

North Bethesda Middle School  
June 8, 2025  
News and Notes

<i>Monday, June 9, 2025</i>	<i>Regular Bell Schedule: PT -1</i>
<i>Tuesday, June 10, 2025</i>	<i>Regular Bell Schedule: PT- 2</i>
<i>Wednesday, June 11, 2025</i>	<i>Regular Bell Schedule: PT - 3</i> <i>Locker Clean out during Phoenix Time.</i>
<i>Thursday, June 12, 2025</i>	<i>6<sup>th</sup> grade: Fun Day</i> <i>7<sup>th</sup> grade: Color Wars</i> <i>8<sup>th</sup> grade: @ Hershey Park</i>
<i>Friday, June 13, 2025</i>	<i>Early Release for all students;</i> <i>8<sup>th</sup> gr. Student – Staff 8th</i> <i>Grade Send Off assembly</i> <i>starting at 9:00 a.m.</i>
<i>Monday, 6/16/2025</i>	<i>Early Release Schedule</i>
<i>Tuesday, 6/17/2025</i>	<i>Early Release Schedule. Last</i> <i>day for students and staff.</i>

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.

**Reminder - there are no after school activity buses for the rest of the year!**

### **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](mailto:tirza_carmichaelcollins@mcpsmd.org)

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

Dear North Bethesda Families:

Monday evening was a truly spectacular celebration of music, as our talented choral and instrumental students—under the direction of Mr. McFeaters, Ms. Hepburn, and Mr. Busch—delivered a performance that was both entertaining and moving. A heartfelt thank you to the students for sharing their incredible talents, the families who came out to support, and the dedicated teachers who made this unforgettable night of music possible.

I also had the opportunity to attend the Walter Johnson High School graduation. I am so proud of all the graduates and was thrilled to see NBMS Phoenix alum, Meley Ghermay, our former NBMS SGA President. Meley spoke as the class president and will be attending Harvard University for undergraduate studies.

Great news! NBMS has been designated as a No Place for Hate School thanks to the efforts of Ms. Nicholas, the No Place for Hate Committee, and Phoenix Phorce. This is a prestigious designation and reflects our NBMS community values.

If you haven't already done so, please take 10 minutes of your time to complete the MCPS climate survey for families and caregivers. The link is below.

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

- Reminder about returning Overdue library books.
- Chromebook collection for 8th graders
- Summer Math and Reading Resources on the NBMS webpage.
- Summer Math assignments for rising 9th graders at Walter Johnson
- Ms. Rice's informative counseling update on Chatbots and Summer Opportunities.
- Important Information about 8th Grade End-of-Year Activities as well as purchasing information for the 8th grade panoramic photo
- Montgomery County Public Schools Family Climate Survey - June 9 is the last day!
- Yearbook Distribution and Ordering Information - order online or \$40 in cash
- Other Helpful Information

We appreciate your continued support and engagement!

### **Overdue Library Books**

There are many overdue library books. Please remind your child to return their overdue book or books to the NBMS Library Media Center as soon as possible. If your child has lost the book(s), please let Ms. Woods or Ms. Kennedy know. If you have any questions, please email the Media Center staff - Ms. Woods (Nicolette\_K\_Woods@mcpsmd.org) or Ms. Kennedy ([Teresa\\_M\\_Kennedy@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Teresa_M_Kennedy@mcpsmd.org))

Keep your eye out for a separate email if your child has overdue media center books and materials.

### **Chromebook Collection**

8<sup>th</sup> grade Chromebook collection that will take place through Math classes this week, on June 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Important details regarding 8<sup>th</sup> grade Chromebook collection:**

- All 8th graders should remove ALL stickers from their MCPS Chromebook and charger PRIOR to Chromebook collection.
- Classes will come into the Media Center at their designated time with their MCPS Chromebook AND MCPS Chromebook charger.
- Each student will clean and wipe down their MCPS Chromebook at the Chromebook cleaning station.
- Each student will tape their Chromebook collection card to their MCPS Chromebook (these will be given out in the Media Center on their designated Chromebook collection day).
- Our media center staff and ITSS will scan each student's Chromebook and note any damages, including missing/lost MCPS Chromebook chargers.
- Teachers will check off students' names on their class roster as Media Center staff checks in each Chromebook.

### **Summer Reading and Math Resources**

Please check out the NBMS webpage for information to help students maintain and grow their reading and math skills over the summer

<https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/northbethesdams/news-index/nbms-summer-reading--summer-math/>

### **WJ Summer Assignments for Rising 9th Graders**

Did you know that many WJ Math and English classes have summer assignments? The assignments are instrumental in preparing students for their fall classes and making them feel confident as they start the school year. Please follow this course if your student has a

course with a summer assignment:

<https://www2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/wjhs/summer/assignments/>

### **Ms. Rice's Counseling Update**

Have you ever caught your child asking Siri something that would help them complete their homework faster? Do you talk to Alexa in your home to turn down the lights, turn on some music, or even remind you to run carpool at a certain time? I'll admit that I have Siri turned off on my smart phone and have eschewed all types of smart technology, so you might think my position on chatbots is skewed, but I hope you will keep reading and marinate on this.

Chatbots are showing up everywhere and are able to do more and more every day. Each time I google something I find A.I.'s synthesis of internet information at the top of the page. I often read it without looking any further. I'll also admit that I hear my daughter ask Siri things every time she has a question and I don't give an immediate response. Last week on NPR they were sharing about a robot named Ryan who leads yoga and other activities in a nursing home. Who knew that music moving from cassette tapes to CD's to streaming would one day be human relationships turning into artificial intelligence relationships. When I was a kid Small Wonder was just a TV show and Weird Science was far out.

Chatbots can be for the good, helpful like Alexa, but they can also pose a risk. In October there was a 14 year old who committed suicide after forming a close relationship with a chatbot. The adolescent said they were thinking about suicide and rather than encouraging getting help, the chatbot continued the conversation and answered questions in a way that led the teen to end his life. CharacterA.I., an app accessible to teens, promotes that it has chatbots that fulfill every human need. But do they really?

Chatbots can't think or feel, they aren't responsible for what they say, and they don't know our kids. Chatbots may respond in a warm, friendly manner, but they can't replace the safe, nurturing relationship you have with your child. They only know what they learn from the internet and they aren't required to sift through information to find what seems trustworthy. They also don't know your child's life story, their accurate age, how sensitive they are, if they have developmental disabilities or delays, or what trauma or mental health issues they may be living with. As a parent, if your child came to you seeking advice, or with a tough question, you would likely temper your response to meet the needs and comprehension abilities of your child. Chatbots don't do this.

I have a feeling I got you thinking! At least I hope you did. MCPS is hosting an event Tuesday night focusing on digital exploitation, essentially, how to keep your kids safe on the internet. Chatbots are part of the internet. Just like I always say, it's important to chat with your kids, keep the lines of communication open, and listen to what they have to say. This time, chat with them about chatbots, what they are, where they get their information, and that they aren't the same as talking to trusted humans.

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

- [Parent Child Journey](#) with Dr. Shapiro & colleagues
  - **Free Parent Support Group EVERY Monday at 1:00pm:** June 9th - When Providers Label Parents “Difficult” - Unpacking Bias in Neurodivergent Care ; [register in advance for zoom link](#)
- **MCPS Zoom Webinar on Digital Exploitation** in partnership with the Montgomery County Police Department, the U.S. Department of Justice, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, June 10th from 6:00-7:30 pm; details in ParentSquare
- PEP Webinar - [When to Set Limits and When to Let Go, Summertime Edition](#) - Thursday, June 26th, from 8:00-9:00 pm, use coupon *PEPFREE*

## **Summer Happenings**

- Is there a particular area or subject your student loves or could use to improve in? A tutor can help your child gain, improve, or hone some skills this summer. Here are a few ideas we’ve come across:
  - Hone your **critical reading** and **writing** skills with a veteran Certified English Teacher and local legend - [www.robertguisetutoring.com](http://www.robertguisetutoring.com)
  - How to Survive Middle School! 5-day online summer course focusing on **time management, study skills, and organization** strategies, for more information or to sign up visit [EnhancingYourStrengths.com](http://EnhancingYourStrengths.com)
  - “Want to get ahead on math over the summer? Bethesda Scholars, a local peer tutoring program, is offering five **summer math classes ranging from Algebra I to Calculus**. These in-person, small group classes are designed with help from **MCPS teachers and curriculums**, and are taught by high-achieving college students. Please visit [bethesdascholars.com/details](http://bethesdascholars.com/details) or reach out to [services@bethesdascholars.com](mailto:services@bethesdascholars.com) for more information.”
  - Looking for **support in math**, reach out to your child’s counselor for a focused list of certified MCPS math tutors.
- Looking to be active - check out one of the local **basketball** camps run by our very own teachers and coaches.
- The **RIASEC Road Trip** is stopping at NBMS on July 16th - join us for hands-on career advising and exploration activities that build professional skills like leadership, teamwork, and decision-making. Interactive stations, career labs, and opportunities to meet real-world-professionals from exciting industries are all free! [Complete this interest form for more information.](#)
- [MCPS Cybersecurity Camp](#) - a free, week-long, virtual summer camp open to rising 7th-9th graders, morning and afternoon sessions offered the weeks of June 23, June 30, and July 7
- [Montgomery Can Code](#) - free summer camp for MCPS rising 6th, 7th and 8th graders - campers will learn to code with Swift, an Apple programming language
- 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](mailto: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)

## MCPS FAMILY CLIMATE SURVEY

Your Voice Matters: Share Your Experience!

We hope you are doing well! At NBMS, we value our partnership with families and know that your voice plays a vital role in helping us create the best possible learning environment for all students.

We invite you to share your feedback by participating in the **Family Survey**. This short survey gives you the opportunity to share your experiences and opinions about our school and the broader school district. Your honest input will help us understand what's working well and where we can improve.

The survey is easy to complete, takes only a few minutes, and your responses are completely confidential. The results will be used to guide our efforts in strengthening programs, services, and support for students and families.

**The survey is open from May 12, 2025, through June 9, 2025.**

To participate, simply click the link below:

<https://parentsurvey.mcpsmd.org/>

We deeply appreciate your time and commitment to our school community. Your feedback makes a difference!

## YEARBOOK DISTRIBUTION

**Yearbooks will be distributed during lunches on Monday, June 9, and Tuesday, June 10.**

Yearbooks are selling out! 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. Yearbooks cost \$40 and orders will only be done online this year. There are a LIMITED AMOUNT of yearbooks You can bring \$40 cash to purchase one if you have not ordered (no checks please)

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Lui at [Jemi\\_J\\_Lui@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Jemi_J_Lui@mcpsmd.org).

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

### **8th Grade Panoramic Picture IS ON LINE**

Your School's Eighth Grade Panoramic photo is now online.

Any student who has not had a chance to order a Panoramic photo, it's not too late! All orders using the link below will direct ship to a home address entered at checkout.

All orders using the link below will direct ship to a home address entered at checkout.

**Please use your student ID as your online code**

For questions or about ordering, please contact Victor O'Neill Studio: [underclass@vosphoto.com](mailto:underclass@vosphoto.com)

<https://vando.imagequix.com/s1484639921>

### **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.

### **8th Grade Staff- Student Promotion Ceremony**

Due to our large student population and space limitations at North Bethesda Middle School, we hold a staff-and-student-only promotion celebration as part of our long-standing tradition. This is not a graduation ceremony, but rather a celebratory assembly recognizing the achievements of our 8th grade students. The event is recorded and shared with families for their convenience.

Students do not walk across a stage; however, they are recognized with promotion certificates, Presidential Awards for Educational Excellence (for students with a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher during their time at NBMS), Superintendent's SSL Awards, and several special awards presented by the 8th grade team.

The celebration includes student and staff speeches, academic and extracurricular recognitions, musical performances, a student slideshow, and messages from teachers.

This year's celebration is scheduled for **Friday, June 13, 2025, from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m.**, in accordance with the MCPS revised schedule designating this date as an early release day.

## 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](mailto: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>

Here is a [link](#) to the MCPS Division of Food and Nutritional Services where you can find more information in different languages.

### 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](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!

Sincerely,

*AnneMarie K. Smith, Ed.D.*  
Principal  
North Bethesda Middle School  
**GO PHOENIXES!**