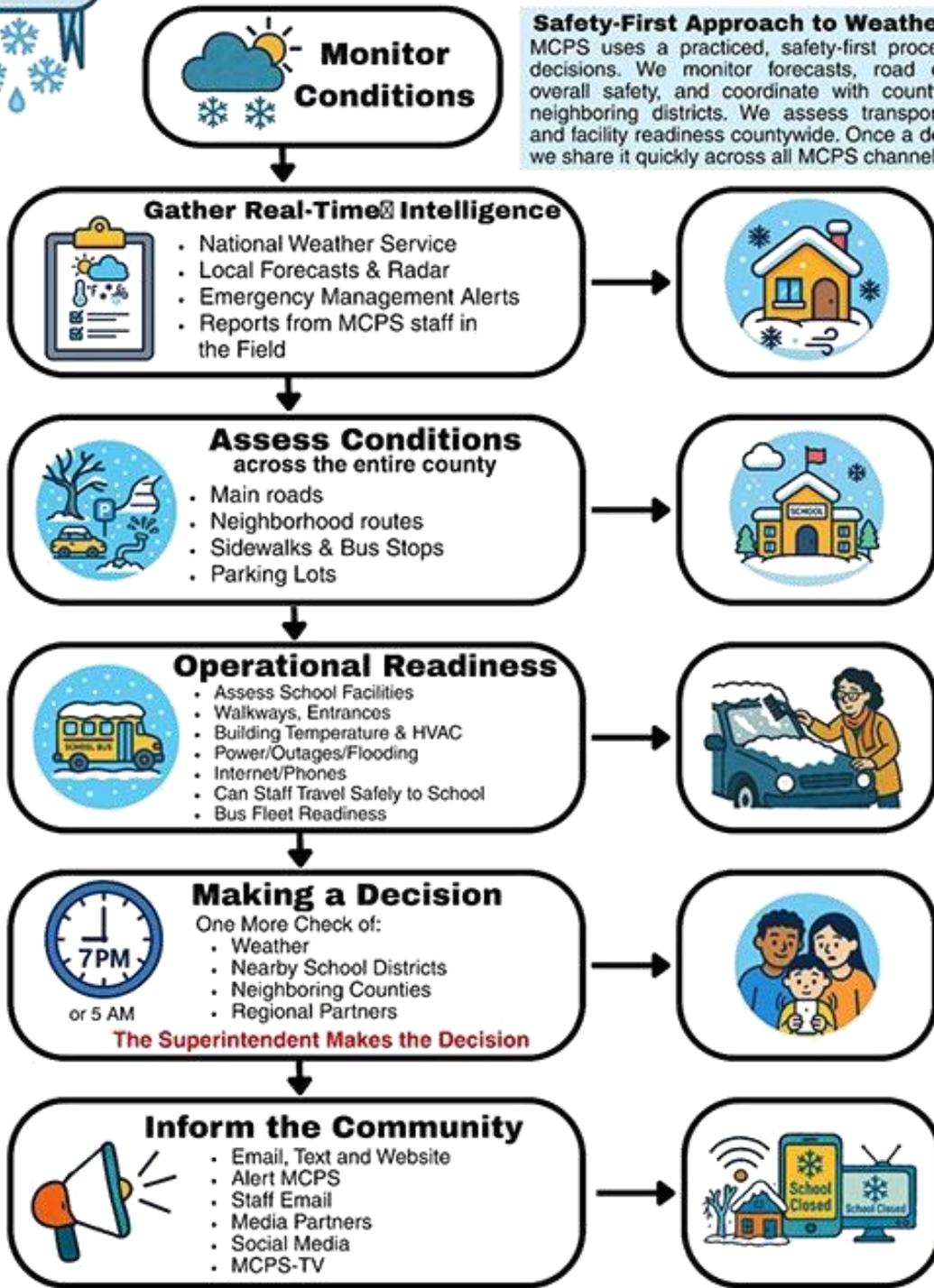
Adjunte su cheque de \$35 a nombre de Baker PTA y anote en el memo "8th Grade Promotion."



Weather Decisions

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

Safety-First Approach to Weather Decisions
MCPS uses a practiced, safety-first process for weather decisions. We monitor forecasts, road conditions, and overall safety, and coordinate with county partners and neighboring districts. We assess transportation, staffing, and facility readiness countywide. Once a decision is made, we share it quickly across all MCPS channels.



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 Transfer Application Season Schedule from the first school day in February 2026 through the first day in April 2026

ROCKVILLE, Maryland—Montgomery County parents/guardians who wish to request a Change of School Assignment (COSA) for their children from their home school may begin the process during the upcoming transfer season—the first school day in February through the first school day in April 2026.

Students in Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) are expected to attend the school within the established attendance area in which they reside (home school) or assigned in accordance with their Individualized Education Program (IEP). Students may apply for COSA from the home school, or the school of assignment through the IEP process, based on the following criteria:

- When a documented unique hardship is shown: students may apply for a COSA when extenuating circumstances related to their specific physical, mental, or emotional well-being or their family’s individual or personal situation could be mitigated by a change of school assignment.
- When a family has moved within Montgomery County and wishes to continue attending their former home school, they may request a COSA without demonstrating a unique hardship. Such requests may be considered for a remainder of the current school year only with the exception that students in Grade 11 or 12 who may be granted a COSA to stay through high school graduation.
- When a student seeks to attend the school where a sibling will be enrolled in the regular/general school program, or a special education program, during the year the student wants to enroll.
 - ▶ When a sibling attends a magnet, language immersion, or other application program at elementary level, a COSA may be approved to the regular school program for other siblings on a case-by-case basis. Such approval requires consideration of available classroom space, grade-level enrollment, staffing allocations, or other factors that impact the schools involved.

The criteria above regarding siblings do not apply if a boundary change has occurred or if the sibling is in prekindergarten. Consideration will be given to school capacity and other issues that impact the ability of the requested school to admit new students.

The transfer process begins in the home school, where parents/guardians may request the *COSA Information Booklet* through ParentVUE. The booklet describes the process and provides useful information. Beginning the first week of February 2026, the COSA booklet will be available in both English and Spanish. Exempt countywide programs that do not fall under the transfer guidelines are listed in the booklet.

For the 2026–2027 school year, parents will continue to submit their request for a COSA online through their ParentVUE portal. The parent making the request will be copied on an email notification sent to the administrative team of the student’s current school shortly after the submission; this will serve as their receipt of their request and will be sent to the email address they entered when completing the online form.

For information about assignments for students residing in the Northeast, Downcounty or Middle School Magnet Consortium areas, please contact the Division of Consortia Choice and Application Program Services 240-740-7800 or visit the [website](#).

For more information about the transfer process, parents/guardians are encouraged to contact the principal at their home school. Non-English speaking students and parents/guardians who require assistance may contact ASK MCPS to obtain the information they need by telephone at 240-740-3000. Telephone operators who speak English and Spanish are available from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Parents who speak languages other than English or Spanish may call the ASK MCPS telephone line, identify their language, and have their questions answered through a telephone interpreter.

February 6, 2026

Dear Staff, Parents, and/or Guardians:

We are pleased to inform you of an opportunity to purchase a piano for your family. Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) has an agreement with Schaeffer's Piano Company, Inc., to provide MCPS with new grand, upright, and digital pianos to be used in schools. Schaeffer's Piano Company, Inc., located in Rockville, Maryland, is the area's oldest piano store. This agreement also provides MCPS families and staff an opportunity to purchase these and other pianos for considerably reduced prices at an annual piano sales event.

This year's liquidation sales event will take place the week of February 14-22, 2026, at 105 North Stonestreet Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20850. This year's sale will be by appointment only to provide an opportunity for you to purchase these pianos before they are offered for sale to the public. All pianos will carry a 15-year transferable warranty. Each piano will come with a bench and one free in-house tuning.

For additional information, you may visit the Schaeffer's Piano Company, Inc., website at www.schaefferspiano.com. To make an appointment for February 14-22, 2026, please call the Schaeffer's Piano Company appointment desk at 301-424-1147.

We are grateful to be working with Schaeffer's Piano Company, Inc., to support our school music programs and help MCPS keep new and well-maintained instruments in our schools each year. If you have any questions, please contact Schaeffer's Piano Company, Inc., at 301-424-1144.

Sincerely,

Adnan Mamoon

Adnan Mamoon
Chief Operations Officer

AM:RCD:ar