



This Week

Mon., Sept. 1	Labor Day Holiday, SCHOOL CLOSED
Tue., Sept. 2	Welcome back from the holiday weekend!
Wed., Sept. 3	Back to School Night for Grades 3-5 Parents, 7:00 pm, APR
Thur., Sept. 4	Back to School Night for Mr. Koch, Ms. Boyle, HS to Gr. 2 Parents, 7:00 pm, APR
Fri., Sept. 5	Have a great weekend!

A Look Ahead

Thur., Sept. 11	Back to School Picnic, 5:30-7:30 pm
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- **We have had a great first week of school!** Thanks to all families who had their children follow the normal arrival and dismissal routines. Our morning and afternoon traffic has been moving nicely thanks to parents following the expectations. Thanks for helping us have such a smooth opening week.
- **A gentle reminder about morning start time.** Children may enter the building at 8:55 am. By 9:10 am children should be in their seats and ready to begin the school day. Students who arrive after that time interrupt the teacher and take valuable instructional time away from the class. We appreciate your help in giving students a calm and unhurried start to their learning day.
- **Please send a note to the teacher when there is a change in your child's dismissal plans.** This will avoid confusion at the end of the day, and it will also avoid last minute phone calls from the office to parents in order to confirm a change in plans.
- **Check backpacks for the *Bells Mill Discipline Policy* that was given to each student. We ask that you review the policy with your child, sign the tear-off portion of the cover memo and return it to your child's teacher as soon as possible. Please keep the discipline policy for your information.**
- **Attention parents of students in Gr. K-2, Mr. Koch's class, Ms. Boyle's class and Head Start, Thursday evening, September 4, 2014, is your Back to School Night.** We ask that you meet with us in the All Purpose Room at **7:00 pm** to kick off the new school year. Following a very brief meeting filled with important announcements, you will go to classrooms for information sessions with your child's teachers. You will hear about routines and procedures as well as information about the curriculum expectations. Session 1 will run from 7:20 – 8:00 pm, and session 2 will run from 8:05 until 8:35 pm. There will be childcare in the gym. We look forward to seeing you at this very special evening.
- **Attention Gr. 3-5 Parents, Wednesday evening, September 3, 2014, is our Back to School Night for parents of students in Grades 3 to 5.** We ask that you meet with us in the All Purpose Room at **7:00 pm** to kick off the new school year. Following a very brief meeting filled with important announcements, you will go to classrooms for information sessions with your child's teachers. You will hear about routines and procedures as well as information about the curriculum expectations. Session 1 will run from 7:20 – 8:00 pm, and session 2 will run from 8:05 until 8:35 pm. There will be childcare in the gym. We look forward to seeing you at this very special evening.

- **Congratulations to 5th grader Elizabeth Qiu.** During the summer, Elizabeth participated in the 29th International Young Artist Piano Competition and won the first place of the 9-10 year old group. As a result, she was invited to perform in the Winners' Concert at the Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage. Here is the link to the video of the group performance (<http://www.kennedy-center.org/explorer/videos/?id=M5956>). Elizabeth is the second performer in the video wearing a white dress, and her performance runs from about the 9:00 minute mark to 16:40. We are so proud of Elizabeth's hard work and accomplishments.
- **MCPS policy requires that every student bring home a copy of MCPS Form 230-35: *Bullying, Harassment, or Intimidation Reporting Form*.** This form is included in the *Bells Mill Discipline Policy* as well as the *Bells Mill Parent Handbook* so parents will be aware that procedures are in place to protect all students from bullying, harassment and intimidation.
- **In compliance with the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA), attached is the asbestos management plan for this school.** Since we are a new school built after October 12, 1988, our management plan consists of documentation that states "to our knowledge no asbestos-containing building materials were used or specified for use in this building."
- **Please check backpacks for important information regarding release of student information.** Each year we are required by law to inform parents of the *Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act* and the *Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment*. **You may direct MCPS to withhold directory information by signing and returning the form that was sent home with students.** This form must be received by the school no later than **September 10, 2014**. **Forms received after September 10 will be returned to parents/guardians.**
- **In compliance with Maryland laws and regulations pertaining to Integrated Pest Management (IPM), a list of pesticides has been sent home in backpacks to all parents and guardians of each student attending this school.** These pesticides may be applied in the school or on school grounds. Without exception, notices will be sent to all parents/guardians each time a product from this list is used at Bells Mill.
- **The George B. Thomas Learning Academy offers Saturday School at 12 locations throughout the county.** Saturday School begins on September 20, 2014, 8:30-11:30 a.m. Cost is \$50 for the year, or \$30 for those who qualify for free and reduced price meals. See the attached flyer for details/registration.

Thank you for being partners in your child's education

Scroll down to view page 2 of the Saturday School registration form.



The George B. Thomas, Sr. Learning Academy, Inc.

Saturday School

2014–15 STUDENT REGISTRATION FORM

Parents may register online at www.saturdayschool.org or in person at the Center their student will attend. A registration fee of **\$30 for students receiving Free And Reduced-price Meal Services (FARMS) and \$50 for non-FARMS** is required in order to register. A payment plan is available at all Saturday School sites and can be completed at registration. *For registering at the centers*, cash, checks or money orders are accepted. Please bring the student's report card to registration. *For online registration*, PayPal, Visa and MasterCard are accepted. Please bring the student's report card to the first session.

_____ MONTGOMERY BLAIR HS
_____ ALBERT EINSTEIN HS
_____ GAITHERSBURG MS

_____ JOHN F. KENNEDY HS
_____ NORTHWEST HS
_____ MAGRUDER HS

_____ PAINT BRANCH HS
_____ ROCKVILLE HS
_____ SHERWOOD HS

_____ SPRINGBROOK HS
_____ WATKINS MILL HS
_____ WHEATON HS

I WOULD LIKE TO ENROLL MY CHILD IN THE SATURDAY SCHOOL CENTER AT:

Is your family eligible for Free and Reduced-price Meals System (FARMS)? YES NO

STUDENT NAME:			HOME PHONE:		
LAST	FIRST	MIDDLE INITIAL	HOME SCHOOL:		
MCPS STUDENT ID NUMBER (REQUIRED):			MALE	FEMALE	GRADE:
			DATE OF BIRTH:		
ENROLLMENT DATE:		HOMEROOM TEACHER/COUNSELOR NAME:			
STUDENT RACE: (PLEASE CIRCLE) HAS THIS CHILD ATTENDED THE SATURDAY			SCHOOL BEFORE? YES NO		
AMERICAN INDIAN OR ALASKAN NATIVE ASIAN BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN			WHITE TWO OR MORE RACES		
HISPANIC/LATINO NATIVE HAWAIIAN/OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDER					
IF YES, FOR HOW MANY YEARS? _____					
PARENT NAME:			PARENT'S CELL PHONE:		
LAST	FIRST	MIDDLE INITIAL	PARENT'S WORK PHONE:		
PARENT'S E-MAIL ADDRESS:			EMERGENCY CONTACT PHONE NUMBER (IF DIFFERENT):		
STREET ADDRESS: _____			CITY: _____		
_____			STATE & ZIP: _____		

Please notify the Center Director if you would like our staff to know about any learning needs, medical conditions, food allergies, or 504 accommodations that are needed for your child.

AUTHORIZATION TO REQUEST / RELEASE PUPIL RECORDS AND PHOTOS

I HEREBY GIVE MY PERMISSION TO THE GEORGE B. THOMAS, SR. LEARNING ACADEMY TO REQUEST ACADEMIC RECORDS/ INFORMATION FOR THE ABOVE STUDENT AND FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS (OR THE SCHOOL WHERE YOUR CHILD IS CURRENTLY ENROLLED) TO RELEASE THOSE RECORDS. I ALSO GIVE MY PERMISSION FOR MY CHILD'S PHOTO(S) TO BE USED IN LEARNING ACADEMY MARKETING MATERIALS.

SIGNATURE OF PARENT/GUARDIAN

DATE

Do you need a payment plan to assist with registration fees? YES NO

Can you help pay the registration fee for a child who cannot afford it? YES NO AMOUNT \$ _____

TOTAL PAID BY: CASH _____ CHECK _____ / _____ MONEY ORDER _____ / _____
Amount Check Number/Amount

MEMORANDUM

DATE: 8/26/13

TO: Parents, Teachers and Employees

FROM: Nathaniel Brown Jr.
(Designated Person)

RE: Availability of Asbestos Management Plan

In October 1986, the U.S. Congress enacted the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA). Under this law, comprehensive regulations were developed to address asbestos problems in public and private elementary and secondary schools. These regulations require most schools to inspect for friable and non-friable asbestos, develop asbestos management plans that address asbestos hazards in school buildings and implement response actions in a timely manner.

These regulations assign schools many new responsibilities. Our program for fulfilling these responsibilities is outlined in our asbestos management plan. This plan contains information on the designated person, architect's or engineer's letter, notification process, assurances, and dated copies of the annual notification.



For new buildings, those completed after October 12, 1988; our "management plan" consists of the exclusion documentation including this notification. This documentation means that to our knowledge no asbestos-containing building materials were used or specified for use in this building.

You can review this plan during normal business hours without cost or restriction.

If you have any questions about reviewing our management plan please contact:

Nathaniel Brown Jr at (201) 670-8238
(Designated Person) (Phone No.)