

PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THEIR LIVES, THE COMMUNITY, THE WORLD

MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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MESSAGE FROM THE SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR



Greetings Students, Parents and Community Members,

On November 13-19, 2011, the National Education Association will sponsor its 90th annual American Education Week. Based on the motto, "Great Public Schools: A Basic Right and Our

Responsibility," this week presents students, parents and our community with an opportunity to celebrate public education and honor individuals who are making a difference in ensuring every child receives a quality education.

Think for a moment! Do you know of a teacher or administrator who has made an impact in your child's life? If so, say thank you. A simple "thank you" has great power in all aspects of our lives and especially in the lives of our teachers and students.

The American Education Week celebration also reinforces the MCPS motto, "Preparing Students For: Their Lives, The Community, The World." Based on this motto – I call upon each of you to do your part in making public schools great for every child so that they can grow and achieve in the 21st century.

Sincerely,

B. Wendell Jones
School Board Chair

2ND SEMESTER CALENDAR

DECEMBER 19-30: Schools closed, Winter Break

JANUARY 13 – End of semester

JANUARY 16 – Schools closed, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

JANUARY 17-18 – School closed, professional development day

JANUARY 31 – Early Dismissal Grades K-5 (collaborative planning)

FEBRUARY 10 – Early Dismissal Grades K-5 (collaborative planning)

FEBRUARY 20 – Schools closed, Virginia Heroes' Day/Presidents' Day

MARCH 1 – Early Dismissal Grades K-5 (collaborative planning)

MARCH 12-16 – Parent/Teacher conference week

MARCH 14 – Non-School Day for Students, Workday for staff

MARCH 27 – Early Dismissal Grades K-5 (collaborative planning)

APRIL 4 – Early Dismissal for all students

APRIL 5-9 – Schools closed, spring break

APRIL 25 – Early Dismissal Grades K-5 (collaborative planning)

MAY 28 – Schools closed, Memorial Day

JUNE 6 – Early dismissal for all students, Last school day

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AUBURN NEWS MAGAZINE GOES VIRTUAL

Auburn High School's award-winning news magazine, "Winged Messenger", is now available online at <http://www.ahs-news.com>. The web-based version of the publication will supplement the print version. The site is easy to use and navigate for students, parents, faculty, staff and community members and will allow the journalism team to incorporate frequent updates, more photographs and multimedia presentations.



WHAT IS A 21ST CENTURY CLASSROOM?

Beginning with Eastern Montgomery Elementary School and Price's Fork Elementary School, all new schools in MCPS will feature the 21st Century classroom. Existing schools will be retrofitted so that they have the latest and greatest technology enhancements in education.

WHAT ARE THE COMPONENTS OF THE 21ST CENTURY CLASSROOM?

INTERACTIVE WHITEBOARD - The smartest white board around helps teachers engage students in an interactive environment. SMART Boards allow teachers to deliver dynamic lessons, write notes in digital ink, and save their work with the simple touch of a finger. The SMART Board system also works with the SMART Table - a multitouch, multiuser interactive learning center that allows groups of students to work simultaneously on one surface.

PERSONAL RESPONSE SYSTEM - A personal response system, or a clicker, provides an opportunity for every student to respond to a question - which allows the teacher to properly gauge which students need immediate help, and it encourages classroom discussion.

CLASSROOM AMPLIFICATION SYSTEM - A wireless microphone worn by the teacher and an infrared speaker ensures that every student in the classroom has a front-row seat experience. The enhanced audio cuts through distracting background noise to help each student pay attention. The system also comes with a wireless microphone for student use.

DOCUMENT CAMERA - Elmo is a document camera that allows a teacher to magnify anything for students to see. Think about an old overhead projector, only better. Using a document camera, a teacher can model how to mold clay or display the characteristics of a rock for the entire class to see.

In 2010, the 21st Century classroom components were installed at Auburn Elementary School, Christiansburg Elementary School and Falling Branch Elementary School. This year, Belview Elementary and Margaret Beeks Elementary will receive 21st Century classroom updates.





Montgomery County Public Schools

NEW IDENTITY FOR DIVISION

MCPS has a new logo and a new website! Our logo features dynamic figures engaged in various activities, the most notable being a student celebrating graduation. The logo is representative of the division slogan recently adopted by the school board - "Preparing Students For: Their Lives, The Community, The World."

WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT CAPITAL PROJECTS?

MCPS has a section of the website dedicated completely to the capital projects at AHS, AMS and BHS. You can view the latest presentations to the school board, check the dates of the next building committee meetings and request to be added to the email distribution list dedicated to these projects.

Visit www.mcps.org/CapitalProjects.html.



IDENT-A-KID

Many MCPS schools began implementing the Ident-A-Kid program this school year. Ident-A-Kid is an electronic check-in system for visitors and volunteers at a school. Every visitor has a picture taken and printed on an ID badge that identifies them to staff members throughout the school. Currently, Auburn High, Christiansburg Elementary, Margaret Beeks Elementary and Shawsville Middle use the program. The program will expand to every school.



OPENING THE NEW PRICE'S FORK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The new Price's Fork Elementary School will open to students on Monday, November 14. The new school features expanded classroom space, 21st century technology and other enhancements. The school will honor its past and celebrate its future at a dedication ceremony on Sunday, December 4, at 2 p.m.



GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONIES

FOR AUBURN HIGH SCHOOL AND BLACKSBURG HIGH SCHOOL



Construction has commenced at the sites for the new Auburn High School and the new Blacksburg High School. The occasion was celebrated with a groundbreaking ceremony for each building.



The Montgomery County School Board holds regular meetings on the first and third Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at the County Government Center, 755 Roanoke Street, Christiansburg.

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Civil Rights/Non-Discrimination Notice:

Montgomery County Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities. The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies: Director of Elementary Education and Director of Secondary Education | 200 Junkin Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073 | (540)382-5100