



Click here for the weekly schedule of PTA-sponsored after school activities:
[Bells Mill Enrichment Schedule Week of January 25](#)

This Week

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|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mon., Jan.25 | No School for Students, Professional Day for Teachers |
| Tues., Jan. 26 | Hearing/Vision Screenings for all K-1 students and those new to MCPS (will be rescheduled if school is closed) |
| Wed., Jan. 27 | French, 8:00 am, rm. 159
 Spanish Intro, 8:00 am, rm. 150
 Spanish Beginner, 8:00 am, rm. 154
 Candid Photos for Yearbook
 STEM, 3:30 pm, rms. 120 and 124 |
| Thur., Jan. 28 | Gr. 5 Parent Meeting, 7:00 pm, at Cabin John MS |
| Fri., Jan. 29 | United Nations Model, 8:10 am, rm. 149
 Odyssey of the Mind, 3:50 pm, Media Center
 Mad Science, 3:50-4:50 pm, rm. 163
 Scout Troop 585, 5:00 pm rm. 240 |

A Look Ahead

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|---------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Feb. 1 | PARCC Night, 7:00 pm, Richard Montgomery HS |
| Feb. 2 | PTA Meeting, 7:00 pm |
| Feb. 3 | Report Cards Distributed |

- **Winter weather emergencies such as snow and ice may cause disruptions in school operations, including the closure of school, delayed opening or early dismissal.** Information is announced publicly as soon as possible on area radio and TV stations and on the internet at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org . If schools are closed or delayed, the announcement is made no later than 5:00 am. If schools are closing early, the announcement is made by 11:00 am. **A delayed opening means that schools open 2 hours later than normal (11:20 am for Bells Mill), and bus pickups are 2 hours later than normal. There is no Head Start on delayed opening days. An early dismissal means that schools will close 2.5 hours early (1:20 pm for Bells Mill). Head Start's early dismissal time is 11:05 am.**

Parents are encouraged to sign up for MCPS QuickNotes to receive emergency email announcements, visit <http://news.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/quicknotes-home/> .

- **Congratulations to Mr. Allen and the 4th/5th grade instrumental music students for a wonderful concert on the evening of Wednesday, January 20.**
- **Class and group photos were originally scheduled for Thursday, January 21, but were postponed due to the two-hour delayed opening. We will announce the new date when it becomes available.**
- **There will be an informational meeting for parents of next year’s incoming kindergarteners, Thursday, February 11, 7:00 pm, in the Media Center.** If you have a child who will be age 5 by September 1, please plan on attending this important meeting. You will meet the kindergarten teachers, begin the registration process, and get your questions answered. Please help spread the word to neighbors who have incoming kindergarteners.
- **Interim Superintendent Larry Bowers submitted a \$2.4 billion Recommended Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2017 to the Board of Education on December 8.** The recommended budget increase is a modest 4.5 percent, which will pay for the same level of services for more than 2,500 new students. Recommendations include investments to improve student literacy and math skills; build the cultural proficiency of staff; foster stronger partnerships with the community and our families to support students; and better organize the district to ensure every student is prepared for college and careers.

There are a variety of ways that you can [learn more about the MCPS budget](#) and become involved in the budget process this year, including the new [Budget 101 website](#); [Neighbor to Neighbor](#) small-group discussions; [Parent Academy workshops](#); and an overview video and other budget materials available on the [MCPS budget webpage](#). Visit the budget webpage at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/budget/ to read more about these resources and how to make your voice heard.

- **MCPS needs full funding of its budget this year to prevent further cuts and to begin reinvesting in education. Anything less than full funding would likely require further cuts that could impact every school.** Be sure to share your ideas and views on the importance of funding the MCPS operating budget with our elected Montgomery County officials—the [Montgomery County Board of Education](#), the [County Executive](#), and the [Montgomery County Council](#)—through emails, letters, short videos, and testimonials. The Board of Education will be holding two public hearings on the budget recommendation: the first was Thursday, January 7; the second is Thursday, January 14.

The county will hold [budget forums in January](#) to seek input from residents about the county’s FY 2017 budget priorities. The remaining forum, which begins at 7 p.m., is scheduled as follows:
January 25, BlackRock Center for the Arts, 12901 Town Commons Drive, Germantown

Five Education Budget Meetings, presented by Montgomery County Councilmember Craig Rice, MCPS Interim Superintendent Larry Bowers, and Montgomery College President DeRionne Pollard, are scheduled for February and March. Find out how budget decisions are made, what the county is doing today to get ready for FY 2017 and beyond, and the opportunities residents have to influence budget decisions. The meetings will take place from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the following locations:

February 17, Montgomery College, BE Building, Room 151, 20200 Observation Drive, Germantown

February 24, Albert Einstein High School, 11135 Newport Mill Road, Kensington

March 9, Gaithersburg High School, 101 Education Blvd., Gaithersburg

March 16, Col. Zadok Magruder High School, 5939 Muncaster Mill Road, Rockville

March 23, Thomas S. Wootton High School, 2100 Wootton Pkwy., Rockville

- **Learn how the MCPS operating budget is built and gain a deeper understanding of why it’s essential to invest in our schools.** Mark your calendar for one of three [Budget 101 Parent Academy workshops](#) that MCPS is hosting this winter. You’ll learn where our funding comes from, how it’s spent, and how individual

schools are staffed to ensure we are meeting the needs of every student. The remaining workshops are scheduled for:

February 17 at the Carver Educational Services Center in Rockville

March 7 at Forest Oak Middle School in Gaithersburg.

All workshops begin at 7:00 p.m. Childcare is provided for children ages 4 through 12.

- **The MCPS Parent Academy is back with an exciting lineup of free workshops for parents.** Parent Academy workshops give parents useful tips and tools to support their children's success in and out of school. A wide array of topics will be covered during the winter session, including college and career planning, helping teens manage stress, literacy, the MCPS operating budget, recognizing child abuse and neglect, and much more. All of the workshops are free and are held at schools and locations throughout Montgomery County. Childcare and interpretation services are provided. To see the schedule of workshops and to register, visit montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/parentacademy/.
- **PARCC Night Set for Monday, Feb. 1.** MCPS is hosting an event for parents to learn more about the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) assessments. The event will be held at 7 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 1, at Richard Montgomery High School, 250 Richard Montgomery Dr. in Rockville. MCPS staff will be on hand to help parents understand their children's score reports from the spring 2015 administration of the PARCC tests. In addition, staff will share an overview of PARCC and information on upcoming changes for the 2016 administration of the tests. Free childcare (ages 4 and older) and foreign language interpretation will be provided.

Thank you for being partners in your child's education.