



Herbert Hoover Middle School

Vision: To foster an environment where each student is successful.

Mission: To provide each student a rigorous and engaging program of instruction in an environment where students are supported academically, socially, and emotionally so they can maximize their academic and personal potential to become lifelong learners and productive members of their community.

Instructional Focus: In order to increase student achievement and wellness for all while reducing the opportunity gap, the staff of Hoover Middle School is committed to improving student learning through the effective implementation of:

- Social Emotional Wellness
 - PLC cohort planning focused on differentiated small group instruction
 - Universal Design for Learning (UDL) Instructional Framework strategies
 - Community partnership, engagement and communication
-

Dear Hoover Middle School Community,

As the summer sun shines on, I am filled with excitement to extend my warmest welcome to the 2025-2026 school year. I hope you and your family have had a rejuvenating summer, filled with rest, laughter, and cherished moments.

To our new families, we are absolutely delighted to have you join our Hoover community. We can't wait to get to know you and your student and help you feel right at home. To our returning families, it brings us so much joy to welcome you back for another year of growth and learning.

At Hoover Middle School, our mission is to create a dynamic and supportive environment where every student can thrive. This year, we're doubling down on what matters most: nurturing strong relationships, celebrating academic achievements, and prioritizing emotional well-being. We're dedicated to ensuring that every single student feels valued, heard, and supported as they navigate their middle school journey.

Our commitment to fostering positive and meaningful relationships is at the heart of everything we do. We know that strong connections between our students, staff, and you, our families, are the secret ingredient to a successful school year. It's through these bonds that we build a foundation of trust, empathy, and resilience.

We are also deeply committed to building a diverse and inclusive school community where every student and family feels a sense of belonging. Our ongoing focus on equity and anti-racism is a promise that we will actively work to create a safe space for all, where differences are not just tolerated, but celebrated.

Your partnership in this journey is invaluable. The connection between home and school is crucial for a student's success, and we invite you to be an active part of our community. Please consider joining us at school events, becoming a member of the PTA, and always keeping the lines of communication open.



Thank you for entrusting us with your child's education. We can't wait to see you all soon and embark on a fantastic year together—one filled with new discoveries, positive change, and incredible growth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yong-Mi Kim'.

Yong-Mi Kim, Ed.D.



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Summer Happenings:

The summer months are very busy at Hoover Middle School. We continued to host our students and students from Churchill High School in our Bridge ESY program.

Our building-service team, led by Mr. Pumphrey, have been working tirelessly in preparation for the first day of school for our staff and students. You will notice a fresh look in our main office, media center and music rooms. Thank you to Ms. Ellen Karavangelos, our school registrar, who continues to enroll new students every day.



The Instructional Leadership Team (made up of department chairs, teacher leaders, union representatives and administration) has been meeting to plan for this year (see below). We are looking forward to providing staff, students, and parents the resources to ensure a great 2025-2026.

- English Content Specialist: Susan Wong
- Math Content Specialist: Maria Davis
- Science Content Specialist: Julie Marsteller
- Social Studies Content Specialist: Amalia Triantis
- World Languages Content Specialist: Rosa Sacks
- PE/Arts Content Specialist: Dina Beatty
- Media Specialist: Jennifer Kim
- SPED Hours Based RTSE: Gina Blake
- SPED Bridge Program RTSE: Christina Anderson
- Resource Counselor: Debra Velasquez
- Instructional Focus Team Leader: Joshua Menditch
- Instructional Focus Team Leader: Miim Kwak
- 6th Grade Team Leader: Ryan Kane
- 7th Grade Team Leader: Rehana Ahmed
- 8th Grade Team Leader: Madison Swan
- Staff Development Teacher: Karen Megary
- Elected Faculty Representative: Jamie King Morris
- Elected Staff Representative: Karen Scott

In addition, I would like to recognize our team leaders and department chairs for being available over the summer to talk to students and parents about various instructional opportunities at Hoover. Please do not hesitate to contact them if you have any questions.

	6th Grade Team	7th Grade Team	8th Grade Team
Administrator	Edwina Kollo	Jeanni Chin	Yong-Mi Kim
Team Leader	Ryan Kane	Rehana Ahmed	Madison Swan
Counselor	Cara Mehr	Aafia Talib	Michael Hopkins-Gross

Support Hoover

- **PE Uniforms: SUPPORT THE PE DEPT!**

Students are required to dress for Physical Education. Hoover Physical Education uniforms (Shirt and Shorts) are sold online. The proceeds from the purchases will be donated to the PE department so that they can use the funds towards equipment repairs. To purchase Hoover P.E.



uniforms and Hoover apparel, please use this order link [446395- Herbert Hoover Middle School PE 2025-2 | The Final Touch](#)

All orders should be placed using your student's name.

- **Hoover Spirit Wear: NEW THIS YEAR!**

School spirit is key to creating a positive school culture. It creates school pride and brings together the student body and generates a positive school climate. Throughout the year, students will be participating in Spirit Weeks where they have the opportunity to wear their Hoover gear with great pride! Proceeds from the sales of our Spirit Wear go directly to maintaining our positive school climate and supporting our wellness and after school programs.

NEW THIS YEAR- All Spirit Wear will be available to purchase in person at school events!

Hoover Transition Day- 6th grade students.

The school is in the process of getting ready for the arrival of our students for the 2025-2026 school year. All 6th grade students are invited to **Transition Day on Monday, August 25th from 7:50AM to 3:00PM**. On Transition Day, students will have the opportunity to run through their regular schedule, practice opening their lockers and become familiar with the Hoover building.

Parents of 6th graders and NEW to Hoover 7&8 graders are invited to an in-person Parent Tea on Monday, August 25th from 8:30AM-9:30AM in the cafeteria. We will share information regarding Hoover's instructional program and introduce the instructional leadership team. Please be on the lookout for the [flyer](#) invitation through email and on the Hoover website.

New to Hoover (only) 7th Grade and 8th Grade Transition Day Orientation

Seventh and eighth grade students *NEW* to the Hoover community are invited to attend the Hoover Transition Day on Monday, August 25, 2025 from 10am -12pm. Students will be given their schedules on Transition Day. Students should be dropped off and picked up as buses will not be running during these times.

First Day

The first day of school for ALL students is **Tuesday, August 26, 2025**. This will be a regular full-day session with buses running their regular routes. A complete calendar with all scheduled school holidays and early release days will be posted on [our website](#). Please keep these pages for reference throughout the school year. Posters with [homeroom assignments](#) will be posted throughout the building to aid students with locating their homerooms. Students who arrive at school before 7:40 AM will remain outside the building. Students are permitted in the cafeteria from 7:40-7:55 AM and will be dismissed to go to their lockers at the 7:55 AM bell. A reminder bell will ring at 8:10 AM and all students are expected to be in their [Homeroom classroom](#) by the 8:15 AM bell. Homerooms will be finalized on August 22, 2025.



Back to School Night

This year, our [Back to School Night](#) is scheduled for **Wednesday, August 27, 2025 at 6:00 PM**. We will have a Health Education Parent Information meeting prior to the classroom visits in the Media Center at 5:00 PM to share an overview of curriculum materials. We will provide specific details on our school website. We look forward to welcoming you all and providing the information you need to support your child at school.

Staff Update:

We are fortunate at Hoover to have staff members who are dedicated to our students and skilled in delivering world-class instruction. As is typical, the new school year will bring changes in staffing. Most of these changes were announced prior to summer vacation.

This year, as we say goodbye to a few of our friends, we have the opportunity to welcome new members to our Hoover family. Please join me in welcoming:

- Ms. Elizabeth Burris - Science Teacher
- Ms. Jackie Chen - School Secretary
- Ms. Meilin Chu - Chinese Teacher
- Ms. Joia Daniels - PE/ Health
- Ms. Camille Espada - Spanish Teacher
- Ms. Abigail Kane - Social Studies Teacher
- Ms. Avery Marsteller- Paraeducator
- Ms. Cara Mehr - Counselor- 6th Grade
- Ms. Kay Nichols - English/Special Education
- Ms. Eva Okeefe - Math Teacher
- Ms. Sakura Przygoda - English Language Development (ELD) Teacher
- Mr. Robert Roman - Security Assistant
- Ms. Clare Saiya - Math Teacher
- Ms. Magda Sobalvarro-Ochoa - Family Engagement Specialist
- Ms. Claire Son - Art/Digital Art
- Ms. Madison Swan - 8th Grade Team Leader/ Math Teacher

Course Updates

We are delighted to offer the following semester course pairings that fulfill the State of Maryland's (MSDE) fine arts and computational learning requirements for all of our students:

6th Grade:

- Studio Art & General Music
- Digital Art & General Music
- Digital Art & Studio Art
- Theatre
- Chorus



7th Grade:

- Forensics and Studio Art II
- General Music II & Digital Art II
- Digital Art II & Studio Art II
- Theatre
- Chorus

8th Grade:

- Marine Biology
- Studio Art III
- Foundations of Engineering and Technology A/B (high school credit)
- Theatre
- Chorus

In addition, we will continue to offer:

- Band (1,2, and 3)
- Orchestra (1, 2 and 3)

PTA

The success that we have achieved at Hoover Middle School would not be possible without the ongoing support from our amazing PTA. They have been true partners in education. I look forward to continuing our partnership under the direction of Ms. Laurenzi, our PTA President and the incoming members of the PTA board. Please click the link to see the names of the Hoover PTA board members.

We look forward to working with you to strengthen the school-home partnership to promote student success.

[Please join the PTA](#)—your participation makes a difference!

Support the Hoover Instructional Programs by helping us earn FREE cash for Hoover Middle School through partnerships with:

- **[Box Tops for Education](#)**
- **[Harris Teeter](#)** Together in Education (TIE) program (Code No. 7948)

Bus Transportation

Please refer to the bus route list below for the locations and times for pick-up. School bus routes are identified by their route number, which is displayed in the window. Parents should be aware that road construction, poor weather conditions, and accidents are real traffic stoppers in the Hoover area, so buses may be legitimately delayed when picking up students in the morning. Additionally, buses may



run slower during the first two weeks of school, as students and drivers are still adjusting to new routes. **In order to ensure that our students are safe and accounted for at all times, students are only permitted to ride the bus that is assigned to them.**

Parents/guardians are responsible for their children on the way to the bus stop, at the bus stop, and on the way home from the bus stop. Bus operators do not know all of the possible caretakers who might be picking up a student on a particular day and are unable to match each child with a specific adult. **When students get off the bus, they are entirely in the care of the parent/guardian or other caregiver. They are on their own to walk home if no parent/guardian or caregiver is present.** Establishing a buddy plan for your child with an older sibling or classmate is advised, in case your child arrives at the afternoon bus stop without meeting you or another caregiver. Parents/guardians should familiarize their children with the bus stop so they can become independent riders.

The seats on the school bus are there to accommodate students only. Students should refrain from utilizing bus seats for backpacks, sports equipment, musical instruments, etc. as this seemingly reduces the number of available seats. Students may bring large items with them on the bus. However, it is the policy of Montgomery County Public Schools that **“large objects that cannot be held on a student’s lap, such as some musical instruments, class projects, etc., should not be transported on the bus. Parents should make other arrangements to transport such items to and from school.”**

Bus Information 2025-2026:

Bus transportation parent letter

[What You Should Know About Riding the Bus](#)

[Bus routes 2025-2026](#) - Please note your student’s bus route number as they are the same for both arrivals and departures.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding bus transportation, please contact the Bethesda Bus Depot at 240-740-6580

Carpool/Student Drop-Off

If you choose to drive your child to school, please use caution and patience as you enter and exit the parking lot. Please wait in the parent drop-off loop and follow the directions of the staff members who are assisting. Kindly drive your vehicle as far as possible towards the front of the carpool line when dropping off students and refrain from dropping your student off on Post Oak Road. All students crossing Tuckerman and/or Postoak Road should do so only at the designated crosswalk that is attended by a county crossing guard. **When exiting the student drop off loop, please only turn RIGHT on Postoak Road.** [Please click here to view a map of our drop-off areas.](#)

Absences/Tardiness



Students ***must be in their*** first period classrooms by 8:15 to be marked present and on time. Chronic tardiness to school and/or classes will result in progressive disciplinary action to include detentions. Students with 10% or more absences will be referred to the Pupil Personnel Worker (PPW) and an attendance letter will be included in your student's academic record. Chronic absenteeism above 20% will result in referral to the Attendance Matters Board and a letter to the student's academic record.

We encourage any families making travel plans during the school year to carefully review the [MCPS calendar](#). Please keep in mind that students with **10 consecutive unexcused absences** will be withdrawn from school. If you have specific questions about travel or attendance, please reach out to us first.

Our goal is to ensure students are in school as much as possible and reduce the number of chronically absent students. Did you know that **chronic absenteeism** is defined as **18 or more absences per year**, which equates to just **2 absences per month**? Chronic absenteeism negatively impacts students' academic performance and social development due to missed learning and peer interactions. If there is anything the school can do to support your child's regular attendance, please do not hesitate to reach out. We appreciate your partnership and look forward to an amazing school year!

Visitors

Safety and Security is our priority. To ensure a safe learning environment for everyone, we ask all visitors to sign in at the main office using our online visitor system. Please remember to bring a valid photo ID, such as a driver's license, as it is required to complete the sign-in process. Thank you for helping us keep our school community secure.

Hoover Bell Schedule

Please see the [Hoover Bell Schedule linked here](#).

REGULAR BELL SCHEDULE								
Grade 6			Grade 7			Grade 8		
Morning bell to dismiss from cafeteria: 7:55 am; Warning bell to ring at 8:10 am								
Period 1	8:15 - 8:59	44	Period 1	8:15 - 8:59	44	Period 1	8:15 - 8:59	44
Period 2*	9:03 – 9:50	47	Period 2*	9:03 – 9:50	47	Period 2*	9:03 – 9:50	47
Period 3	9:54 – 10:38	44	Period 3	9:54 – 10:38	44	Period 3	9:54 – 10:38	44
Lunch	10:42 – 11:12	30	Period 4	10:42 – 11:27	45	Period 4	10:42 – 11:27	45
Period 4	11:16 – 12:01	45	Lunch	11:31 – 12:01	30	Period 5	11:31 – 12:16	45
Period 5	12:05 – 12:50	45	Period 5	12:05 – 12:50	45	Lunch	12:20 – 12:50	30
Period 6	12:54 – 1:38	44	Period 6	12:54 – 1:38	44	Period 6	12:54 – 1:38	44
Charge Up Connect	1:42 – 2:12	30	Charge Up Connect	1:42 – 2:12	30	Charge Up Connect	1:42 – 2:12	30
Period 7	2:16 – 3:00	44	Period 7	2:16 – 3:00	44	Period 7	2:16 – 3:00	44
Extra-Curricular Bell Tuesdays – Thursdays: 3:05 pm – 4:15 pm								

Chromebooks



Classrooms will have chromebook carts for student use. Students will no longer carry around chromebooks throughout the day. Chromebooks are to be used in school only. Students are not permitted to bring their own device to school. Please view the Chromebook Usage/Repair policy linked [here](#). A hard copy of the policy will be sent home with the students the first week of school for your signature.

Communication

There are a number of ways you can stay connected with the most up-to-date news and information:

Monthly Principal Update: Each month, Dr. Kim will share schoolwide updates and important information. We will highlight various teams and departments to showcase what students will be learning in classes. In addition, we will provide parent resources to support students' academic, social and emotional wellbeing.

Website: Our website, <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/hoooverms/> will provide you with a number of links that you will need to access throughout the course of the school year. Additionally, reminders for upcoming events and other important dates will be shared. Our master school calendar is posted on the website and is updated regularly. Be sure to consistently check out the school's website to stay informed with all school-related announcements and activities.

Weekly Planner Update: Please access up to date classroom content information on each teacher's MyMCPS Classroom homepage. The calendar will share daily lesson topics, homework and assessments dates for the week.

Parent Square: We are excited to share that MCPS is transitioning to using ParentSquare to engage the district, school administrators and now even teachers with ongoing school-to-home communication. Using ParentSquare you'll be able to receive and send messages in any translated language preferred, set your preference to receive them as a text, email or app notification, set a preference for when you want to receive messages, instantly or as a daily digest, send RSVPs to school events and sign up to volunteer and/or donate items at events as well. During this transition we will cease our use of the Remind application for school-to-home communication.

ParentSquare accounts have been created for all teachers, school administrators and staff and caregivers. Your preferred language to receive and send communication may already be set in ParentSquare. If it's not, you can select your preferred language while logged into your ParentSquare account using the website or app.

We encourage you to watch the ParentSquare Overview Video ([English](#) | [Spanish](#)) and review the quick guide below to learn how to begin using ParentSquare.



Translated ParentSquare Quick Guides

[English](#), [Spanish](#), [French](#), [Chinese](#), [Vietnamese](#), [Portuguese](#), [Amharic](#), [Korean](#)

ParentVUE (MyMCPS Classroom): This platform allows parents to view grades, access teacher resources, and receive important information from teachers. You will receive specific information about accessing this platform directly from the county before the end of the summer. You will need to sign up for an account in order to access the information relevant to your child's education.

Hoover Notes: Every week, the PTA sends out a correspondence that outlines important dates and events relevant to our school community. Administration and teachers frequently use Hoover Notes to communicate important information. Please [join the PTA](#) and make sure you receive your Hoover Notes.

Immunization

All rising seventh grade students, regardless of the date of entry into the school system, are required to have one tetanus, diphtheria, and attenuated pertussis (Tdap) and one meningococcal (MCV4) vaccination before beginning Grade 7 in the 2025-2026 attending school until they are in compliance with the State law. Please refer to the [Back to School Immunization Requirements](#) and [2025-2026 School Year Vaccination Requirements](#) for more information.

Student Code of Conduct

In order to ensure a safe, productive, and positive learning environment, Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) publishes two documents that help students, parents, and staff understand school rules and regulations. The expectations for student conduct and the possible consequences for violating the rules are clearly outlined in these two documents.

[A Student's Guide to Rights and Responsibilities](#) is an overview of the rights and responsibilities students have in MCPS and a summary of the laws and regulations that affect students.

[The MCPS Code of Conduct](#) provides an overview of discipline procedures and protocols and the range of consequences students could face for violating various policies, regulations, and rules. The guide also discusses the MCPS philosophy to discipline and defines the various disciplinary responses.

The administrative team will meet with all of the students to review the *Student Code of Conduct*. We would appreciate your support in communicating behavior expectations with students. Please review



the *Student Code of Conduct* and the discipline policy with your child and provide a time for them to discuss follow-up questions.

Food Deliveries

We are **NOT** accepting deliveries of food from outside vendors during the school day. Any and all deliveries from vendors such as Chipotle, Panera, Chick-Fil-A, DoorDash and Uber eats will be held in the main office until the end of the school day.

Birthday Celebrations

We have found that birthday celebrations have the potential to disrupt our learning environment. Please **DO NOT** send catering, shared lunches, cupcakes, brownies, cookies, doughnuts, or other sweets to share with students at school. This also supports Montgomery County Public Schools' initiative to "promote healthy eating, personal well-being, and fitness" and will help us reduce the risk of any kind of reaction for our food-allergic children. In addition, students are not allowed to bring balloons or other decorations to school.

Please review the letter [linked here](#) regarding severe allergies.

Lockers/Backpacks

Each student will be assigned a personal locker. Backpacks are not permitted to be carried around throughout the school day. Students should secure all personal belongings in their lockers and keep it locked at all times. Do not share lockers or locker combinations with other students/friends. Students are not allowed to adhere stickers or any other decoration inside/outside of lockers.

MCPS Calendar

The 2025-2026 MCPS School Calendar is available on the MCPS website. The direct link is [2025-2026 MCPS School Calendar](#)

MCPS Policies

Below are some important MCPS policies for you to review with your child in preparation for school.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act and Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (FERPA)

Each year we are required by law to inform parents of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, P.L. 93-380 (FERPA), as well as their rights under the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment, 20 U.S.C. 1232h: 34 CFR Part 98 (PPRA). Please take a moment to click on the link below for the information regarding you and your child's right regarding this matter.

[Educational Rights and Privacy Act](#)



Student Participation in Patriotic Exercises

Information regarding students' rights and responsibilities pertaining to their participation in patriotic exercises is noted in [Regulation JFA-RA](#), *Student Rights and Responsibilities* (page 12).

Students have a right to:

- Appropriate opening exercises that include the opportunity to salute and pledge to the flag
- The inclusion of patriotic exercises, when appropriate, preceding assemblies and other school programs
- Be exposed to patriotic exercises as part of positive learning experiences for students
- Be involved in the planning and production of patriotic exercises
- Not be compelled to participate in patriotic exercises, or be penalized or embarrassed for failure to participate
- Not have other students interfere with their right to participate in patriotic exercises and such interference constitutes grounds for disciplinary action

Reporting and Investigating Incidents of Bullying

The Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) Regulation JHF-RA, Bullying, Harassment, or Intimidation (Attachment A), is available on the MCPS website at:

[Bullying Regulation](#)

Should your child experience instances of bullying, harassment, and intimidation, please contact his/her grade level administrator and/or the counselor for support. A blank MCPS Form 230-35,

[Bullying, Harassment, and Intimidation Form](#) is also available on our school website for your convenience.

Grading and Reporting

The following are some clarifications on Hoover's grading and reporting procedures in accordance with MCPS policy.

- Consistent gradebook templates across all courses (90% All Tasks/Assessments and Countywide Assessments, 10% Practice/Preparation)
- Implementation of "50% Rule" to include consideration of whether the student attempted to meet the basic requirements of the assignment
- Z's calculated as a zero in the gradebook



- Plagiarism is academic dishonesty. Students who share or use other's work will be penalized and will result in consequences per the Student Code of Conduct

Dress Code

Hoover policy is in accordance with MCPS policy as stated below from the [Students Rights and Responsibilities Handbook](#). We appreciate your support.

1. Students have a responsibility to be dressed and groomed for school in a manner that contributes to a school environment conducive to learning and in accordance with the local school discipline policy.
2. Students may wear clothing associated with their religion or containing a religious message as long as the clothing is consistent with the requirements outlined in section 3 below. JFA-RA 16 of 18
3. Students may not be disciplined for their style of dress or grooming unless it— a) is likely to cause a disruption to the educational environment; b) causes a disruption to the educational environment; c) endangers or potentially threatens the health and/or safety of self or others; d) fails to meet a reasonable requirement of a course or activity; e) is associated with gangs; f) is lewd, vulgar, obscene, revealing, or of a sexual nature; or g) promotes tobacco, smoking, alcohol, drugs, or sexual activity.

Cell Phones and Personal Electronic Devices

Per the MCPS [COG-RA Regulation](#) regarding personal electronic devices (PMDs)

- A personal mobile device (PMD) refers to any non-MCPS-issued device used to send or receive data via voice, video, or text. Mobile phones, e-readers, tablets, personal computers, smart watches, or other devices equipped with microphones, headphones, speakers, and/or cameras are all considered PMDs.
- Students may possess PMDs on MCPS property and at MCPS-sponsored activities; but may not turn them on until the end of the school day for independent use, including lunch.
- Middle school students may use PMDs before and after the student day. Middle school students are not permitted to use PMDs between classes/during transitional time.
- Students are responsible for ensuring that their PMDs are turned off and kept out of sight during times of unauthorized use.
- Students are responsible for ensuring that their PMDs are managed securely at all times.
- MCPS and Hoover staff will assume no responsibility or liability for loss, theft, or damage to a device or for the unauthorized use of any such PMD.

Highlights and Reminders



- The first day of school for **ALL** students is Tuesday, August 26, 2025.
- Transition Day for all sixth grade students and new to Hoover 7th and 8th Grade will be held on Monday, August 25th, from 7:50 AM to 3:00PM.
- NEW DATE!! 6th Grade and 7&8 New To Hoover Parent Welcome Tea on Monday, August 25th from 8:30-9:30am in the cafeteria.
- Our instructional program will be explained at our Back-to-School Night, which is scheduled for Wednesday, August 27th at 6:00 PM.
- [Here is a flyer for our back to school events for families.](#)
- A complete calendar with all the scheduled school holidays and early release days can be found on [our website](#).
- Please check the [Hoover website](#) under School Information (left column) for updated Bus Routes.
- MARK YOUR CALENDARS- **Student Portrait Day** is Thursday, August 28, 2025. More information to follow.

Enjoy the rest of the summer! I look forward to seeing all of you soon.