

North Bethesda Middle School
April 27, 2025
News and Notes

Monday, April 28, 2025	ELA MCAP Testing Bell Schedule: no Phoenix Time, Girls' Soccer - away at Pyle
Tuesday, April 29, 2025	ELA MCAP Testing Bell Schedule: no Phoenix Time
Wednesday, April 30, 2025	Regular Bell Schedule: PT -6 MCAP Makeups. Boys' Soccer @ home vs. Pyle
Thursday, May 1, 2025	Regular Bell Schedule: PT - 7 Holocaust Speaker @ lunches in Media Center
Friday, May 2, 2025	Regular Bell Schedule: PT - 1 Holocaust Speaker @ lunches in Media Center

In this week's *News and Notes*, you'll find details on the following topics:

- An opportunity for students to hear from Kindertransport Association speaker during lunches May 1 and May 2
- Important Information about 8th Grade End-of-Year Activities
- How to support your child on the upcoming Math MCAP and MAP M assessments using IXL
- PTSA Nomination Information for 2025-2026 school year
- Spring Fling Fundraiser - May 3, 2025
- Ms. Rice's counseling update with Webinars, Seminars, Announcements, and other things...
- MCPS Meal Viewer – a new tool for viewing breakfast and lunch menus
- Yearbook Information
- Other Helpful Information

We appreciate your continued support and engagement!

2024-2025 SCHOOL HOURS: 8:15 – 3:00 p.m.

[Bell Schedules 2024-2025](#)

[MCPS CALENDAR](#)

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

[Bus Route Links](#) – scroll down to North Bethesda Middle School for the most up to date bus routes. If you have any questions, please contact the Department of Transportation Bethesda Bus Depot at 240-740-6580.

Click [here](#) to learn more about Extracurricular activities and Activity Bus Routes

Administrators

Grade 6 [Daniel E Werbeck@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Daniel_E_Werbeck@mcpsmd.org)

Grade 7 [Katherine B Rudd@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Katherine_B_Rudd@mcpsmd.org)

Grade 8 tirza_carmichaelcollins@mcpsmd.org

Principal Annemarie_e_smith@mcpsmd.org

Upcoming NBMS School-wide State Testing Schedule:

Date	Test	Audience/Venue
Wednesday, 4/2/25 - COMPLETED	Maryland School Survey	All Grades, AM Homeroom
April 23, 25, 28, 29, 2025	MCAP English Language Arts	All Grades, AM Testing Group
May 5 - 6, 2025	MCAP Math	All, Morning and Afternoon Testing Groups
May 12 - 15, 2025	MAP M/R	All, English and Math classes
May 19 - 22, 2025	MCAP Social Studies	8th Grade only - taken in Social Studies classes

KinderTransport Speaker - May 1 and 2 during lunches

A member of the [Kindertransport Association \(KTA\)](#) Speakers Bureau is coming to North Bethesda in the Media Center during grade-level lunches on May 1 and/or May 2 to talk about her mother, a Jewish child survivor of the Holocaust. You will be able to eat your lunch in the media center during the speaker's session. Below is a brief description of what they will talk about. If your student is interested, please have them complete this [form](#) so we can figure out which day and time the speaker sessions will be. You will be given a pass to attend by your Social Studies teacher the day before the session. If you sign up you are expected to attend.

"My mother was born in Frankfurt, Germany, in 1930 and lived with her Jewish parents and older brother. When she was 8, her parents sent her and her brother out of Germany by train as part of a series of programs, now known as the 'Kindertransport, to get Jewish children to other countries. Although many Kindertransport children were sent to the United Kingdom, my mother spent the entire war separated from the rest of her family in an orphanage in Brussels, Belgium. Belgium was then occupied by the Nazis starting in early 1940. In my presentation, I describe my mother's early experiences of antisemitism in Germany, the wartime deprivations she experienced in Belgium, what it was like to grow up without parents, and how she avoided arrest by the Nazis. I also describe what happened to her brother and her parents, all of whom survived the war. The last part of my presentation focuses on her reunions with each parent after the war, her life after moving to the United States in 1946, and the long-term effects of her Holocaust experiences."

Math MCAP

We value the home to school partnership all of our caregivers bring as we all want to do what is best for our students and our children. MCPS purchased IXL for all middle school students to help them work on their math skills and better prepare them for standardized assessments like MAP and MCAP. We need your support at home in working with students to guide them through their personalized [NWEA Skills Plan](#) in IXL. This will help them do better on MAP-M when we take it on **May 14-15th**

You can also help your student prepare for the MCAP Math assessment, which we will be giving on **May 5th and 6th**. Please have your child go to their grade level test if they are not in Algebra 1 or Geometry. If they are in Algebra 1 or Geometry, they will go to that practice test. This allows them to see the types of questions they could encounter on the MCAP Math State assessment. <https://support.mdassessments.com/practice-tests/math>

Also, there are test prep links in IXL for the MCAP.

[MCAP Grade 6](#)

[MCAP Grade 7](#)

[MCAP Grade 8](#)

[MCAP Algebra 1](#)

[MCAP Geometry](#)

[MCAP Algebra 2](#)

NBMS PTSA 2025 - 2026 School Year

The PTSA Nomination Committee is seeking interested candidates for open positions in the 2025-2026 school year. Click here to learn more information and to indicate your interest: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/19Lvx7GYaFl75OOwW2HSWoqFNsZy5s3dy1UhUayw3tuA/viewform?chromeless=1&edit_requested=true



****8th GRADE INFORMATION - End of Year Activities****

1) 8th Grade SOCIAL

Attention 8th grade Families and Caregivers - Save the Date!

Please read all you need to know about the 8th grade social at the link below!

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1kF-sRB9vzrpOS4gFG2tm2Cy7T3NhvHhG/view?usp=sharing>

2) 8th Grade End of Year Field Trip to Hershey Park

The date for this field trip is Thursday, June 12, 2025 8:15 a.m. to 7:45 p.m.

[Link to field trip form.](#) Please review as there is important information regarding logistics and behavioral expectations before and during the trip.

3) 8th Grade Staff- Student Promotion Ceremony

Due to our large student population and 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 **Friday, June 13, 2025, from 9:00 - 10:30** due to the MCPS revised schedule of this date being an early release.

Spring Fling Pop-Up Market

Save the date and mark your calendars for **Saturday, May 3rd! From 1- 5 PM** in North Bethesda's cafeteria will be having our inaugural Spring Fling Pop-Up Market! You will be able to shop from over 30 small businesses, support our local economy & the NBMS Cares fund, and maybe even pick up an early Mother's Day present! And there will be shaved ice and tacos available for purchase!

What to Expect:

- 30 small businesses and community vendors in an indoor venue
- A wide variety of products, including hand-made accessories, home decor, art, bath products, artisanal foods, bags, clothing, vintage, and more!

Why Attend:

- Support local businesses and find unique gifts for Mother's Day, graduations, or any occasion!

- Proceeds from vendor fees go directly to the NBMS Cares program, which helps families in need.

Please reach out to Sarada Jasti Currie (Sarada_D_JastiCurrie@mcpsmd.org) for more information.

This is a wonderful chance to celebrate the spring season, support a great cause, and enjoy some community shopping. And some good eats too - there will be bakery goods, tacos, and shaved ice for sale! Hope to see you there!



Ms. Rice's Counseling Update

Webinars, Seminars, Announcements, and things...

- The Student Advisory Career Council presents: Stepping Stones Baskets of Hope Drive. Please consider donating between April 22nd and May 19th. Donations can be dropped off at D116 or the Counseling Suite. Be sure to label them Baskets of Hope.
 - Seeking full-size toiletries (shampoo, toothpaste, etc), towels, washcloths, and other hygiene items for families
 - Seeking light toys, books, decks of cards, small LEGO sets, and age-appropriate activities for kids
- [Parent Child Journey](#) with Dr. Shapiro & colleagues
 - **Free Parent Support Group EVERY Monday at 1:00pm:** April 28th - Interpersonal Boundaries Between Kids; [register in advance for zoom link](#)

- May Excursion: [Medication for Struggling Children](#) - Thursdays in May from 8:00-9:00pm on Zoom
- Thrive Behavioral Health hosts the **Thriving Minds Fair 2025**, an annual children's mental health awareness fair on Thursday, May 1st, from 3:00-6:00pm at 12510 Prosperity Dr, Ste 200, Silver Spring, MD 20904; Therapeutic crafts and activities, snacks, community resources, and more! [RSVP](#)
- PEP Webinar - [Managing Your Anger When It Flares](#), May 7th from 8:00-9:00pm, free with code "PEPFREE" on Zoom.
- The next Caring Matters Family Night workshop to support grieving families will be held on Thursday, May 8th, from 6:00-7:30pm, with a focus on Mother's/Father's Day & Special Days; registration deadline is Wednesday, April 30th. To register contact [Gilly Cannon](#), 301-990-8904.
- C.A.S.E. (Center for Adoption Support and Education) [Parents of Teens Support Group](#) starting Tuesday, May 20th, 7:00-8:30pm, drop in style
- Georgetown Psychology's Parent Education Series -
 - May 29 12:00-1:00pm, [How EMDR Therapy Can Help Children & Teens with Anxiety, Depression, and Negative Core Beliefs](#)

Summer Happenings

- The Verizon Innovative Learning STEM Achievers Program at Uniformed Services University is hosting a no-cost summer STEM camp for middle school students, June 23-July 11, no prior STEM experience needed. For more information email stem@usuhs.edu or to [apply, click here](#).
- [Growing Minds Social-Emotional Enrichment Camps](#) at St. Andrews
 - Transitioning to Middle School Through Art - setting the stage for navigating nerves and socializing - for Rising 6th Graders, July 28-Aug 1
 - Empowered Black Girls: A Safe Space for Connection and Growth - for 6th-8th graders, July 21-25
- [Expressive Therapy Center Week-Long Specialty Summer Camps](#) (9:30am-12:30pm)
 - Transition to Middle School - July 21-25
 - Art and Mindfulness - July 28- August 1 (Grades 6-8)
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HELPFUL RESOURCES and 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. or send an excuse note by email.

Upon return to school, send a note to the main office: include the 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.

School Meal Viewer

Here is the NBMS MealViewer [link](https://schools.mealviewer.com/school/NorthBethesdaMS). <https://schools.mealviewer.com/school/NorthBethesdaMS>
Here is a [link](#) to the MCPS Division of Food and Nutritional Services where you can find more information in different languages.

CAFETERIA FEES

It may be necessary to periodically review the cafeteria balance and funding source on your student's account to check for accuracy and for appropriate monetary funds. As a reminder, a traditional school lunch is \$2.80, but students have the option to purchase additional a la carte items for additional purchase. We find it appropriate for you to review with your child expectations and norms around cafeteria spending, and to support them in establishing boundaries and budgeting accordingly. We do not want any surprises for you and your child in terms of their daily spending. Prepay and check your child's account at www.myschoolbucks.com This service is optional—schools will continue to accept checks and cash for meals in the cafeteria.

Support Call the School Bucks toll-free customer support center at 1-855-832-5226 for assistance with enrollment or questions about your account. MySchoolBucks support staff are available Monday to Friday, from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. eastern standard time.

FREE and REDUCED MEALS

Students in Maryland who qualify for reduced-price meals will not be charged for meals.

Applications: Free and Reduced-price Meals System (FARMS) applications have been updated for the new school year and are now available online at www.MySchoolApps.com; this is the preferred application method.

Apply online NOW at MySchoolApps.com (Translations available) Click [here](#) for an English video tutorial. Click [here](#) for a Spanish video tutorial.

- Federal eligibility guidelines change each school year; therefore, a new application must be submitted each school year. All students in the family should be listed on one household application. A notice will be mailed home to each student if you are approved for meal benefits or do not qualify for meal benefits. Please keep this important document for your records and use throughout the school year. Families may apply for meal benefits at any time during the school year.

- Households that are unable to apply online should contact their school or the Division of Food and Nutrition Services at 240-740-7400. If you would like a paper application, please contact the main office.

STUDENT HANDBOOKS

Updated online versions of A Student's Guide to Rights and Responsibilities, the Student Code of Conduct in MCPS, Guidelines for Respecting Religious Diversity and Guidelines for Student Gender Identity are available on the [MCPS website](#).

STUDENT SERVICE LEARNING (SSL)

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

Resources: [SSL Information and FAQ flyer](#); 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)

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. Thank you!

YEARBOOKS FOR SALE!

NBMS 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 as follows: Early Bird Discount: \$35 (1/1 until 2/28); Regular Price: \$40 (3/1 onwards). Yearbook orders will only be done online this year. There are a LIMITED AMOUNT of yearbooks. Please get your order ASAP to reserve your copy!

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Lui at Jemi_J_Lui@mcpsmd.org.

SUBMIT PHOTOS FOR YEARBOOK!!

Do you have photos you would like to submit for the yearbook? Have you 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 '24-'25 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.

Have a great week!

Sincerely,

[AnneMarie K. Smith, Ed.D.](#)

Principal

North Bethesda Middle School

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