



November 3, 2024
North Bethesda Middle School
News and Notes



NORTH BETHESDA MIDDLE SCHOOL UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, November 4, 2024 - Professional Day for Staff -- No School for Students

Tuesday, November 5, 2024 - NO SCHOOL ELECTION DAY

Wednesday, November 6, 2024 Regular Schedule Period 7 Phoenix Time LOCKER CLEAN OUT

Thursday, November 7, 2024 Regular Schedule Period 1 Phoenix time

Friday, November 8, 2024 Phoenix Phun Day -- [Special Extended Phoenix Time](#)

PTSA 7th Grade Social 6-8 PM

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATE – November 11, 2024 – NBMS OPEN HOUSE DAY (More details below)

Reminder: Parents, please drop off students in the drop off loop (entrance on Bradmoor Drive – note: Johnson Drive is for buses only). Also, at dismissal – please do not stop to wait for your child on Bradmoor by the NBMS sign. This blocks people’s access to line up for the drop off loop and in turn causes people to block Bradmoor Drive for people who are passing through.

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

Grade 7 Katherine_B_Rudd@mcpsmd.org

Grade 8 tirza_carmichaelcollins@mcpsmd.org

Principal Annemarie_e_smith@mcpsmd.org

Greetings North Bethesda Families:

Students enjoyed the SGA sponsored spirit week this past week. We will start the week with a locker clean out during Period 1 Phoenix Time. In addition, there are many items in the lost and found -- please encourage your child to come look to get their left behind items. We will be donating items at the end of the day, Friday, November 8, 2024. Last week was our last week opening the courtyard for lunch. We will reopen in the fourth quarter! Thank you to those of you who volunteered. We appreciate you!

The second quarter begins on Wednesday, November 6, 2024. Students received their second-quarter schedules during homeroom on Friday, November 1, 2024. Please encourage your child to review their schedule, as there may be changes in elective and PE/Health teachers. Additionally, as previously communicated, due to this additional staffing, we had the opportunity to create new social studies, science, and math classes. Student schedules may have been adjusted to reflect the additional staffing we received. This staffing allows us to open new sections, reduce overcrowding, and ensure students are appropriately placed.

Our teachers, along with our new staff members, Ms. Rehrig and Dr. Lorenz, will focus on community building and clearly communicate their expectations to ensure a smooth transition for all students.

In this week's News and Notes, you will find information about the following topics:

- Learn more about our two newest staff members, Dr. Lorenz and Sofia Rehrig.
- 7th Grade Social Call for Volunteers and ticket information
- Our upcoming open house on November 11, 2024
- Career Advisor Update - Hear about the great activities taking place to support our students in preparing to be college and career ready.
- November Conferences at the Middle School Level
- Yearbook Information - how to order and how to submit pictures
- Ms. Rice's Counseling Update
- Student enrichment opportunities such as the Hardest Math Problems, Google and Discovery Education STEM Family Day on November 9th and the INTEGIRLS math competition in December.
- Other helpful information

Meet Dr. Stephen Lorenz

Dr. Stephen Lorenz earned his PhD in American Studies from George Washington University in 2014, focusing on Civil Rights and Cultural History. He graduated cum laude with a degree in English from Washington College in Chestertown, Maryland.

As a cultural historian and audio archivist, Dr. Lorenz has lectured at various institutions, including the DC Historical Society, where he has presented on archive research, civil rights, and the music history of Washington, D.C. He has written on the history of Black cowboys, and edited books on blues and bluegrass music and is co-author on a forthcoming book on performing arts in D.C., *Capital Acts*, set for release this November.

His technical skills and expertise in vernacular culture led him to do digital preservation work for the Smithsonian's Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage and to assist in producing albums for Smithsonian Folkways Records. For over 20 years, he has documented the Smithsonian's Folklife Festival, capturing music and oral histories from participants around the globe. This experience has given him unique insights into the diverse histories, arts, music, and culinary traditions of cultures worldwide, experiences he hopes to bring to the classroom. Additionally, he serves as the neighborhood archivist for the historic mid-century homes designed by Charles M. Goodman in Kensington.

Dr. Lorenz is passionate about bringing his rich learning and teaching experiences to the Social Studies curriculum at NBMS. As a parent of three children in Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS)—spanning elementary, middle, and high school—he is keenly aware of the challenges parents face in ensuring a safe and enriching learning environment for their children.

For the past year, Dr. Lorenz has worked as a paraeducator with the Social Studies staff at NBMS, providing instructional support and integrating effective teaching practices learned from outstanding MCPS educators. He is excited to leverage his educational and professional experiences in teaching 6th and 7th grade World Studies. With his background in music, he also looks forward to co-teaching the 7th and 8th grade Chorus.

Meet Ms. Sofia Rehrig

Sofia Rehrig is a recent graduate of Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio where she obtained a B.A. in molecular biology. Her science background and subject area knowledge include 3 years of undergraduate research in plant genomics, and she continues to contribute to an ongoing National Science Foundation funded project.

As a former MCPS student and graduate of Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School, she is thrilled to be returning to the school system that first sparked her love for science education. Ms. Rehrig is passionate about supporting her students and helping them achieve their academic and personal goals. She could not be more excited to be joining the NBMS community as a long-term substitute and is looking forward to a great year! Ms. Rehrig will teach the following courses: Investigations in Science 6 and Investigations in Science 7

PTSA SEVENTH GRADE SOCIAL

7th Grade, It's Party Time!

Parents, please [sign up to volunteer](#) for the upcoming 7th grade social on Friday, November 8 from 6-8pm.

Purchase your tickets now- non-member 15\$ tickets can be found [here](#). PTSA members can find \$5 tickets on the [webpage](#), just login, by clicking on My Account/ Tickets for Upcoming Events. A ticket with the name of your 7th grader should be there. If it isn't and you have paid your PTSA fees, please check that you have updated your child's grade to 7th grade this year. If you have financial need, please see your counselor or grade level administrator

CAREER ADVISOR UPDATE

Please click [here](#) to learn about the great things being done at NBMS by our Career Advisor, Ms. Bridget Afram

OPEN HOUSE

If you missed the opportunity to visit NBMS at Back-to-School night, we have another opportunity for you. North Bethesda will be open to parents/caregivers from 8:30 to 2:30 on Monday, November 11, 2024. (see bell schedule with grade level schedules linked [here](#)).

- If able to join, please plan on visiting as few or as many of your student's classes that day to get a glimpse into their school experience. **We are requesting that visitors to classes refrain from using technology and/or taking pictures.** Please silence your devices and try to follow our school policy of devices being off and out of sight:)
- Please come with your students' schedule. It may be standing room only in some of our larger classrooms.
- Due to space concerns in each classroom, we kindly request that only one parent/guardian/caregiver attend per student.
- Consider prioritizing one to three classes in order to avoid overcrowding.
- If possible, please pre-register using [this link](#) so that we may make visitor labels for you ahead of time. If you do not pre register, please bring your license so you can check in using the Visitor Management system.
- If you plan on attending, please enter by the main entrance to check in Monday, November 11, 2024.
- Please be aware that due to our large student population and space limitations in our cafeteria, we regret we do not have the ability to accommodate parents during the grade level lunches.
- Please consider attending a session with our Career Coach. [Flyer](#) linked here.
- We appreciate your continued support and involvement in NBMS through volunteer opportunities through the PTSA and school.
- We would prefer that the students stay at school and do not go to lunch with parents or caregivers because of the logistical challenges in the main office with that many students leaving the school.

- Please consider writing a shout-out for the teachers you visit! Shout-out forms will be available in the main lobby—just fill one out and drop it in the basket, and we'll make sure the teacher receives it.

We look forward to welcoming you to this opportunity to see your students' lived experience at NBMS.

NOVEMBER CONFERENCES

November 25th and 26th are early release days before Thanksgiving. On November 25th, North Bethesda Middle School will hold conference day. Due to the large student population, we are unable to offer individual conferences for all families. This year, team conferences are by invitation only and will be held from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m., either on Zoom or in person, with priority given to students needing additional academic support.

In addition, teachers will provide limited individual conference slots from 1:00-3:00 p.m., each lasting about 8 minutes. These one-on-one conferences will also prioritize students with the greatest academic needs. If additional slots remain, families can sign up on ParentVue beginning November 19th.

Starting next week, you may receive a call from school staff inviting you to a parent-teacher conference. Please confirm your availability promptly.

If you are not contacted and do not secure a November 25th conference, you may still arrange one throughout the school year. Contact your child's counselor or reach out directly to a teacher to schedule a phone conference.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our students and the North Bethesda community.

1:00-3:00 p.m.- Individual 8 minute online conferences (priority to greatest academic need), open November 19 to all families

3:30-6:30 p.m.-Team Conferences

Support with Signing Up for Individual Conferences:

[Parent Conferences Support Guide - ParentVUE](#)

YEARBOOKS FOR SALE!

NMBS 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: **Special Discount: \$30 (now until 12/31)**; 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.

MRS. RICE'S COUNSELING UPDATE

When we return to school on Wednesday, a new President will have been elected. We are anxiously waiting to see how another contentious election will end. Chances are that your preteen or teen is also waiting, and hoping, like most of us, that things will change. Although they are too young to vote, they likely have an opinion and have followed some political news. Many wish there was a way to voice their choice.

With so much talk about plans for our country, many children will have questions about the future; some will speak them and others will hold them inside. They may be wondering what will happen after the election, how will things change, how soon will things change, what if my candidate of choice loses? As parents, we have many of the same questions and it's easy for us to show our children our own anxiety. But, remember that your child looks to you as a role model and it can be helpful to purposefully create a sense of optimism (even if you aren't feeling optimistic.)

You can help your child feel optimistic by pointing out that our country has been through rough patches before, and we will find a way through it again. You may want to do some research together and look at the long history of elections and change in our country. It's also important to remind your child that the country is made up of the government and its people and when the people don't see eye to eye with the government, the people can move to start the work that needs to be done by volunteering and getting involved. Stopping to listen to your child might be the most valuable lesson you can teach. When politics is taking over news feeds and adult conversation, friends and peers often find themselves on opposite sides of the path. Listening to each other teaches us that it's okay for individuals to have differing opinions and we should not

attack anyone for having a belief different than our own. We should listen and learn from one another and together work to make this country a better place for all.

If you are looking to learn together, to broaden the conversation or discuss more - check out this awesome lesson our social studies department chair put on websites like: [iCivics](#), [Rock the Vote](#), [PBS Learning Media](#), [Historical Presidential Elections](#), and [Talking to Children and Teens about Elections](#)

Webinars, Seminars, Announcements, and things...

- The food drive has ended. Thank you to everyone who participated.
- [RSVP for Coffee with the Counselors](#) and special guest, Clifford Sussman, MD, discussing Technology Addiction on Friday, November 15th at 9:30am in the NBMS Media Center. A few seats are left!
- Are you interested in being an NBMS Career Day Speaker? We are always looking to bring new and exciting careers on board. This year's Career Day will be Thursday, April 3rd, from 7:45-10:45 a.m. If you're interested in being a part of greatness, complete this [Speaker Information Form](#) and we will be in touch.
- [Parent Child Journey](#) with Dr. Shapiro & colleagues
 - **Free Parent Support Group EVERY Monday at 1:00 p.m:** November 4 - What it's Like to be the Sibling of a Challenging Child; [register in advance for zoom link](#)

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

CARE STORE INFO FOR ALL GRADE LEVELS - VOLUNTEER NEEDED

We have 3 Volunteer slots open for volunteers. You can sign up for only your child's grade or all grades. Your child will be allowed to get one bag of chips and one gatorade for free if you volunteer and will be able to skip the line and get in first. If for some reason you can't make it on the day you signed up please don't forget to cancel it so others can sign up in your place. Let's make this year's care store a success!

CARE Store 10:30 am - 11:20 am (6th grade lunch).

CARE Store 11:20 am-12:15 pm (7th grade lunch).

CARE Store 12:15 pm-1:00 pm (8th grade lunch).

Store Duties: During store hours, the volunteers help kids make "purchases" and keep things under control...mostly. Oh and BONUS you get to spy on your 6th/7th/8th graders!!!!

Cart Duties: You know the peanut vendors at the baseball game...yup...that's pretty much it. You will be able to "sell" candy to all grades and snacks (8th grade) right from the cart.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C054DA4AB23ABF49-cares>

OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

SCHAFFER'S PIANO SALE PROGRAM

Please open [this link](#) to learn about the Schaffer's Piano Loan Program.

SONYA KOVALEVSKY DAY

We are excited to announce [Montgomery College is holding its 28th annual Sonya Kovalevsky Day on Saturday November 16, 2024 on the Rockville campus](#). The program goal is to increase participation of girls in STEM fields. Research indicates that 6th grade is when many girls turn away from STEM, which is why our program targets 6th grade students.

We are writing to ask for your help in inviting your 6th grade students to our SK Day event at our Rockville campus. Please share the attached flyers (English and Spanish) with your 6th grade families. The event is free, but space is limited to the first 60 students who register on our website:

<https://www.montgomerycollege.edu/academics/stem/k-12/sonya-kovalevsky-program.html>

[SK DAY FLYER ENGLISH](#)

[SK DAY FLYER SPANISH](#)

If you have questions, please email us at SonyaKovalevsky.Program@montgomerycollege.edu.

HARDEST MATH PROBLEM

[Hardest Math Problem Contest Overview](#)

[Entry Form & Grade Level Problems](#)

The Hardest Math Problem is an annual competition presented by The Actuarial Foundation, and the New York Life Foundation that challenges grades 6–8 students to solve multistep, grade-appropriate math problems with real-world situations and engaging characters.

Challenge 1 - Now until December 4th: Every student who provides a mathematically correct answer to Challenge 1 will receive an invitation to compete in Challenge 2 with an even more difficult problem. Turn your paper in to your Math Teacher or Ms. Watkins by Wednesday December 4th.

Challenge 2 - By Invitation to Challenge 1 Winners, January-March, 2025

Entries must contain a mathematically correct answer and a compelling written explanation of their reasoning to be eligible for the Grand Prize! Correct entries are judged by a panel of teachers and actuaries to determine the strongest written argument and award prizes.

3 Grand Prize Winners (one per grade): \$3,000 for a 529 college savings plan, plus a laptop!

3 Runner-Up Winners (one per grade): \$2,000 for a 529 college savings plan and a tablet computer.

3 Honorable Mentions (one per grade): \$1,000 contribution to a 529 college savings plan.
Teachers can win a \$300 gift card and \$200 towards a class pizza party!

NEW! Google and Discovery Education STEM Family Day: Montgomery College, in partnership with Google, Discovery Education, and MCPS, will host a STEM Family Day on Saturday, November 9, 2024, from 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. at the Germantown Campus. This event offers hands-on STEM activities for K–12 students and families.

[flyer](#)

[registration link](#)

Participants can register for the event on Discovery Education [website](#).

INTEGRILS MATH COMPETITION

The D.C. chapter of INTEGIRLS is hosting a **beginner-friendly, in-person math competition Saturday, December 14th from 9 am - 4 pm** at the Bioscience Education Center at Montgomery College Germantown Campus! Our mission at INTEGIRLS is to encourage girls and non-binaries in STEM fields through math competitions and events. This year, we will have math competition rounds (individual and team), an estimathon, a speaker event, awards ceremony, provided lunch, and lots of fun STEM activities. Teams of up to 4 students will be able to connect with and enjoy math with other girls and non-binaries around the DMV. There will be a lot of prizes and fun swag for all participants.

Register [here](#) directly or go to the INTEGIRLS D.C. website (dc.integirls.org) to learn more about the competition.

Thank you for your time, and please let me know if you have any questions at all!

Isha

isha@integirls.org

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 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.**

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 Schoolbucks 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)

	<p>Make sure to join the NBMS SSL MyMCPS Classroom.</p> <p>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.</p>
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If you have any questions, after reviewing the SSL information above, please send an email to Carla.A.Jurewicz@mcpsmd.net. Thank you!

Have a great week!

Warmly,

AnneMarie Kestner Smith, Ed.D. (She, Her, Hers)

Principal

North Bethesda Middle School

[North Bethesda Middle School Website](#)