

Damascus High School (04701)
Weekly Friday Community Messages 2024-25 School Year

06.17.25

[Mensaje en español](#)

Hive Highlights



Shout-Out to Our PTSA!

A huge thank you to the PTSA for the amazing lunch provided for our staff on Friday! It was a wonderful experience and such a thoughtful way to help us close out the school year. We truly appreciate your continued support and generosity!

Shout-Out to *Julius Jeong*!

Congratulations to Julius Jeong for completing the U.S. Naval Academy Summer STEM Program and earning the Academic Superstar Award! Through hands-on STEM labs and leadership experiences, Julius represented DHS with pride. His family shared that he's come back more energized, thoughtful, and positive—way to go, Julius!

We're proud of you!

Damascus HS Vision / Mission

This summer the Damascus High School Instructional Leadership Team plans to revisit our Vision and Mission statements. We'd love to hear from you! Please complete [the survey](#) here to share your thoughts!

Student & Family Voices Wanted: Let's Improve DHS Together!

This summer, we want to involve our students and families in our instructional leadership teamwork. Would you be interested in joining us? On July 15th, from 9:00 to 10:30 AM, we are structuring a time to review school data, share feedback on this school year, and identify ways to improve our work and the DHS experience for the upcoming school year. Your voice matters, and we appreciate your support in creating meaningful school climate goals! (There will be food, and students will earn SSL Hours by participating.)

If you want to join us, please complete this Google Form [HERE](#).

If you share your availability with us, we will follow up with more specific information and updates as the event date approaches. Please be on the lookout for emails or messages from the school.

We hope to see you there!"

Graduation Photos Are Here!

[Here](#) are the photos from graduation!

Feel free to download and share the photos from this amazing milestone with your friends and family.

Congratulations again to all of our graduates!

Swarm Schedules

Mark your calendars! School Year 2025-26

Day	Event(s)
Thursday, 08/21	Open House/BTSN - 3:30PM-6:30PM- <i>Tentative</i>
Monday, 08/25	Transition Day (9th Grade Students Only)
Tuesday, 08/26	First Day of School- All Grades

Hornet Happenings

Attention Future 9th Grade DHS Hornets: Summer Building Tours!

Welcome to Damascus High School! We're excited to work with you and your families in the upcoming school year. This summer, we invite you to join us for a building tour led by our amazing Student Ambassadors. It's a great opportunity to get familiar with the school, ask questions, and feel more confident about starting high school in the fall. There will be six opportunities, all held on Wednesdays from 10:00 AM–12:00 PM at DHS. Tour Dates: 07/09, 07/16, 07/23, 07/30, 08/06, & 08/13. Please use the [SignUpGenius link here](#) to register your child. Family members and siblings are welcome to join them on the tour. We look forward to welcoming you to the Hornet Hive! Reach out to Melissa Cleveland with any questions or concerns.

MCPS Summer School Program

Summer School 2025 focuses primarily on high school students who need to earn credits towards graduation. Both In-person and Virtual High School Summer School Programs will be offered this year. More information including cost and course availability can be found [here](#). DHS students interested in registering for the second session of summer school courses should complete [this](#) interest form. The last day to complete the summer school interest form is Friday, June 27th.

Homecoming 2025

Our new SGA & Class Officers have been busy planning next year's "Erie and Elegant" Homecoming Spirit Week & Dance. Please use our [Homecoming 2025](#) document for all your Class specific themes, dates, dance information, ticket sales, guest forms and more!

Rising Senior Portraits—Class of 2026!

Click [HERE](#) for information on **senior portraits** and how to sign up for an appointment (7/7, 7/10 or 7/18). Seniors will receive their student IDs during their session. Please note that a portion of picture sales helps support DHS. Note that there is no sitting fee for the yearbook only pose. If you have any questions about senior portraits, contact VOS via seniors@vosphoto.com.

Student Parking 2025-26

Information and the online application will be posted over the summer. In the meantime, please ensure all obligations are cleared. Check for outstanding obligations via [School Cash Online](#).

VOS Graduation Pictures—Class of 2025!

Exciting news! Our graduation day photos taken by [Victor O'Neill Studios](#) are now available for viewing/purchase! Visit this [LINK](#) and use access code DHSGRAD25. Contact graduation@vosphoto.com with any questions.

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We hope to see you there!"

MCPS Retirement Ceremony

Shoutout to *Amelia Gasque, Sarah DeStefano, Jocelyn Fryer, Annabelle Kemp, and Ashtyn Manoogian* for their outstanding work last Thursday preparing the MCPS Retirement Celebration with flowers from DHS! From organizing to packing and loading for transport, you made sure everything ran smoothly—thank you!

Congratulations on your acceptance into the 2025 Montgomery County Youth Chorus!

We will have TEN singers representing Damascus High School next school year – the most we've ever had!

Mixed Choir: *Anvita Divvela, Jack Farmer, Kylie Gray, Zoie Gregory, Jason Hiltbrand, Rosie Kuszewski, Liana Khouri* (incoming freshman), and *Henry Suschak* (incoming freshman)

Treble Choir: *Raquel Lagos* and *Isabella Ugalde*

Celebrating Our Graduates in the SCB Program!

Congratulations to the incredible students in our School Community-Based (SCB) program who graduated yesterday: *Taliyah Cooper, Khalid Sulton-Ali, Joshua Dickerson, Willow Kampelman, Ibrahim Yansaneh, Santiago Sotomarino, and Sebastian Sotomarino!* The ceremony was a heartfelt celebration of perseverance, growth, and community. Thank you to the SCB staff for organizing such a meaningful event and to our families for their continued support. We are so proud of our graduates and can't wait to see all the amazing things they'll do next.

[Here](#) are the photos from graduation!

Feel free to download and share the photos from this amazing milestone with your friends and family.

Congratulations again to all of our graduates!

Swarm Schedules

Next Week: School's Still in Session Monday & Tuesday—Let's Make It Count!

Day	Event(s)
Monday, 06/16	Early Release Dismissal Bell Schedule
Tuesday, 06/17	Early Release Dismissal Bell Schedule - <i>Last Day of School</i>

Mark your calendars! School Year 2025-26

Day	Event(s)
Thursday, 08/21	Open House/BTSN - 3:30PM-6:30PM- <i>Tentative</i>
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Student Service Learning form submission

Starting now, there is a new and preferred way for students to submit their Student Service Learning (SSL) Activity Verification forms! You can now complete and submit your form online by using [[this link](#)] and attaching a copy of the completed form. If you submit your form online, you do *not* need to turn in a hard copy. You will receive a confirmation email once your form has been received. Submitting your forms electronically helps speed up the process of logging your SSL hours. If you have any questions, please reach out to Ms. Stevenson at Kristen_Stevenson@mcpsmd.org.

Montgomery County Fair Volunteers - Earn SSL Hours

This is Tammy Hertel with the Damascus Lions club. We are a service organization. 100 % of the funds we make go to the community with scholarships for students and back into the community. I am in charge of the Lions club Ice cream dairy barn at the Montgomery County fair this year. The Montgomery County Fair Ice cream Dairy barn is open on Friday August 8 -16 . clean up days July 26 & August 2 830a-12p- Montgomery county fairgrounds. We need student and adult volunteers every day from 11am- 11pm. We serve ice cream and everyone has a great time. Students do get SSL hours. You also get Free tickets into the fair, just work 4 hours and the rest of the day is yours. You also get to eat all the ice cream you want. You do need to be going into 9th grade or older. Parents can sign up too. All procedures go back into the community. Please sign up on the Sign up genius for a shift.

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PTSA Message: End-of-Year Staff Appreciation Luncheon on Friday, June 13th

As we wrap up another incredible school year, your DHS PTSA is excited to host our End-of-Year Staff Appreciation Luncheon on Friday, June 13th to honor our amazing teachers and staff! We'd love your support to make this event extra special. We've created a [Signup Genius](#) with donation slots for food, drinks, supplies, and monetary contributions. While all donations are truly appreciated, monetary or gift card contributions are especially helpful, as they allow us to purchase items in bulk, saving time and money. That said, we understand some families may prefer to shop and donate specific items, and that's great too! If you'd like to support with a monetary donation, please click [here](#).

Important Drop-Off Note:

Perishable and non-perishable items should be dropped off on or before Tuesday, June 11th. Please contact Monique for the drop-off address: 240-246-3503 Thank you for helping us celebrate the amazing staff who do so much for our students every day! *DHS PTSA*

Class of 2025 Graduation Ceremony

Our graduates and their families came together for a heartfelt and inspiring ceremony that honored years of hard work, growth, and success. It was a beautiful send-off filled with pride, joy, and hope for the bright futures ahead. Congratulations to the Class of 2025—you make us all proud!

Underclassman Award Celebration

This special event recognized the outstanding accomplishments of our underclassmen across academics, leadership, and service. Students were celebrated for their dedication, perseverance, and positive impact on our school community. Thank you to everyone who helped organize and support this meaningful celebration!

National Honor Society Induction

We honored the newest members of the National Honor Society, recognizing their commitment to scholarship, leadership, character, and service. This prestigious event highlighted the dedication and excellence of our top students and welcomed them into a tradition of outstanding achievement and community involvement. Thank you to all staff, families, and students who contributed to making these events memorable and inspiring for our entire Damascus High School community!

Shout-Out to Our Student-Athlete Leaders!

Congratulations to ***Caryss Canda & Ellis Brown*** on being selected for the 2025–2026 MCPS Student-Athlete Leadership Council! We're incredibly proud of your commitment to representing Damascus High School and modeling the RAISE core values. Your leadership, voice, and dedication will help elevate athletics across the county.

MCPS Climate Surveys – We Want to Hear from You! Must be completed by June 9, 2025

Please take 10 minutes to complete the survey and share your school experience.

Why your voice matters:

- ✓ Helps us understand what's working—and where we can improve
 - ✓ Supports welcoming, respectful, and inclusive school communities
 - ✓ Informs planning for the upcoming school year
- ➡ [Parents/Caregivers – Take the survey today!](#)
- ➡ [Students – Take the survey today!](#)

Swarm Schedules

Next Week

Day	Event(s)
Monday 06/09	Regular Bell Schedule
Tuesday 06/10	Regular Bell Schedule
Wednesday 06/11	Regular Bell Schedule
Thursday 06/12	Hornet Time Bell Schedule
Friday 06/13	Early Release Dismissal Bell Schedule

Following Week

Day	Event(s)
Monday, 06/16	Early Release Dismissal Bell Schedule
Tuesday, 06/17	Early Release Dismissal Bell Schedule - <i>Last Day of School</i>

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Thursday, 08/21	Open House/BTSN - 3:30PM-6:30PM- <i>Tentative</i>
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Hornet Happenings

DHS Continues to be a Closed Campus for 9th & 10th Graders

We want to remind everyone that our closed campus policy remains in effect. Only 11th-grade students are permitted to leave school property during lunch. As part of our school safety procedures, 9th and 10th graders are not allowed to leave campus during the lunch period. This expectation helps ensure the safety, supervision, and well-being of all underclassmen during the school day. We appreciate your continued support in reinforcing this expectation with your student. Your partnership is vital in maintaining a safe and structured environment at Damascus High School. Thank you for your ongoing collaboration and commitment to our school community.

Community Reminder: Student Parking at Weis Shopping Center

It has come to our attention that students have been parking at the Weis Shopping Center on a regular basis. Please be advised that this is private property, and parking there without conducting business at one of the stores is not permitted. Vehicles parked in the Weis lot may be subject to towing at the owner's expense. We appreciate your cooperation in ensuring students park only in approved school-designated areas. Let's work together to maintain positive relationships with our community partners.

Community Reminder - Activity Bus

Please note that activity buses will no longer be running for the remainder of the school year. However, the media center will remain open for students until 3:30 PM each day to support their academic needs.

Senior Portraits—Class of 2026!

Click [HERE](#) for information on **senior portraits** and how to sign up for an appointment (7/7, 7/10 or 7/18). Seniors will receive their student IDs during their session. Please note that a portion of picture sales helps support DHS. Note that there is no sitting fee for the yearbook only pose. If you have any questions about senior portraits, contact VOS via seniors@vosphoto.com.

Student Ambassadors Needed

Hey hornets! We are looking for students who love DHS and who would like to give tours to incoming students and their families this summer. This is an excellent way to share your DHS pride with the community, help incoming students feel more at ease and earn some SSL hours. Stop by Ms. Cleveland's office, room 163, before school or during lunch for more information or send her an email at Melissa_A_Cleveland@mcpsmd.org.

Boundary Study Engagement Sessions & Virtual Office Hours

Virtual engagement sessions were held on 6/2, in which initial options were shared. In-person meetings were also held on 6/3 & 6/4. There will be weekly virtual office hours offered on Tuesdays (8-9am), Thursdays (6-7pm), and Fridays (12-1pm), [ZOOM LINK](#) Meeting ID: 812 8216 3918 and Passcode: MCPS

Please visit these links for additional information:

[Boundary Study Homepage](#)

[MCPS Initial Options for Boundary Study Options for Opening of Crown High School & Expansion of Damascus High School MCPS Options Viewer - Crown/Damascus Study Areas](#) (can search addresses)

[MCPS Initial Boundary Study Options](#)

After reviewing the initial options, please consider providing feedback via the [Initial Options Survey](#).

Montgomery County Fair Volunteers - Earn SSL Hours

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<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084CA4A92AA3FF2-55514727-lions>

Media Center Books Due!

We still have well over 100 library books that need to be returned. Please encourage your child to return any and all books as soon as possible. Many students already have obligations for late books. If you have any questions don't hesitate to contact the media center at 240-207-2230 or email Catherine_E_Ward@mcpsmd.org. Thank you!

Free Mobile Health Clinic

Please see the link above with important information about a free mobile health clinic.

If you have any questions, please call Ms. Veronica Palleres, Parent Community Coordinator, at 240-550-3956

Student Parking 25-26

Information and the online application will be posted over the summer. In the meantime, please ensure all obligations are cleared. Check for outstanding obligations via [School Cash Online](#).

*Mensaje en español***Hive Highlights****Class of 2025 Graduation Ceremony – Tomorrow!**

We are thrilled for tomorrow's Graduation Ceremony as we come together to honor the outstanding achievements of the Class of 2025! Excitement is in the air, and while we are keeping a close eye on the weather, we remain hopeful for a beautiful outdoor celebration.

As a reminder, Damascus High School will be **closed** tomorrow, Friday, May 30, in recognition of this special occasion.

The final decision regarding whether the ceremony will be held indoors or outdoors will be made by 6:00 AM tomorrow. An update will be shared via Remind—so please stay tuned (and we apologize in advance for the early message!).

We look forward to a joyful and memorable day filled with pride, reflection, and celebration. Congratulations in advance to our graduates—we are so proud of you!

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Tuesday 06/03	Regular Bell Schedule <i>College and Career Readiness presentation Junior Assembly - Period 4</i>
Wednesday 06/04	Regular Bell Schedule <i>Underclassman Award Ceremony - Periods 2/3</i>
Thursday 06/05	Hornet Time Bell Schedule
Friday 06/06	Professional Day- Districtwide - No School for Students

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Hive Highlights

Today: The Seniors' Last Day!

Seniors, today was your last big roam—
But don't get comfy, you're not gone home!
Thursday's breakfast and rehearsal call,
So bring your smiles and give it your all.
Next Friday, you'll shine with cap and gown,
Then step boldly out and claim your crown!
We'll miss you lots—Hornets through and through,
Go make us proud in all you do!

Governor's Merit Award



The Governor's Merit Award is one of the highest academic honors a student can receive at the high school level. This distinction is awarded to students who rank in the top 5% of the graduating class, based on their weighted GPA as of the end of the first semester of senior year. Congratulations to these outstanding scholars—you represent the very best of our school.

Megan L. Antonishek

Vince T. Dao

Emma K. Duffy-Tucci

Grace S. Duffy-Tucci

Morgan D. Holland

Sarah B. Jankowski

Brandon D. Khouri

Ambrosia L. Kimball (not pictured)

Maria E. Kirby

Laura S. Medina Cujar

Keira V. Rifkin

Juliana S. Ruffner
Madison E. Slayton
Juliet L. Ventura (not pictured)
Ellis R. Vunga (not pictured)

Senior Awards & Farewell Shout-Out

A huge congratulations to all of our seniors who were recognized during Monday's Senior Awards Ceremony! We are incredibly proud of your achievements and all that you've accomplished. Here is the slideshow from the ceremony — a celebration of your hard work, dedication, and successes! [Senior Awards Ceremony 2025](#) Today, we also say goodbye to the Class of 2025 as this marks their last day of school. Thank you for the memories, the spirit, and the legacy you've left behind.

Message to our Seniors from our Bus Drivers

As your school bus driver, I want to take a moment to congratulate you on your graduation! It has been a pleasure to be part of your journey over the years. Watching you grow and achieve so much has brought me great joy. As you step into this new chapter of your lives, I wish you a future filled with success, happiness, and exciting adventures. Remember to always follow your dreams and take pride in every accomplishment. Best wishes for an amazing journey ahead!

Shout-Out to Jalen Marshall!



Congratulations to Jalen for being selected as one of only 13 students nationwide to receive the National Leadership Award sponsored by Chick-Fil-A! He was honored with a surprise celebration on Thursday and free Chick-Fil-A for a year! Way to go, Jalen—your leadership and character make us

LFI/SCB Talent Show!

A huge shoutout to all the amazing students who participated in the LFI/SCB Talent Show! Your performances were full of heart, talent, and joy—it was truly a celebration of your strengths and creativity. Thank you to the incredible staff and paraeducators who supported and encouraged our students every step of the way. Your dedication made this event a

powerful experience for everyone in the audience. We were thrilled to welcome students and staff from Damascus Elementary, who shared how much the show meant to them. This event truly brought our community together and showcased the amazing things happening in our programs. Well done, Hornets!

Shoutout to Our Dual Enrollment Stars!

We are incredibly proud to celebrate five outstanding Damascus High School Hornets who were recognized at the 2025 MCPS–Montgomery College Dual Enrollment Recognition Ceremony! Join us in congratulating:

Emmelyne Diep

Melak Hameed

Jazmin Hernandez

Ambrosia Kimball

Nancy Sinyan

These amazing students have demonstrated exceptional dedication and academic excellence by successfully completing college-level coursework through Montgomery College while still in high school. Some even earned associate degrees before graduation! This achievement reflects their hard work, perseverance, and commitment to their futures—and we couldn't be prouder!

Spring Jazz Concert

Shout-out to our amazing Jazz Ensemble for an outstanding concert Thursday night! Under the direction of Dr. Doherty, with special guest conductor Rick Hirsch and guest soloist Mike Kamuf, our students delivered an unforgettable performance filled with talent, passion, and artistry. Bravo to all!

Spring Chorus & Orchestra Concert

A huge round of applause to all the students who performed in our Spring Chorus & Orchestra Concert! Your hard work, talent, and passion for music were on full display, and the performance was nothing short of amazing.

Shout-out to Latina Leaders at DHS!

A big shout-out to ***Laura Medina Cujar*** and ***Luna Malaga Perez*** for proudly passing the DHS torch of student leadership to the next generation of Latina leaders. We are excited to congratulate ***Adriana Chuta Fuentes*** and ***Alexandra Angulu*** on receiving this honor and stepping into leadership roles for the upcoming school year. Adriana and Alexandra will represent our Latina students with pride, dedication, and heart. Their passion and commitment will undoubtedly inspire others across our school community. We look forward to the positive impact they will make—and we're here to support them every step of the way on their leadership journey. 🎥 [Watch this video](#) to see this special moment and join us in celebrating their leadership!

The Class of 2005 Reunion!



Here's a photo from the Class of 2005 reunion last weekend — it's always heartwarming to see our alumni staying connected and making memories together after all these years. Can you guess which staff member is pictured here?

Swarm Schedules

**Damascus High School will be closed next Friday due to our Graduation Ceremony.
Congratulations to the Class of 2025!**

Next Week

Day	Event(s)
Monday 05/26	Holiday- Memorial Day - MCPS Schools Closed
Tuesday 05/27	Regular Bell Schedule
Wednesday 05/28	Regular Bell Schedule
Thursday 05/29	Hornet Time Bell Schedule Senior Breakfast 7:45AM, Graduation Rehearsal, and Clapout at feeder schools
Friday 05/30	DHS Graduation at 9AM- DHS Closed for Graduation Ceremony

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End of School Year

Day	Event(s)
Friday, 06/13	<u>Early Release Dismissal Bell Schedule</u>
Monday, 06/16	<u>Early Release Dismissal Bell Schedule</u>
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Hornet Happenings

Underclassmen Awards on June 4 at 9:00 AM

We will have our Underclassmen Awards ceremony on June 4 starting at 9:00 AM. Families of students who will receive an award will be emailed an invitation on Tuesday of next week. Students will also receive notification of their invitation and will be excused during periods 2 and 3 for the ceremony.

DHS Continues to be a Closed Campus for 9th & 10th Graders

As we celebrate our seniors on their last day today, we want to remind everyone that our closed campus policy remains in effect. Only 11th-grade students are permitted to leave school property during lunch. As part of our school safety procedures, 9th and 10th graders are not allowed to leave campus during the lunch period. This policy helps ensure the safety, supervision, and well-being of all underclassmen during the school day. We appreciate your continued support in reinforcing this expectation with your student. Your partnership is vital in maintaining a safe and structured environment at Damascus High School. Thank you for your ongoing collaboration and commitment to our school community.

Community Reminder: Student Parking at Weis Shopping Center

It has come to our attention that students have been parking at the Weis Shopping Center on a regular basis. Please be advised that this is private property, and parking there without conducting business at one of the stores is not permitted. Vehicles parked in the Weis lot may be subject to towing at the owner's expense. We appreciate your cooperation in ensuring students park only in approved school-designated areas. Let's work together to maintain positive relationships with our community partners.

Community Reminder - Activity Bus

Please note that activity buses will no longer be running for the remainder of the school year. However, the media center will remain open for students until 3:30 PM each day to support their academic needs.

*Mensaje en español***Hive Highlights****It's Prom Day!**

Let's have fun, celebrate safely, and make amazing memories together.

Please take a moment to review our Prom Expectations [here](#)

Can't wait to see most of you tonight—let's make it a night to remember

Shoutout and huge congrats to our Girls Softball Team—Regional Champs!

Come out and support them in their next game at Hereford, Saturday (Tomorrow) at 2 PM. Let's go, Hornets!

Congratulations to our newly elected SGA and Class Officers!

Your leadership will help shape the future of our school, and we're so proud of each of you.

We're excited for what's ahead—thank you for stepping up!

See all the election results here: [2025-2026 SGA & Class Officers](#)

A Day to Remember!

A big shout-out to everyone who attended the LFI/SCB Prom last Friday! It was a truly amazing event filled with joy, dancing, and community spirit. Thank you to all who helped make it such a memorable celebration!

Bravo to Our Broadway Stars!

What an amazing Broadway Revue performance last Friday! Our talented students lit up the stage with incredible energy, creativity, and heart. A special shout-out to our seniors—you will be deeply missed, and your legacy will continue to inspire. Thank you to everyone who made this show such a success!

MCPS Athletics Allied Softball Coach of the Year!

We are proud to celebrate an outstanding member of our Hornet family — **Mrs. McGaffin** has been named the MCPS Athletics Allied Softball Coach of the Year! This incredible recognition speaks volumes about her dedication, passion, and tireless commitment to our student-athletes. Mrs. McGaffin's leadership on and off the field has made a lasting impact, and we could not be more thrilled to see her honored in this way.

Shoutout to the MC Department of Environmental Protection's RainScapes for Schools Growing Program!

Big shoutout to **Ms. Mayhew** and her students for their fantastic work with the Montgomery County RainScapes for Schools program! Thanks to their efforts growing native plants, Damascus High is making a real impact on local environmental projects. We appreciate Ms. Mayhew's dedication to hands-on learning and sustainability!

Congratulations to Laura Medina Cujar!

Please join us in congratulating **Laura Medina Cujar** for being named the Damascus High School 2025 Hispanic Alliance for Education Distinguished Hispanic Scholar! Laura was selected based on her strong academic performance, pride in her Hispanic heritage, and her outstanding achievements in leadership, service, and scholarship. With a GPA above 3.5 and a powerful reflection on what her heritage means to her, Laura exemplifies the excellence and spirit this recognition celebrates. We are so proud of you, Laura—thank you for representing Damascus with such distinction!

Following Week

Day	Event(s)
Monday 05/19	Regular Bell Schedule Senior Awards Night at 6PM
Tuesday 05/20	Regular Bell Schedule
Wednesday 05/21	Regular Bell Schedule DHS Class of 2025 Graduation Student-Parent Meeting via Zoom at 6PM Meeting ID: 850 4298 2853 Passcode: DHS
Thursday 05/22	Hornet Time Bell Schedule
Friday 05/23	Regular Bell Schedule Last Day for Seniors

Following Week

Day	Event(s)
Monday 05/26	Holiday- Memorial Day - MCPS Schools Closed
Tuesday 05/27	Regular Bell Schedule
Wednesday 05/28	Regular Bell Schedule
Thursday 05/29	Hornet Time Bell Schedule Senior Breakfast 7:45AM, Graduation Rehearsal, and Clapout at feeder schools
Friday 05/30	DHS Graduation at 9AM- DHS Closed for Graduation

End of School Year Events:

Friday, 06/13	Early Release Dismissal Bell Schedule
Monday, 06/16	Early Release Dismissal Bell Schedule
Tuesday, 06/17	Early Release Dismissal Bell Schedule - <i>Last Day of School</i>

DHS Class of 2025 Graduation Parent Meeting via Zoom on 05/21 at 6PM

With the end of the school year and graduation approaching I wanted to make sure that you have all of the information that you need. Please refer to the [“All Things Senior”](#) slide deck regularly. These slides include information about graduation, graduation tickets, cap & gown distribution, senior breakfast, graduation rehearsal and more! It includes everything you need to know and is being updated regularly. I will also be holding an informational zoom meeting on Wednesday, 5/21/25 at 6pm. Please see the [zoom invitation](#) below for login information. Please email me at Megan_K_Stultz@mcpsmd.org with any questions.

Topic: DHS Class of 2025 Graduation Parent Meeting

Time: May 21, 2025 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://mcpsmd.zoom.us/j/85042982853?pwd=EM9UAteaLQUbZ3FiHFPGU1VnMQKWVl.1>

Meeting ID: 850 4298 2853

Passcode: DHS

Senior Breakfast 7:45 AM- Thursday, 05/29

Senior breakfast will be held on the morning of graduation rehearsal, Thursday, May 29, 2025. Senior breakfast is put on by senior parents and runs completely on donations from senior families. If you are interested/willing to contribute, please sign up using [this link](#). Thank you to Dawn Cranford and Linda Rutherford for leading this event! Please reach out to them with any questions: Linda Rutherford- 301-237-8857 & Dawn Cranford- 240-793-2764

Edmentum

Attention Edmentum Students! Seniors, all assignments must be submitted by 11:59 PM on Friday, May 20, 2025. This is the final deadline for any Seniors. All underclass students must submit by 11:59 AM on Friday, June 6, 2025. Please see our [DHS Edmentum information](#) if you need any additional information.

MCAP Testing:

Our Spring MCAP testing will end with our Algebra 1 exam! Testing will occur during the mornings (7:45-10:10 am) on Monday (5/19) and Tuesday (5/20). Students who are currently taking Algebra 1, as well as any student who has already passed this class but has not taken the Algebra 1 MCAP yet, will be completing Sections 1 & 2 of the test on Monday and Sections 3 & 4 of the test on Tuesday. [Here is a document](#) with all room assignments. Additionally, room assignments are posted on the Main Office windows. If you are not sure where to go, please check there or ask a staff member and they will be able to assist you. Testing will be complete at 10:10 am and students will continue with their day by reporting to their normally scheduled Period 4 class.

Important reminders to prepare for testing:

- Please bring your fully charged chromebook and your chromebook charger to your testing session.
- The school will provide students with scratch paper and pencils to use if needed while testing.
- Try to get 8 hours of sleep the night before you test, so you are able to stay focused throughout your testing sessions.
- Eat a good breakfast the morning of your test to boost your energy levels and alertness while testing. (Reminder, there is breakfast available to students in the DHS cafeteria every morning.)
- All personal electronic equipment not related to testing (e.g. cell phones, smart watches, iPods/iPads, and any other device that is not approved or could be used to give a student an unfair advantage) are not permitted to be on a person during testing. Please keep these devices off and clear from the testing environment.

Please let your school counselor or Lora Brazil know if you have any questions.

Yearbook

Capture the memories that will last a lifetime! Don't miss the chance to celebrate your student's achievements and friendships by [reserving their yearbook today](#). Supplies are limited, secure your copy before they're gone! Contact Karen_R_Zappone@mcpsmd.org with any questions.

Yearbooks will be distributed during lunch starting May 20th. The price will increase to \$105 starting May 20. Students can continue to purchase a yearbook for cash or check made payable to DHS.

MCPS Summer School Program

Summer School 2025 focuses primarily on high school students who need to earn credits towards graduation. Both In-person and Virtual High School Summer School Programs will be offered this year. More information including cost and course availability can be found [here](#). DHS students interested in registering for summer school courses should complete [this](#) interest form.

Signs of Suicide® (SOS®) Prevention Program

Next week, all students in Grades 9–12 will participate in the Signs of Suicide® (SOS®) Prevention Program as part of MCPS's commitment to supporting student mental health. This evidence-based program teaches students to recognize signs of depression and suicide risk in themselves or others and encourages them to seek help using the ACT (Acknowledge, Care, Tell) approach. Students will also have access to resources, including the ACT to Save a Life newsletter and a list of mental health supports. If you have any questions, please contact your child's counselor. Additional information can be found in these links ([English](#)) and ([Spanish](#)).

Academic Programs Analysis - Your Input is Needed!

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) is conducting a study to ensure that high school students have equitable access to high-quality academic programs that reflect the needs of our student community, enabling them to thrive in their futures and meet the demands of tomorrow's workplace and industries. The changes made as part of this analysis will create a lasting foundation for many years, so we want to hear from all families, including those whose children are not yet in high school. Your feedback is very important to ensure that the needs of all students are considered. As part of this effort, we invite all families to complete this short [survey](#). The survey will take no more than 5 minutes to complete and closes on May 15, 2025.

Information about the Upcoming Public Engagement Sessions for the Boundary Studies

We invite you to come and participate in multiple upcoming engagement sessions for the boundary studies for the reopening of Charles W. Woodward High School, the opening of Crown High School, and the expansion of Damascus High School. In these sessions, the initial options for each study will be shared, along with information about how the changes could potentially impact families whose middle and high schools are included in the boundary study scopes. Please see the MCPS boundary studies [webpage](#) for more information about the dates, times, and locations for these in-person and virtual one-hour sessions.

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05.15.25- Prom 2025: Helping Our Students Celebrate Safely

Dear Damascus Community,

Tomorrow night, we'll come together at the Marriott Rio to celebrate our 11th and 12th Grade Prom—an exciting milestone and one of the most memorable events of the year. While we look forward to a joyful evening, I also want to emphasize the importance of making safe, responsible choices.

Today, our juniors and seniors attended an important assembly led by Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD), focusing on the risks of impaired and distracted driving, and the importance of smart decision-making. You can view the slideshow from the presentation [here](#).

As you prepare for prom, please take a moment to talk with your student about:

- Their plans before and after prom
- Who they'll be with and where
- How they'll get to and from the venue safely
- The importance of staying in adult-supervised, substance-free environments

Prom Safety and Supervision- [Damascus High School Prom Expectations - May 2025](#)

The dance will be supervised by Damascus staff, our security team, and Montgomery County Police. Our shared goal is for every student to have fun and get home safely.

Thank you for your support and partnership in helping make this a safe and successful celebration.

B. Rohner, Principal

05.13.25- Prom 2025: Helping Our Students Celebrate Safely

Dear Damascus Community,

I hope this message finds you and your family well. This Friday, we will come together at the Marriott Rio to celebrate our 11th and 12th Grade Prom — one of the most anticipated and memorable events of the school year. As principal, I look forward to this evening with great enthusiasm, but also a deep sense of responsibility.

Prom is a meaningful milestone — especially for our seniors, who are closing out their high school journey, and for juniors who are beginning to take part in this long standing tradition. It's a night to dress up, make memories, and enjoy time with friends. But as we celebrate, it's also important to acknowledge the realities that come with it. Poor choices involving drugs or alcohol can quickly turn a joyful night into one with serious consequences. I feel it's important to speak openly and honestly as we head into this special evening.

A Prom Plan – What Parents & Students Should Discuss - [Damascus High School Prom Expectations - May 2025](#)

Now is the time for every family to have a clear plan for prom night. I strongly encourage parents and guardians to have conversations with their students about expectations and safety. Consider asking the following:

- Where will your child be before prom?
- Who will they be with, and will an adult be present?
- What are their plans after prom?
- Will they be in a supervised, alcohol- and drug-free environment?
- How will they get there and return home safely?
- When will they check in with you after the dance?

Safety & Supervision at Prom

We have taken several steps to help ensure a safe and positive experience for everyone. The event will be supervised by:

- Damascus High School staff chaperones
- Our security team
- Montgomery County Police Officers

Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD). Assembly- Thursday, May 15, 2025 during 4th period

We have an assembly on Thursday during 4th period, presented by Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD). All juniors and seniors will attend. SADD is a student-led organization focused on promoting healthy decision-making and preventing risky behaviors such as impaired driving, substance use, and distracted driving. The assembly will emphasize safety, personal responsibility, and the importance of making smart choices, especially during celebratory times like the end of the school year.

Shared Responsibility

This is a night to celebrate all that our students have accomplished. Our goal is for every student to have fun — and to return home safely. That only happens when students make responsible choices and when we, as a community, work together to support them. Please talk with your student about expectations. Please remind them that showing up under the influence of any substance — or engaging in risky behavior — puts their safety and their future at risk.

Thank you for your continued partnership in making events like this successful and safe. If you have any questions or concerns, I'm always here to talk.

B. Rohner. Principal

05.09.25

[Mensaje en español](#)



[Damascus HS Junior/Senior Prom Expectations](#)- Next Friday, May 16th!

Prom is just over a week away, and we can't wait to celebrate this unforgettable night with our students! As we get ready for the big night, let's keep safety front and center. Parents—talk with your kids about their plans before, during, and after prom. Make sure they're with trusted friends, supervised, and in safe, alcohol- and drug-free environments. We have added extra security, staff, and police presence at the Marriott and are setting up multiple dance floors to ensure a fun and safe night for everyone. Let's work together to make Prom 2025 amazing—for all the right reasons!

Damascus Best Buddies Shoutout!

A huge congratulations to everyone who participated in the Maryland Best Buddies Friendship Walk! We're proud to announce that the Damascus High School Chapter took home the Best Media Award, and a special shoutout goes to

Jason Sussman, who was honored as Chapter President of the Year!

Way to represent DHS — your dedication to friendship and inclusion truly shines!

Shoutout to Our Outstanding Students!

Congratulations to the following students who will be recognized at the Superintendent's All-County Fine Arts Celebration at Seneca Valley early next week! Your talent and dedication in the arts make us proud.

Choral Music: ***Nicholas Ramirez***

Dance: ***Luna Malaga Perez***

General Music: ***Brandon Khouri***

Instrumental Music (Band, Jazz, Orchestra): ***Jackson Dworsak***

Technical Theatre: ***Mars Dunn***

Theatre Performance: ***Nicholas Ramirez***

Visual Arts 2D: ***Ellena Cina***

Visual Arts 3D: ***Gabi Russi***

Way to go, artists — your creativity and passion inspire us all!

Celebrating Our Student-Athletes on Signing Day!



A huge congratulations to all the student-athletes who participated in the Signing Day Ceremony last Friday! We're so proud of your achievements and the hard work that got you here.!

Jack Reiter, St. Mary's College
Madison Slayton, Wingate University
Sarah Jankowski, Winthrop University
Josie Hoffacker, Muhlenberg College
Brenden Gallagher, Palm Beach Atlantic University
Cam Wilberding, Shepherd University
Will Heyse, Stevenson University
Mason Walter, Salisbury University
Cesar Aguirre, College of Southern Maryland
Michael Cooley, Stonehill College
Noah Fosten, Seton Hill University
Joe Stack, Catholic University
Jackson Haley, Southern Virginia University
Jacey Andoh-Thompson, Salisbury University
Jade Trowell, Wheeling University
Eddie Obobi, Seton Hill University
Eli Vasquez, Chestnut Hill College
Dathan Goins, Southwestern College
Jason Sussman, James Madison University
Gabe Hernandez, Roanoke College
Lexis Owens, Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Jeremiah Sandy, Shorter University
Gabriel Mbaki, St. Francis (Pa)

Wishing you all the best as you continue your athletic journeys at the collegiate level — your dedication, talent, and perseverance are truly inspiring

Allied Softball Team - County Champions!



Huge shoutout to the Allied Softball Team for their incredible achievement as County Champions! Their hard work, teamwork, and dedication led them to this well-deserved victory. We couldn't be more proud of their success and the positive impact they've made on our school community. Congratulations to the entire team and Coach McGaffin and Coach Krop on this outstanding accomplishment!

Huge shoutout to our amazing **PTSA** for the delicious food on both Monday and today in honor of Teacher Appreciation Week! Thank you for your continued support and for making our staff feel so valued!



Swarm Schedules

AP Exams Are Here – Important Reminders!

Students taking AP exams over the next two weeks, please carefully review the following guidelines to ensure a smooth testing experience:

Arrival Times:

- Morning exams: Arrive by 7:40 AM
- Afternoon exams: Arrive by 11:40 AM

AP Exam Schedule: Please refer to the official exam schedule to confirm your testing dates and times.

What to Bring (and What Not to Bring): Make sure you're prepared! Click [\[here\]](#) for a full list of approved materials and prohibited items for AP testing.

College Board Login: You must have your College Board username and password memorized to access your exam. Don't wait until the day of!

Students with Accommodations: You will receive an email from me the afternoon before your exam with your specific testing room location.

Afternoon Exams & Transportation: Please note: most afternoon exams will not end by 2:30 PM. Be sure to arrange for transportation home if needed.

You've worked hard — stay focused and do your best. You've got this!

Next Week

Day	Event(s)
Monday 05/12	Regular Bell Schedule
Tuesday 05/13	Regular Bell Schedule
Wednesday 05/14	Regular Bell Schedule
Thursday 05/15	Hornet Time Bell Schedule PD4 - Prom Assembly for 11th & 12th Graders- Please review our Prom Expectations We will have a special guest from the MC Police Department to discuss crucial topics such as the dangers of alcohol and drug use, safety measures, and making responsible decisions. This conversation is essential as we get ready for the event. There will be a senior meeting in the gym following the prom assembly. Ms. Stultz will review graduation information.
Friday 05/16	Regular Bell Schedule- <i>Prom at Rio Marriott at 8PM</i>

Following Week

Day	Event(s)
Monday 05/19	Regular Bell Schedule Senior Awards Night at 6PM
Tuesday 05/20	Regular Bell Schedule
Wednesday 05/21	Regular Bell Schedule
Thursday 05/22	Hornet Time Bell Schedule
Friday 05/23	Regular Bell Schedule Last Day for Seniors

End of School Year Events:

Day	Event(s)
Thursday, 05/29	Senior Breakfast 7:45AM, Graduation Rehearsal, and Clapout at feeder schools
Friday, 05/30	DHS Graduation on Stadium Field at 9AM
Friday, 06/13	Early Release Dismissal Bell Schedule

Monday, 06/16	Early Release Dismissal Bell Schedule
Tuesday, 06/17	Early Release Dismissal Bell Schedule - <i>Last Day of School</i>

Hornet Happenings

Pre-Prom/Graduation Ceremony Assembly

There will be a pre-prom assembly on Thursday, May 15th during the 4th period and into lunch for all juniors and seniors in the gym. After the assembly, there will be a senior meeting for all seniors with Ms. Stultz who will review graduation information.

Senior Breakfast 7:45 AM- Thursday, 05/29

Senior breakfast will be held on the morning of graduation rehearsal, Thursday, May 29, 2025. Senior breakfast is put on by senior parents and runs completely on donations from senior families. If you are interested/willing to contribute, please sign up using [this link](#). Thank you to Dawn Cranford and Linda Rutherford for leading this event! Please reach out to them with any questions: Linda Retherford- 301-237-8857 & Dawn Cranford- 240-793-2764

Yearbook

Capture the memories that will last a lifetime! Don't miss the chance to celebrate your student's achievements and friendships by [reserving their yearbook today](#). Current price is \$95. Supplies are limited, secure your copy before they're gone! Contact Karen_R_Zappone@mcpsmd.org with any questions.

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Summer School 2025 focuses primarily on high school students who need to earn credits towards graduation. Both In-person and Virtual High School Summer School Programs will be offered this year. More information including cost and course availability can be found [here](#). DHS students interested in registering for summer school courses should complete [this](#) interest form.

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Dear Damascus High School Families,

I am writing to inform you about an incident that occurred today (Thursday, May 8, 2025) involving Damascus High School students. During the lunch period, an altercation took place off school property, outside the supervision of school staff. The situation involved a physical confrontation between students, and unfortunately, a video of the incident has been recorded and is circulating within the school community.

Although the altercation occurred off-campus, we take all incidents involving our students very seriously, as they affect the well-being of our entire school community. We are actively investigating and working to address the matter in collaboration with Montgomery County Police, in accordance with the MCPS Student Code of Conduct.

The safety and well-being of our students remain our top priorities. We strongly encourage you to take this opportunity to have a conversation with your child about the importance of respectful interactions, responsible social media use, and the consequences of engaging in or promoting inappropriate behavior.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support in fostering a safe, respectful, and positive school culture. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out.

B. Rohner

Bradley W. Rohner
Principal
Damascus High School

05.02.25

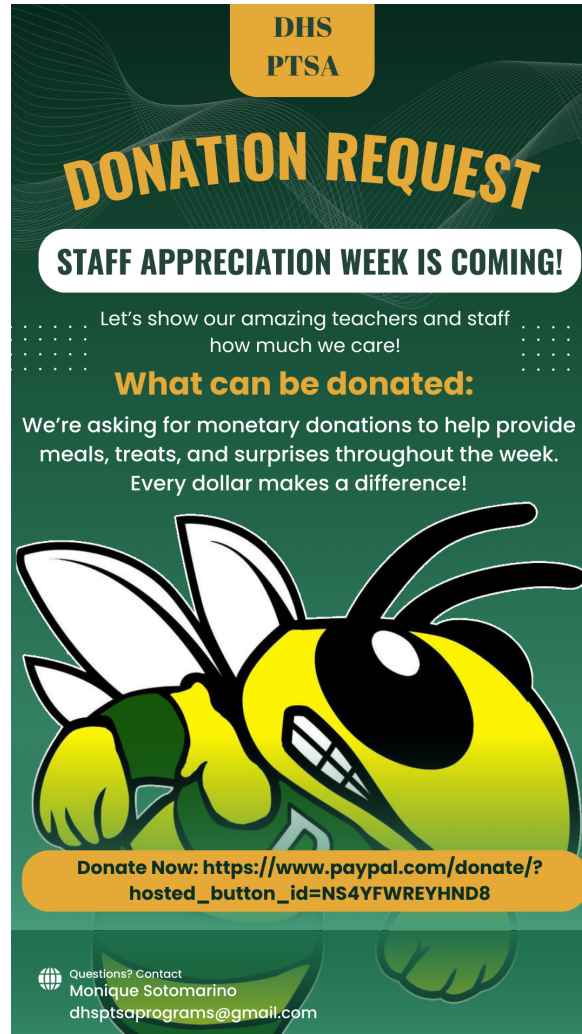
[*Mensaje en español*](#)

Help Us Celebrate Our Incredible Staff!

Staff Appreciation Week is coming up May 5th–9th, and we need your support to make it unforgettable! DHS PTSA is collecting monetary donations to treat our amazing teachers and staff to meals, goodies, and surprises all week long.

Want to help? Donate here: https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=NS4YFWREYHND8

Thank you for making a difference!



International Night

Huge shoutout to our amazing community for making last Friday's International Night unforgettable! From the delicious food to the vibrant dancing and stunning fashion showcase—it was a beautiful celebration of culture and unity. Thank you to all who made it happen!

Spring Band Concert

A heartfelt congratulations to all the talented students who participated in Wednesday night's Band Concert! The evening was a wonderful showcase of dedication, teamwork, and musical excellence. Thank you to everyone who made the event such a memorable experience for our community!

Asian Heritage Assembly

A big shoutout to everyone who made our Asian Heritage Assembly unforgettable! From the vibrant performances it was a beautiful celebration of culture, diversity, and community. Thank you to all who contributed and made this event a success!

Happy Upcoming Cinco de Mayo – May 5, 2025

Wishing a joyful and meaningful Cinco de Mayo to all who celebrate! While the day marks the Mexican army's victory at the Battle of Puebla, in the U.S. it has grown into a vibrant celebration of Mexican culture, pride, and heritage. To all observing, may your day be filled with community, reflection, and celebration. ¡Feliz Cinco de Mayo!

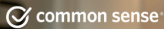
Yearbook

Swarming Hornets family, are you ready to see what memories we have created from 2024-2025? Get your yearbook right now for \$95 before the prices go up! Go to yearbookforever.com and purchase the book full of memories.

Digital Citizenship for families

[Screen Time, how much is too much?](#)

[Help kids balance their media lives.](#)



The Future of Work: Understanding AI and Preparing Kids for a Rapidly Changing Economy

Wednesday, May 7, 2025
5:00 p.m. PT / 8:00 p.m. ET

Featured Speakers



Sophie Wade, PhD
Futurist and author of *Empathy Works: The Key to Competitive Advantage in the New Era of Work*



Audrey Wisch
Co-Founder and CEO, Curious Cardinals



Robbie Torney
Senior Director, AI Programs
Common Sense Media

Moderated by

This webinar is appropriate for K-12 families. The discussion will include skills that are important to build from early childhood through high school.

? Today's kids will have multiple careers in their lifetimes and may wind up in jobs that haven't yet been invented. What skills will they need to thrive in the future?

Join [@commonsenseorg](https://commonsense.org) for a free webinar to get tips on supporting your child's career development and adjusting to this new normal.

 **The Future of Work: Understanding AI and Preparing Kids for a Rapidly Changing Economy**

Wednesday, May 7, 5 p.m. PT | 8 p.m. ET. **Sign up and learn more at**
<https://www.commonsense.org/education/events/the-future-of-work>

Swarm Schedules

Spring MCAP 2025 Testing at DHS

MCAP testing will take place throughout May. **Buses will run at their normal times.**

- Life Science (MISA): **May 5**, 7:45 AM–12:20 PM- 9th graders (All students enrolled in Biology)

- NSL Government: **May 6**, 7:45 AM–12:20 PM- 10th graders (All students enrolled in NSL)
- Algebra: May 19–20 (small group only; no modified schedule)

Testing students should have received an email from Ms. Brazil with testing details and locations. **Non-testing students will complete SSL assignments in the cafeteria. Classes begin after lunch on testing days.**

[Link](#) to bell schedules for MCAP testing dates.

AP Exams

Here are reminders for students taking AP exams during the next 2 weeks.

- You must arrive by 7:40am for morning exams and 11:40am for afternoon exams.
- Here is the [AP exam schedule](#)
- [Here is a list](#) of what you should bring and not bring to AP testing
- You must memorize your College Board login to access your AP exam
- Students with accommodations will receive an email from me the afternoon before with their testing room location
- Most afternoon exams will not be over at 2:30pm. Be sure to arrange a ride home

Next Week

Day	Event(s)
Monday 05/05	MCAP MISA Testing Modified Bell Schedule - (All students enrolled in Biology) Testing students will get an email from Ms. Brazil at least two weeks before their test with details and locations. Buses will run at their normal times. Non-testing students will complete SSL assignments in the cafeteria. Classes begin after lunch on testing days.
Tuesday 05/06	MCAP Government Testing Modified Bell Schedule - (All students enrolled in NSL) Testing students will get an email from Ms. Brazil at least two weeks before their test with details and locations. Buses will run at their normal times. Non-testing students will complete SSL assignments in the cafeteria. Classes begin after lunch on testing days.
Wednesday 05/07	Regular Bell Schedule
Thursday 05/08	Hornet Time Bell Schedule
Friday 05/09	Regular Bell Schedule

Following Week

Day	Event(s)
Monday 05/12	Regular Bell Schedule
Tuesday 05/13	Regular Bell Schedule

Wednesday 05/14	Regular Bell Schedule
Thursday 05/15	Hornet Time Bell Schedule PD4 - Prom Assembly for 11th & 12th Graders- Please review our Prom Expectations We will have a special guest from the MC Police Department to discuss crucial topics such as the dangers of alcohol and drug use, safety measures, and making responsible decisions. This conversation is essential as we get ready for the event. There will be a senior meeting in the gym following the prom assembly. Ms. Stultz will review graduation information.
Friday 05/16	Regular Bell Schedule- <i>Prom at Rio Marriott at 8PM</i>

End of School Year Events:

Day	Event(s)
Thursday, 5/15	Senior Meeting following Prom Assembly in the gym
Monday, 05/19	Senior Awards Night at 6PM
Friday, 05/23	Last Day for Seniors
Thursday, 05/29	Senior Breakfast 7:45AM, Graduation Rehearsal, and Clapout at feeder schools
Friday, 05/30	DHS Graduation on Stadium Field at 9AM
Friday, 06/13	Early Release Dismissal Bell Schedule
Monday, 06/16	Early Release Dismissal Bell Schedule
Tuesday, 06/17	Early Release Dismissal Bell Schedule - <i>Last Day of School</i>

Hornet Happenings

DHS 2025 Junior / Senior Prom

Get ready for a night of glamour and unforgettable memories! This year's Prom will be held on Friday, May 16th, from 8:00 PM to 11:00 PM at the elegant Rio Marriott. The theme? Met Gala—so dress to impress and bring your best red carpet look! Please review our [Prom Expectations](#) ahead of time. Tickets are now on sale through [GoFan](#) for \$75 with your student ID# as your access code. If you would like to bring a 9th or 10th grade DHS student, please see Ms. Moravy for their guest code. No tickets will be sold on-site.

[GoFan Flyer--Ticket QR Code \(English\)](#)

[GoFan Flyer--Ticket QR Code \(Español\)](#)

Deadline to purchase tickets is May 6th! All tickets are non-refundable. Don't delay— this is a night you won't want to miss!

Date: Friday, May 16

Time: 8:00 PM – 11:00 PM

Location: Rio Marriott

Are you bringing a student from outside of DHS? [Prom Guest Forms](#) are due today, May 2nd.

Pre-Prom Assembly

There will be a pre-prom assembly on Thursday, May 15th during 4th period for all juniors and seniors in the gym. After the assembly, there will be a senior meeting for all seniors with Ms. Stultz who will review graduation information.

DHS Horticulture Plant Sale

We're excited to offer a wide variety of student grown vegetables, herbs, and ivy geraniums at our Spring Plant Sale!

See below for dates and times:

Friday, April 25th, 3 – 7 pm

Saturday, April 26th, 9 am – 2 pm

Friday, May 2nd, 3 – 7 pm

Saturday, May 3rd, 9 am – 2 pm

The sale is being run from the greenhouse, which is located behind the school.

Purchases help support our program—thank you!

Senior Breakfast 7:45 AM- Thursday, 05/29

Senior breakfast will be held on the morning of graduation rehearsal, Thursday, May 29, 2025. Senior breakfast is put on by senior parents and runs completely on donations from senior families. If you are interested/willing to contribute, please sign up using [this link](#). Thank you to Dawn Cranford and Linda Rutherford for leading this event! Please reach out to them with any questions:

Linda Retherford- 301-237-8857

Dawn Cranford- 240-793-2764

MCPS Summer School Program

Summer School 2025 focuses primarily on high school students who need to earn credits towards graduation. Both In-person and Virtual High School Summer School Programs will be offered this year. More information including cost and course availability can be found [here](#). DHS students interested in registering for summer school courses should complete [this](#) interest form.

Signs of Suicide® (SOS®) Prevention Program

During the week of May 19th, all students in Grades 9–12 will participate in the Signs of Suicide® (SOS®) Prevention Program as part of MCPS's commitment to supporting student mental health. This evidence-based program teaches students to recognize signs of depression and suicide risk in themselves or others and encourages them to seek help using the ACT (Acknowledge, Care, Tell) approach. Students will also have access to resources, including the ACT to Save a Life newsletter and a list of mental health supports. If you have any questions, please contact your child's counselor. Additional information can be found in these links ([English](#)) and ([Spanish](#)).

MCPS Division of Sustainability and Compliance

The MCPS Division of Sustainability and Compliance is holding an art poster contest, and three DHS Art students are finalists! Please view the finalists [here](#), and vote [here](#)! The Damascus Students are entries D2, D3, and D4. You can only vote for one of the D entries. Anyone, including students, with an MCPS gmail account can vote.

04/28/25- MCAP Testing

Dear DHS Community,

We hope this message finds you well. Spring 2025 MCAP testing begins tomorrow—Tuesday, April 29—and continues Wednesday, April 30, with additional dates in May. *Please note that school buses will run on their regular schedules each day.*

MCAP Testing Schedule: [Link](#) to bell schedules for MCAP testing dates.

- English 10
 - *Tuesday, April 29* (Sections 1 & 2) | 7:45–11:45 AM
 - *Wednesday, April 30* (Sections 3 & 4) | 7:45–11:45 AM
- Life Science (MISA)
 - *Monday, May 5* | 7:45 AM–12:20 PM
- NSL Government
 - *Tuesday, May 6* | 7:45 AM–12:20 PM
- Algebra
 - *May 19–20* | Small group only – no modified schedule

Students who are scheduled to test have received an email from Ms. Brazil with their testing location and what they need to bring. Students who are not testing will complete SSL (Student Service Learning) assignments in the cafeteria during the testing blocks. Classes will begin after lunch on testing days. You can view the bell schedules for these days using the link below: 👉 [Link](#) to bell schedules for MCAP testing dates.

Help the PTSA Celebrate Our Incredible Staff!

Staff Appreciation Week is May 5–9, and we’d love your help in recognizing the amazing educators and staff who make DHS such a special place. The DHS PTSA is collecting monetary donations to provide meals, treats, and surprises throughout the week.

♥ Want to contribute? Donate here: https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=NS4YFWREYHND8

Thank you for your continued support in helping us celebrate and support the entire DHS community!

B. Rohner

Bradley W. Rohner
Principal

04/28/25- Drills

Dear Damascus Community,

This afternoon during sixth period (12:55–1:40 p.m.) today (Monday, April 28), we will be conducting two safety drills: a Shelter-in-Place and a Lockdown. As part of these drills, we will be using the Remind app to practice our emergency communication procedures.

Please be assured that all messages sent during this time will be clearly marked with “DRILL, DRILL, DRILL” to indicate that they are part of a practice exercise and not an actual emergency.

Our goal is to ensure we are fully prepared to communicate quickly and effectively in the event of a real emergency. Thank you for your continued support in helping us keep our school community safe.

B. Rohner

Bradley W. Rohner
Principal

04.25.25

Mensaje en español

Hive Highlights

DHS International Night- You're Invited!

Please join us tonight (Friday, April 25th) at DHS from 6:00 to 8:00 PM for an exciting and enriching evening celebrating our vibrant and diverse community!

This special event will feature fun activities for all ages, live music, and a variety of cultural showcases that highlight the many backgrounds, traditions, and voices that make up our school community. It's a great opportunity to come together, connect with others, and learn more about the cultures, stories, and experiences that shape who we are. Whether you're a student, family member, staff, or community partner, there's something for everyone to enjoy. We hope to see you there for a night of celebration, unity, and discovery!

Date: Friday, April 25th

Time: 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Location: DHS

Let's celebrate the richness of our community—together!

DHS 2025 Junior / Senior Prom

Get ready for a night of glamour and unforgettable memories! This year's Prom will be held on Friday, May 16th, from 8:00 PM to 11:00 PM at the elegant Rio Marriott. The theme? Met Gala—so dress to impress and bring your best red carpet look! Please review our [Prom Expectations](#) ahead of time.

Tickets are now on sale through [GoFan](#) for \$75 with your student ID# as your access code. *If you would like to bring a 9th or 10th grade DHS student, please see Ms. Moravy for their guest code.* No tickets will be sold on-site.

[GoFan Flyer--Ticket QR Code \(English\)](#)

[GoFan Flyer--Ticket QR Code \(Español\)](#)

Deadline to purchase tickets is May 6th! All tickets are non-refundable.

Don't delay— this is a night you won't want to miss!

Date: Friday, May 16

Time: 8:00 PM – 11:00 PM

Location: Rio Marriott

Are you bringing a student from outside of DHS? [Prom Guest Forms](#) are due May 2nd.

Swarm Schedules

Spring MCAP 2025 Testing at DHS

MCAP testing will take place throughout April and May. **Buses will run at their normal times.**

- English 10: **April 29** (Sections 1 & 2) and **April 30** (Sections 3 & 4), 7:45–11:45 AM
- Life Science (MISA): **May 5**, 7:45 AM–12:20 PM
- NSL Government: **May 6**, 7:45 AM–12:20 PM

- Algebra: May 19–20 (small group only; no modified schedule)

Testing students will get an email from Ms. Brazil at least two weeks before their test with details and locations.

Non-testing students will complete SSL assignments in the cafeteria. Classes begin after lunch on testing days.

[Link](#) to bell schedules for MCAP testing dates.

Next Week

Day	Event(s)
Monday 04/28	Regular Bell Schedule Safety Drills - 2nd and 6th periods
Tuesday 04/29	MCAP ELA Testing Modified Bell Schedule Testing students will get an email from Ms. Brazil at least two weeks before their test with details and locations. Buses will run at their normal times. Non-testing students will complete SSL assignments in the cafeteria. Classes begin after lunch on testing days.
Wednesday 04/30	MCAP ELA Testing Modified Bell Schedule Testing students will get an email from Ms. Brazil at least two weeks before their test with details and locations. Buses will run at their normal times. Non-testing students will complete SSL assignments in the cafeteria. Classes begin after lunch on testing days.
Thursday 05/01	Hornet Time Bell Schedule
Friday 05/02	Adjusted Assembly Bell Schedule - Asian Heritage Assembly Group A - All classrooms on the 2nd floor except World Languages Group B - All classrooms on the 1st floor, PE, and World Languages 4 th Annual Demo Day for the entire SCB and part of the LFI program. Prom Guest Forms due May 2

Following Week

Day	Event(s)
Monday 05/05	MCAP MISA Testing Modified Bell Schedule Testing students will get an email from Ms. Brazil at least two weeks before their test with details and locations. Buses will run at their normal times. Non-testing students will complete SSL assignments in the cafeteria. Classes begin after lunch on testing days.
Tuesday 05/06	MCAP Government Testing Modified Bell Schedule Testing students will get an email from Ms. Brazil at least two weeks before their test with details and locations. Buses will run at their normal times. Non-testing students will complete SSL assignments in the cafeteria. Classes begin after lunch on testing days.
Wednesday 05/07	Regular Bell Schedule
Thursday 05/08	Hornet Time Bell Schedule
Friday 05/09	Regular Bell Schedule

End of School Year Events:

Day	Event(s)
Thursday, 5/15	Pre-Prom Assembly for all Juniors and Seniors 4th period
Friday, 05/16	Prom at Rio Marriott at 8PM - Prom Guest Forms due May 2
Monday, 05/19	Senior Awards Night at 6PM
Friday, 05/23	Last Day for Seniors
Thursday, 05/29	Senior Breakfast 7:45AM, Graduation Rehearsal, and Clapout at feeder schools
Friday, 05/30	DHS Graduation on Stadium Field at 9AM
Friday, 06/13	Early Release Dismissal Bell Schedule
Monday, 06/16	Early Release Dismissal Bell Schedule
Tuesday, 06/17	Early Release Dismissal Bell Schedule - <i>Last Day of School</i>

Hornet Happenings

Attention Seniors and Senior Parents! The end of your time at DHS is quickly approaching and so are many senior events! Please use [this link](#) to find updated information about graduation and end of the year events.

Safety Drills

We will have two safety drills on Monday, 4/28 during 2nd period (Evacuation) and 6th period (Shelter-in-Place and Lockdown).

Pre-Prom Assembly

There will be a pre-prom assembly on Thursday, May 15th during 4th period for all juniors and seniors in the gym.

DHS Launching Vape Detection System on Yesterday (04/24/25)

DHS has implemented a new vape detection system to promote a safe and healthy environment for all students. This system expands on the success of the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) pilot program, which tested vape detection in several high schools. The HALO sensors are designed to detect vape emissions, including those from nicotine and THC (the active ingredient in marijuana). These sensors do not record audio or video, preserving student privacy while helping us identify and address unsafe behaviors. In addition to detecting vaping, the devices can also identify abnormal air quality changes, aggression, and certain keywords associated with safety concerns. When a vape is detected, administrators will be notified to take appropriate action. Our focus is not on discipline, but on providing support and intervention as needed. Vaping, tobacco products, and illegal drugs are prohibited on school grounds, and students caught with these items may face disciplinary action according to the MCPS Student Code of Conduct. FAQ: [VAPE Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#)

DHS Horticulture Plant Sale

We're excited to offer a wide variety of student grown vegetables, herbs, and ivy geraniums at our Spring Plant Sale! See below for dates and times:

Friday, April 25th, 3 – 7 pm

Saturday, April 26th, 9 am – 2 pm

Friday, May 2nd, 3 – 7 pm

Saturday, May 3rd, 9 am – 2 pm

The sale is being run from the greenhouse, which is located behind the school.

Purchases help support our program—thank you!

DHS Edmentum Spring Semester

Attention Edmentum Students! Deadlines are quickly approaching! Seniors, all assignments must be submitted by 11:59 PM on Friday, May 9, 2025. All underclass students must submit by 11:59 AM on Friday, June 6, 2025. On April 29th and 30th, all Edmentum students may report to the cafeteria for additional time to complete your coursework. Please see our [DHS Edmentum information](#) if you need any additional information.

SGA/Class Officers 2025-2026

Are you interested in becoming a Class or SGA Officer for the 2025-2026 school year? Please plan to attend a mandatory campaign/interest meeting on either Monday, April 28, 2025 OR Thursday, May 1, 2025 during the 2nd half of lunch in room 142.

ParentSquare Meal Account Negative Balance Notifications

Starting 4/29/25, parents/guardians will begin receiving weekly ParentSquare notifications for any student with a negative meal account balance exceeding -\$5.00. This will replace the current paper-based notification. Payment can be made: online at www.MySchoolBucks.com (where parents can also check meal account balances, sign up for recurring payments, and more) OR directly to the school cafeteria using cash, check, or money order (payable to DHS Cafeteria). Please include the student name's, student's ID#, and home phone number with the payment. Families may apply for Free and Reduced-price Meals (FARMS) online at www.MySchoolApps.com and visit the [Division of Food and Nutrition Services \(DFNS\)](#) website for more information. DFNS may be reached at 240-740-7400 or via [email](#).

Spring Concert

Come out and support the DHS Bands at our Spring Concert this Wednesday, April 30 at 7pm in the Matt Kuhn Auditorium at Damascus High School. Admission is free and it will be a great evening of music.

Greetings families, this is Veronica Palleres, Parent Community Coordinator.

The Department of Student, Family, and School Services (SFSS) in MCPS invites you to join us for a presentation on helping support your student with spring testing season – at any level (ES, MS, or HS). We'll discuss strategies you can utilize before, during, and after testing to set your student up for success!

[Support students with Spring Testing–ENG / Apoyo para los estudiantes con examen en la primavera-ESP](#)

Baker MS Book Fair

Baker MS is having a book fair next week (April 28-May2). DHS students and families are invited to attend! Many of the books will be of interest to 9th and 10th grade students. [Click here](#) for more information (english & spanish).

04.11.25

[*Mensaje en español*](#)

Hive Highlights



I hope you all enjoy your well-deserved week off next week! Spring break always comes at a great time to recharge and get ready for that final push toward the end of the school year. With the break falling a bit later this year, we'll return to a shorter stretch of time before we close out the year. I hope you take this opportunity to relax, re-energize, and come back ready to enjoy all the exciting senior events and milestones that await us.

Thank you for everything you do—I'm looking forward to finishing the year strong together! *Mr. Rohner*

 Shoutout to SGA – Spring Pep Rally Success!

A huge THANK YOU to our amazingSGA for organizing a fantastic Spring Pep Rally! Your hard work, creativity, and energy brought our school community together and made the event a huge success.



Swarm Schedules

Next Week

Day	Event(s)
Monday 04/14	<i>Non-Instructional Day (No school for students and teachers)</i>
Tuesday 04/15	<i>Non-Instructional Day (No school for students and teachers)</i>

Wednesday 04/16	<i>Systemwide Closure - No School</i>
Thursday 04/17	<i>Systemwide Closure - No School</i>
Friday 04/18	<i>Holiday - Good Friday - No School</i>

Following Following Week

Day	Event(s)
Monday 04/21	<i>Holiday- Easter Monday - No School</i>
Tuesday 04/22	Regular Bell Schedule
Wednesday 04/23	Regular Bell Schedule
Thursday 04/24	Hornet Time Bell Schedule
Friday 04/25	Regular Bell Schedule

End of School Year Events:

Day	Event(s)
Thursday, 04/23	Class of 2025: Senior Banquet at Montgomery Country Club 6-8PM
Friday, 05/16	Prom at Rio Marriott at 8PM
Monday, 05/19	Senior Awards Night at 6PM
Friday, 05/23	Last Day for Seniors
Thursday, 05/29	Senior Breakfast 7:45AM, Graduation Rehearsal, and Clapout at feeder schools
Friday, 05/30	DHS Graduation on Stadium Field at 9AM
Friday, 06/13	Early Release Dismissal Bell Schedule
Monday, 06/16	Early Release Dismissal Bell Schedule
Tuesday, 06/17	Early Release Dismissal Bell Schedule - <i>Last Day of School</i>

Hornet Happenings

[The Student News Site of Damascus High School](#)

Big kudos to the talented writers behind the latest edition of The Buzz! Your thoughtful articles, sharp perspectives, and engaging stories continue to show that The Hive keeps the truth alive! Keep up the amazing work — we're proud of the voice you bring to our school community!

Senior Banquet (Purchase Tix by 4/19)

Seniors! It's time to purchase your senior banquet tickets! Join us for a night of celebrating the Class of 2025 at Montgomery Country Club on April 23, 2025, from 6-8pm (seniors only). Tickets can be purchased on Go Fan for \$40 each with your student ID as your access code. Ticket sales end April 19th. Contact Mrs. Stultz with any questions. We hope to see you there! [GoFan Link \(English\)](#) [Go Fan Link \(Spanish\)](#)

Spring MCAP 2025

The Spring MCAP testing window is open and DHS will be proctoring all of the tests in the months of April and May.

- The **English 10 exam** will be given on Tuesday, April 29th, from 7:45-11:45 am (Sections 1 & 2) and on Wednesday April 30th from 7:45-11:45 am (Sections 3 & 4).
- The **Life Science (MISA) exam** will be given on Monday, May 5th from 7:45am - 12:20pm
- The **NSL Government exam** will be given on Tuesday, May 6th from 7:45am - 12:20pm.
- The **MCAP Algebra** exam will be given to a small group of students on May 19th and May 20th. We will not have a modified schedule on these dates. Students will be excused from their morning classes in order to complete the MCAP Algebra test.

Students who are testing will receive an email from Ms. Brazil at least two weeks prior to the test. This email will include their testing locations and what to bring for the specific test. Students who are not testing will be completing SSL assignments in the cafeteria during the testing blocks. Classes will begin after lunch each day. [Here is a link](#) to all of the bell schedules for the MCAP testing dates.

Yearbook

It's not too late to secure a [DHS 2024-25 yearbook](#)! Current price is \$95. If you have any questions, please email Karen_R_Zappone@mcpsmd.org

MCPS Summer School Program

Summer School 2025 focuses primarily on high school students who need to earn credits towards graduation. Both In-person and Virtual High School Summer School Programs will be offered this year. More information including cost and course availability can be found [here](#). DHS students interested in registering for summer school courses should complete [this](#) interest form.

DHS Edmentum Spring Semester

Attention Edmentum Students! Remember Spring Break is a wonderful opportunity to complete all your work so you earn credit for graduation. On April 29th and 30th, all Edmentum students may report to the cafeteria for additional time to complete your coursework. Please see our [DHS Edmentum information](#) if you need any additional information.

Senior SSL Opportunity

On April 30th, there will be an opportunity for Seniors to earn additional SSL hours from 7:45-11:30. Please email Ms Sybrant at Vasileah_K_Sybrant@mcpsmd.org to sign up.

Conversion from Heat to A/C

MCPS will begin converting schools from heat to air conditioning on April 14th, beginning with secondary schools. It will take approximately four weeks to convert all MCPS facilities. Unlike residential systems, most schools cannot switch automatically from heat to a/c so heat will not be available once the changeover process begins.

Boundary Study for Opening of Crown High School & Expansion of Damascus High School

[MCPS Boundary Studies Webpage](#)

If you haven't already done so, please consider providing input through the [Boundary Study Process Community Input Survey](#). This survey closes on April 14th.

Signs of Suicide® (SOS®) Prevention Program

During the week of May 19th, all students in Grades 9–12 will participate in the Signs of Suicide® (SOS®) Prevention Program as part of MCPS's commitment to supporting student mental health. This evidence-based program teaches students to recognize signs of depression and suicide risk in themselves or others and encourages them to seek help using the ACT (Acknowledge, Care, Tell) approach. Students will also have access to resources, including the ACT to Save a Life newsletter and a list of mental health supports. If you have any questions, please contact your child's counselor. Additional information can be found in these links ([English](#)) and ([Spanish](#)).

MCPS Launching Vape Detection System at DHS on Wednesday, 04/30

Starting Wednesday, April 30th, DHS will implement a new vape detection system to promote a safe and healthy environment for all students. This system expands on the success of the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) pilot program, which tested vape detection in several high schools.

The HALO sensors are designed to detect vape emissions, including those from nicotine and THC (the active ingredient in marijuana). These sensors do not record audio or video, preserving student privacy while helping us identify and address unsafe behaviors. In addition to detecting vaping, the devices can also identify abnormal air quality changes, aggression, and certain keywords associated with safety concerns.

When a vape is detected, administrators will be notified to take appropriate action. Our focus is not on discipline, but on providing support and intervention as needed.

Vaping, tobacco products, and illegal drugs are prohibited on school grounds, and students caught with these items may face disciplinary action according to the MCPS Student Code of Conduct.

FAQ: [VAPE Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#)

Updated Meal Payment Policy for the 2024-2025 School Year

Starting Tuesday, April 29, 2025, parents/guardians will begin receiving weekly ParentSquare notifications for any student with a negative meal account balance exceeding -\$5.00. This will replace the current paper-based notification. Payment can be made:

- Online at www.MySchoolBucks.com where parents can also check meal account balances, sign up for recurring payments, and more.
- Directly to the school cafeteria using cash, check, or money order (made payable to the School Cafeteria). Please be sure to include the Student Name, Student ID, and home phone number with the payment.

Families may apply for Free and Reduced-price Meals (FARMS) online at www.MySchoolApps.com and visit the Division of Food and Nutrition Services (DFNS) website for more information. DFNS may be reached at 240-740-7400 or via email.

Mental Health and Wellness Fair

MCPS in partnership with the Montgomery County African American Health Program will host a mental health fair to address the mental health concerns in the Black community. Important Dates: Saturday, April 26, 2025, from 1:00–5:00 p.m.: The Black Mental Health and Wellness Fair will take place at Montgomery Blair High School, 51 University Blvd E, Silver Spring, Maryland 20901.

Links/Additional Information:

Students will receive four student service learning hours for attending the event. Parents/guardians, students, staff, and community members can [RSVP here](#)

Questions:

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Christina N. Conolly-Chester, director, Division of Psychological Services, Office of Well-Being and Student Services, at 240-740-5640 or via email.

04.11.25- Important Community Message: Incident During Lunch Yesterday

Dear Damascus High School Community,

I am writing to inform you about an incident that occurred on campus during the lunch period yesterday (Thursday, April 10, 2025) in our school parking lot. A student was struck by an airsoft Orbeez projectile, which was discharged from a vehicle by other students. The student received immediate care and support from our Health Room staff, and we are relieved to report that no serious injuries occurred.

We understand how concerning and unsettling this type of incident can be, and I want to assure you that we are taking the matter very seriously. Our administrative team in collaboration with school security has conducted an investigation, and Montgomery County Police have been notified.

This incident appears to be connected to an off-campus activity known as “Senior Assassin.” While some students may view this game as harmless fun, I want to be absolutely clear: this activity is not supported, endorsed, or permitted by Damascus High School or Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS).

The use of any type of projectile device—real or imitation—on or near school property is not only unsafe, but it also disrupts the educational environment and may cause fear, confusion, or harm to members of our community. Such actions are a clear violation of the MCPS Student Code of Conduct, and any student who participates in this game on or near school grounds, or engages in behavior that threatens safety, will face appropriate disciplinary consequences.

We ask for your continued partnership in emphasizing to students the importance of responsible, respectful behavior and prioritizing the safety and well-being of all members of our school community. We strongly encourage families to have conversations with their students about the serious risks and consequences associated with participating in off-campus activities that may negatively impact the school environment.

Thank you, as always, for your support and commitment to keeping Damascus High School a safe, respectful, and positive place for everyone.

B. Rohner

Bradley W. Rohner
Principal
Damascus High School

04.04.25

[Mensaje en español](#)

Hive Highlights

A Heartfelt Thank You to All Those Involved in the Student Listening Panels!

A huge shoutout to all the students and teachers for their incredible support in making yesterday's student listening panels a resounding success! Led by students from a variety of clubs, the panel offered a powerful platform for sharing student voices and experiences. This initiative is a key step in advancing our School Improvement Plan goal of enhancing Student Culture & Climate—particularly in fostering equity, inclusivity, and informing adult practices to better support our students' learning environments.

These listening panels play a vital role in creating a more inclusive and supportive atmosphere at DHS, and every step we take brings us closer to earning our fourth star on the Maryland Report Card!

Swarm Schedules

Next Week

Day	Event(s)
Monday 04/07	Regular Bell Schedule
Tuesday 04/08	Regular Bell Schedule Report Card Distribution between pd 2 and 3 <i>NACAC College Fair for DHS from 11:30-2:00 PM</i>
Wednesday 04/09	Regular Bell Schedule
Thursday 04/10	Hornet Time Bell Schedule
Friday 04/11	Adjusted Assembly Bell Schedule <i>Spring Pep Rally -During Period 3- Everyone Group A</i> <i>Safety Day- multiple emergency drills</i>

Following Week

Day	Event(s)
Monday 04/14	<i>Non-Instructional Day (No school for students and teachers)</i>
Tuesday 04/15	<i>Non-Instructional Day (No school for students and teachers)</i>
Wednesday 04/16	<i>Systemwide Closure - No School</i>
Thursday 04/17	<i>Systemwide Closure - No School</i>
Friday 04/18	<i>Holiday - Good Friday - No School</i>

Following Following Week

Day	Event(s)
Monday 04/21	<i>Holiday- Easter Monday - No School</i>
Tuesday 04/22	Regular Bell Schedule
Wednesday 04/23	Regular Bell Schedule
Thursday 04/24	Hornet Time Bell Schedule
Friday 04/25	Regular Bell Schedule

End of School Year Events:

Day	Event(s)
Thursday, 04/23	Class of 2025: Senior Banquet at Montgomery Country Club 6-8PM
Friday, 05/16	Prom at Rio Marriott at 8PM
Monday, 05/19	Senior Awards Night at 6PM
Friday, 05/23	Last Day for Seniors
Thursday, 05/29	Senior Breakfast 7:45AM, Graduation Rehearsal, and Clapout at feeder schools
Friday, 05/30	DHS Graduation on Stadium Field at 9AM
Monday, 06/16	<u>Early Release Dismissal Bell Schedule</u> - <i>Last Day of School</i>

Hornet Happenings**Join Us for Public Information Meetings on Boundary Studies**

Upcoming public information meetings on boundary studies are set for the reopening of Charles W. Woodward High School, the opening of Crown High School and the expansion of Damascus High School. These sessions will provide important details on the boundary study scope, process and opportunities for future engagement. [More information](#)

Boundary Study Scope for Reopening of Charles W. Woodward High School

- In-Person Session: Tuesday, April 8, 6–8 p.m., Walter Johnson High School Auditorium, 6400 Rock Spring Drive, Bethesda

Boundary Study Scope for Opening of Crown High School & Expansion of Damascus High School

- Virtual Session: Monday, April 7, 6–8 p.m. ([Meeting Link](#)—session will be recorded and made available to the public.)
- In-Person Session: Wednesday, April 9, 6–8 p.m., Gaithersburg High School Auditorium, 101 Education Boulevard, Gaithersburg

While registration is not required, MCPS asks attendees to [RSVP](#) to help the district prepare.

[MCPS Boundary Studies webpage](#)

[Boundary Study Flyer](#)

As you may know, MCPS is currently conducting two boundary studies—one for the reopening of Woodward High School, and another for the opening of the new Crown High School and the expansion of **Damascus High School**. These studies involve 19 high schools and their associated middle schools. Please note that elementary school boundaries will not be adjusted as part of this process.

Spring MCAP 2025

The Spring MCAP testing window is open and DHS will be proctoring all of the tests in the months of April and May.

- The **English 10 exam** will be given on Tuesday, April 29th, from 7:45-11:45 am (Sections 1 & 2) and on Wednesday April 30th from 7:45-11:45 am (Sections 3 & 4).
- The **Life Science (MISA) exam** will be given on Monday, May 5th from 7:45am - 12:20pm
- The **NSL Government exam** will be given on Tuesday, May 6th from 7:45am - 12:20pm.

- The **MCAP Algebra** exam will be given to a small group of students on May 19th and May 20th. We will not have a modified schedule on these dates. Students will be excused from their morning classes in order to complete the MCAP Algebra test.

Students who are testing will receive an email from Ms. Brazil at least two weeks prior to the test. This email will include their testing locations and what to bring for the specific test. Students who are not testing will be completing SSL assignments in the cafeteria during the testing blocks. Classes will begin after lunch each day. [Here is a link](#) to all of the bell schedules for the MCAP testing dates.

MCPS Summer School program

Summer School 2025 focuses primarily on high school students who need to earn credits towards graduation. Both In-person and Virtual High School Summer School Programs will be offered this year. More information including cost and course availability can be found [here](#). DHS students interested in registering for summer school courses should complete [this](#) interest form.

DHS Edmentum Spring Semester

Attention Seniors! Your Spring Edmentum deadline is quickly approaching. Please plan accordingly to complete your assignments and see your teachers now for any guidance and support. Remember Spring Break is a wonderful opportunity to complete all your work so you earn credit for graduation. Please use our [DHS Edmentum information](#) if you need additional information.

Conversion from Heat to A/C

MCPS will begin converting schools from heat to air conditioning on April 14th, beginning with secondary schools. It will take approximately four weeks to convert all MCPS facilities. Unlike residential systems, most schools cannot switch automatically from heat to a/c so heat will not be available once the changeover process begins.

03.31.25- Special Edition- Important Reminders as We Begin the Fourth Marking Period

Dear Damascus High School Community,

It's hard to believe how quickly this school year has flown by! As we enter the fourth marking period, I want to take a moment to reflect on the progress we've made and share a few important reminders as we push toward a strong finish.

The fourth marking period is incredibly important, and now more than ever, it's crucial to remain focused and dedicated to finishing the year on a high note. To all students: please stay committed to your academic growth and make the most of these final months. This is the time to finish strong, so keep up the great work and stay focused on your goals.

Seniors, I know this time can feel especially intense, with graduation on the horizon. Please don't let any class stand between you and the accomplishment of this significant milestone. Stay aware of where you stand in each of your courses, communicate regularly with your teachers, and make sure all assignments and assessments are completed on time. You've worked so hard to get this far—let's finish strong together!

As we work toward finishing the year, here are a few key reminders for all students:

Lunch Expectations

9th and 10th graders are expected to remain in the building for lunch. Only 11th and 12th graders are permitted to leave campus during this time. Please follow this policy to ensure a smooth and safe lunch period for everyone.

Hallway Expectations

All students are expected to be in class on time. If you need to be in the hallways during class time, you must have a pass. We will be increasing monitoring to help ensure that everyone is in class and on track for success. Please be respectful of this policy as we continue to foster a productive learning environment.

Cell Phones & Learning

We know how tempting it can be to check your phone, but cell phones can be a major distraction in the classroom. Be mindful of your teachers' expectations regarding phone use and understand how it can affect your focus and the learning environment for you and your classmates. Let's keep phones away and stay engaged in your education.

In conclusion, your cooperation and commitment to maintaining a positive, focused school environment truly make a difference. Together, we can make the fourth marking period our best one yet. Let's continue to support one another and finish the year strong.

Thank you for your ongoing support, and let's make the final stretch of this school year a successful one!

B. Rohner

Principal
Damascus High School

03.28.25

[*Mensaje en español*](#)

Hive Highlights



Shaping Our Tomorrow Together - FORJANDO NUESTRO MANANA, JUNTOS

Shoutout to our incredible College & Career Coordinator, Ms Aixa Hernandez Rubio, for her collaboration with Bridge to Wellness in organizing bilingual workshops that help our students become college and career ready! These workshops provide invaluable support and opportunities, ensuring all students have access to the resources they need for success.

03/18/2025 - Exploring College and Career Options

03/25/2025 - Exploring Strengths, skills, and career interests

04/01/2025 - Learning about Trade School and Apprenticeships

04/22/2025 - College 101

04/30/2025 - Money for College

05/06/2025 - What is a resume? How to start one?

05/13/2025 - Job Interview Tips

05/20/2025 - Planning My Tomorrow

Wishing You a Joyous Eid al-Fitr

As Eid al-Fitr arrives this weekend, we want to take a moment to acknowledge and celebrate this special occasion. Eid is a time of joy, gratitude, and togetherness, marking the end of Ramadan with reflection, generosity, and community. To all who are celebrating, we wish you and your loved ones a joyous and blessed Eid. May this time bring you peace, happiness, and renewed strength. Eid Mubarak!

Swarm Schedules

Next Week

Day	Event(s)
Monday 03/31	Professional Day for Teachers (End of MP3)- No School for Students

Tuesday 04/01	Regular Bell Schedule
Wednesday 04/02	Regular Bell Schedule
Thursday 04/03	Hornet Time Bell Schedule
Friday 04/04	Regular Bell Schedule

Following Week

Day	Event(s)
Monday 04/07	Regular Bell Schedule
Tuesday 04/08	Regular Bell Schedule
Wednesday 04/09	Regular Bell Schedule
Thursday 04/10	Hornet Time Bell Schedule
Friday 04/11	Adjusted Assembly Bell Schedule - <i>Spring Pep Rally (During Period 3- Group A)</i>

End of School Year Events:

Day	Event(s)
Thursday, 04/23	Class of 2025: Senior Banquet at Montgomery Country Club 6-8PM
Friday, 05/16	Prom at Rio Marriott at 8PM
Monday, 05/19	Senior Awards Night at 6PM
Friday, 05/23	Last Day for Seniors
Thursday, 05/29	Senior Breakfast 7:45AM, Graduation Rehearsal, and Clapout at feeder schools
Friday, 05/30	DHS Graduation on Stadium Field at 9AM
Monday, 06/16	Early Release Dismissal Bell Schedule - <i>Last Day of School</i>

Hornet Happenings

MCDOT - Bethesda Church Road

MCDOT will restripe the existing crosswalk at Bethesda Church Road at the Damascus High School and shopping center driveway by or before June 30, 2025. In addition, MCDOT will deploy a Speed Monitoring Awareness Radar Trailer (SMART) unit in the vicinity of the crosswalk from April 28 to May 2, 2025. The unit will help monitor vehicular

speeds and display speed information to drivers and alert them when a driver exceeds the speed limit, prompting them to slow down as they approach this school crossing.

Maryland School Survey

Students will be completing the Maryland School Survey during Hornet Time on Thursday, April 3rd. [This letter provides information about this upcoming survey.](#) Please review this information and reach out to Adam Saltzman, our Assistant Principal overseeing this survey, if you have any questions.

Women's History Month SSL activities

In celebration of Women's History Month, DHS students may access [these](#) SSL opportunities they can complete on their own time. Students will learn about the history and accomplishments of women and complete the Google forms to earn *up to 10 SSL hours*– but hurry, students only have until the end of March to complete these activities.

[McTeacher Night!](#) Support Rockwell ES!

Mark your calendars, on April 7, 2025 from 4:30-8:00 PM we will be hosting McTeacher Night at the McDonald's in Damascus! 15% of all sales go back to Rockwell! We can't wait to see you!

03.21.25

[*Mensaje en español*](#)

Hive Highlights

Shout-Out to Our Amazing SGA!



A huge shout-out to our incredible SGA for organizing a student-led, student-participation version of March Madness: Damascus's Very Own! Your attention to detail, creativity, and collaboration with school leadership made this event a huge success. Well done, and thank you for bringing this exciting experience to our school-Chay Julien, Grace

Duffy-Tucci, Yacine Keinde, Sophia Chen and Shaina Kakour!

Special Shout outs to our staff who supported SGA's vision-Ms Mullenholz, Mr Humphrey, Mr Spoales, Mr Sprinkle, Mr Molnar, Ms Pisarski, Ms Cassat, Mr Wise, Mr Eagleson, Ms Moravy and Ms Talley. Thank you!!

MLK Week of Service Award



We're honored to announce that the Office of Community Sport Improvement has recognized Damascus High School for our participation in the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Week of Service. Our students engaged in meaningful service, demonstrating the strength of our caring community. This recognition highlights our commitment to fostering well-being, respect, and civic engagement. Thank you to everyone who contributed—together, we continue to make a difference!

Our PTSA Marquee Sign Is Making Waves!

Not sure if you've seen it yet, but our PTSA marquee sign has been getting a lot of attention—across the county, from passersby, and even online! It's been great to see it bring smiles to so many people. Don't miss out on the next segment as we continue to spread positivity and school spirit. Keep an eye out next time you pass by Damascus High School!

Spring Sports start today (03/21)!

Spring sports officially begin today, and we want to wish all of our teams the very best this season! We look forward to seeing our student-athletes in action and representing Damascus with pride. You can find all the latest results and updates at the [Swarmin' Hornets](#) website. Let's support our Hornets as they strive for excellence on and off the field!

Swarm Schedules

Next Week

Day	Event(s)
Monday 03/24	Regular Bell Schedule
Tuesday 03/25	Regular Bell Schedule
Wednesday 03/26	Regular Bell Schedule
Thursday 03/27	Hornet Time Bell Schedule
Friday 03/28	Regular Bell Schedule- <i>Last Day of MP3</i>

Following Week

Day	Event(s)
Monday 03/31	Professional Day for Teachers (End of MP3)- No School for Students
Tuesday 04/01	Regular Bell Schedule
Wednesday 04/02	Regular Bell Schedule
Thursday 04/03	Hornet Time Bell Schedule
Friday 04/04	Regular Bell Schedule

Hornet Happenings

Maryland School Survey

Students will be completing the Maryland School Survey during Hornet Time on Thursday, April 3rd. [This letter provides information about this upcoming survey.](#) Please review this information and reach out to Adam Saltzman, our Assistant Principal overseeing this survey, if you have any questions.

Spring Game Changer Conference

Unity Christian Fellowship, Inc. will host its semi-annual Game Changer Conference on Saturday, April 5, 2025, from 8:00 a.m.–noon at the Montgomery College—Germantown Campus. The conference theme is "Achievement to Thrive in 2025 is a Game Changer! What are your goals for winning your future?" The goal is to allow students to succeed as a game changer. The target audience is Black or African American and Hispanic male students of color in Grades 4–12. There will be separate sessions for elementary, middle, and high school students. In addition, parent workshops will be held every half hour (beginning at 8:00 a.m. and the last session ending at noon). A continental breakfast will be

provided. Although there is no charge for registration, all participants are asked to register in advance [here](#). Transportation will not be provided. There will be an [essay writing competition](#) for students to improve their writing skills and better prepare them for school and college essay writing. Students are encouraged to write and submit a 300-word essay based on the theme, "Achievement to Thrive in 2025 is a Game Changer! What are your goals for winning your future?" Submissions are due by Monday, March 24. Please see the [parent letter](#) for complete details.

Women's History Month SSL activities

In celebration of Women's History Month, DHS students may access [these](#) SSL opportunities they can complete on their own time. Students will learn about the history and accomplishments of women and complete the Google forms to earn *up to 10 SSL hours*— but hurry, students only have until the end of March to complete these activities.

NACAC College Fair for Juniors

We are pleased to invite junior students to participate in this year's NACAC College Fair on Tuesday, April 8th, at the Adventist Healthcare Fieldhouse in Boyds. This fair is an excellent opportunity for students to start their college search. Admissions counselors from over 300 colleges and universities will be on-site to provide important information about each school and the college admissions process. Students will be taken to the event on school buses departing DHS at 11:30 a.m. and returning at 2:00 p.m. The field trip costs \$6.00, payable at SchoolCash Online or providing cash. Students must visit Ms. Hernandez Rubio (room 133) as early as possible to participate.

Little-Known Secrets of Paying for College

For many families, the high cost of higher education is a daunting proposition. Parents lie awake at night trying to figure out how to afford sending their children to college and still have enough of their hard-earned money to retire one day. Some families have children attending college next year and others have 12 years to plan; but the fears of tackling these monumental and rising costs are the same. **The College Funding Coach®** is here to help families figure out HOW to pay for it! Through our educational workshop, *Little-Known Secrets of Paying for College* parents can expect to learn the following:

- College funding strategies for parents with students who DO **and** DO NOT qualify for financial aid
- Strategies for parents who are looking to fund their student's college education without destroying their plans and dreams for retirement
- The most popular college funding financial vehicles explained and debunked
- How to implement strategies that may allow students to attend out-of-state or private colleges for a lower cost than attending an in-state public
- ...and so much more

Learn more about the event and register here [HERE](#) !!

Damascus High School Music Department- Fundraiser

The annual direct donation fundraising drive for the Damascus High School Music Department is underway! Please see the flyer below for more information and for a donation link, and share it with family, friends, and on social media. Donations can also be made by check or cash. All donations are fully tax deductible.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1N89NU3OFpSxr2LWl5wpaCmUPZv4As7AH/view?usp=sharing>

03.18.25- Special Edition- SAT School Day on Wednesday, March 19, 2025

Dear Damascus High School Community,

Tomorrow, Wednesday, March 19th, Damascus High School will administer the SAT School Day to all Grade 11 students. Please take note of the following important details:

- Transportation: MCPS transportation will operate as usual. For students who provide their own transportation (and are not testing), please ensure you arrive no later than 12:00 PM.
- Cafeteria: The cafeteria will be available for students not participating in SAT testing. All students who are not taking the SAT will have an opportunity to work on Edmentum classes, earn SSL hours, and get support in classes in the Cafeteria or work independently

SAT School Day Bell Schedule:

- SAT Testing: 8:00 AM – 10:55 AM
- Lunch: 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM (60 minutes)
- Period 5: 12:05 PM – 12:50 PM
- Period 6: 12:55 PM – 1:40 PM
- Period 7: 1:45 PM – 2:30 PM

Transportation will run on a normal schedule. Students who are not participating in SAT testing will be supervised in the cafeteria until testing concludes.

For 9th, 10th, and 12th Grade Students (Not Testing):

- Arrival Time: All students not testing should arrive no later than 12:00 PM on SAT School Day. If students need MCPS transportation, they should be at their bus stops at normal times.
 - The cafeteria will be available for non-testing students until the SAT testing session concludes. All students who are not taking the SAT will have an opportunity to work on Edmentum classes, earn SSL hours, and get support in classes in the Cafeteria or work independently
-

What to Bring on Test Day:

- Fully charged MCPS-issued device
- Device charger
- Important: Students cannot use personal devices for testing.

Note: Calculators are also embedded in the digital test

We look forward to a successful SAT School Day! If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the school.

B. Rohner

Principal

Damascus High School

Hive Highlights**Damascus Drama Club's Production of *Guys and Dolls***

This week, the Damascus Drama Club's production of *Guys and Dolls* kicked off on Wednesday with a fantastic teaser, giving everyone in the school a sneak peek. The full production debuted last night, and there are more shows to come this weekend! Once again, our talented students—along with the dedicated staff and volunteers—have put in an incredible amount of time and effort, not only for the performances themselves but also behind the scenes to bring this production to life. A huge congratulations to everyone involved—great job!

Congratulations to *Gabe Hernandez* for earning 4th Place in Wrestling State Championships!

An incredible accomplishment and a testament to his hard work and dedication. Also, congratulations to all of our wrestlers who competed, once again demonstrating the determination and effort it takes to excel in such a challenging sport. We're proud of you! Great job, Hornets!

Spring Sports Season starts Friday March 21st!

As we head into the Spring sports season, we encourage everyone to cheer on our teams as they compete. You can find all the latest results and updates at the [Swarmin' Hornets](#) website. Let's support our Hornets as they strive for excellence on and off the field!

Swarm Schedules

Day	Event(s)
Monday 03/17	Regular Bell Schedule
Tuesday 03/18	Regular Bell Schedule
Wednesday 03/19	SAT School Day Bell Schedule SAT Testing... 8:00-10:55 AM LUNCH... 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (60) Period 5... 12:05 - 12:50 PM Period 6... 12:55 - 1:40 PM Period 7... 1:45 - 2:30 PM <i>Transportation will run on a normal schedule. Any student not participating in SAT testing will be supervised in the cafeteria until the testing session concludes.</i>
Thursday 03/20	Hornet Time Bell Schedule
Friday 03/21	Regular Bell Schedule

Following Week

Day	Event(s)
Monday 03/24	Regular Bell Schedule
Tuesday 03/25	Regular Bell Schedule
Wednesday 03/26	Regular Bell Schedule
Thursday 03/27	Hornet Time Bell Schedule
Friday 03/28	Regular Bell Schedule- <i>Last Day of MP3</i>

Hornet Happenings

SAT School Day - Wednesday, March 19th

The SAT School Day is less than two weeks away. Please visit this link to read about how you will need to prepare for this test at home, as well as how we are preparing students in school:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1qcnuDnwPasUaHGYglTbBhwN5F7Bk9yPv_bEiWbLWnjY/edit?usp=sharing

Vape Sensors Installation at DHS

MCPS Office of Systemwide Safety and Emergency Management is finalizing the installation of vape sensors in our school bathrooms. These sensors will provide real-time monitoring and data transmission to staff when vaping is detected. Once installation is complete, the sensors are expected to go live in late March or early April. Our goal is to reinforce that vaping is not permitted in our school bathrooms and to create a healthier and safer environment for all students. We apologize if the bathroom were closed at different times as a result of the installation. We appreciate your support as we continue working to maintain a positive and respectful school climate.

DHS Early Child Development Laboratory Program: Currently accepting applications for 2025-2026

There will be a morning session offered at Damascus High School from 7:50 a.m. to 10:50 a.m., Monday through Thursday and some Fridays. Applications for children are accepted on an annual basis. The program will operate from early October through mid-May, following MCPS closings for holidays and weather-related issues. The program's curriculum is appropriate for the year before a child enters kindergarten. Children must be 4 years of age by September 1, 2025, toilet trained and have all required health forms on file by the beginning of school. Please keep in mind that the program is designed for the preschooler who can cope with daily changes and flexible scheduling. Special education services are not provided through this program. Younger children will be considered as space allows.

Yearbook

Don't wait - secure a [DHS 2024-25 yearbook](#) today. Price increased to \$95 on March 1st. Feeling lucky? Use code GREEN or GOLD to save \$5 off the price until March 17. Any questions, please email Karen_R_Zappone@mcpsmd.org

Spring Musical

The Damascus Drama Club is excited to present the classic Broadway musical Guys and Dolls! Shows will be on Thursday March 13 at 7pm, Friday March 14 at 7pm, and Saturday March 15 at 2pm and 7pm. Tickets are \$10 for students and senior citizens, \$12 for adults, and free to children 5 and under. All tickets will be sold at the door starting 30 minutes before showtime. Thank you for supporting the Performing Arts at Damascus HS!

Music Boosters – Fundraiser at Ricoton on 3/17

Please join the DHS Music Boosters for a restaurant fundraiser at Ricoton on Monday, March 17th from 4-7:30pm. 10% of all proceeds will be donated to the Music Boosters to support the music programs at DHS. Details are included on [the flyer](#)! Make sure to mention DHS Music Boosters when ordering! Thanks so much for your support!

Drama Club Movie Night - Friday March 22 5:30pm

The Drama Club will show the movie LaLa Land in the DHS Auditorium. The film begins at 5:30 and will end before 8pm. The movie is PG13 for language. There is no cost, though donations to the DHS Drama Club will be appreciated.

Hallie Wells MS- Six the Musical: Teen Edition, taking the stage on March 21 & 22!

Hallie Wells is excited to announce Six the Musical: Teen Edition, taking the stage on March 21 & 22! 🎭👏

This engaging performance features the six wives of Henry VIII as they compete for the title of the most tragic queen. This production showcases not only their competition but the depth of their stories. Join us at 6 PM for doors and a 6:30 PM showtime. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. Recommended for ages 11 and up. Don't miss this opportunity to support young talent in the arts!

Spring Game Changer Conference

Unity Christian Fellowship, Inc. will host its semi-annual Game Changer Conference on Saturday, April 5, 2025 from 8:00 am - noon at the Montgomery College Germantown Campus. Conference theme is "Achievement to Thrive in 2025 is a Game Changer! What are your goals for winning your Future?" The goal is to allow students to succeed as a game changer. The target audience is Black or African American and Hispanic male students of color in Grades 4-12.

- School staff should coordinate with their students, male mentoring sponsors, administration, and other school-based staff to encourage students to attend the conference. Parents should register their children [here](#).
- Schools should contact families to confirm attendance by Monday, March 24, 2025.
- Optional: Students may submit a 300-word essay, based on the conference theme, using this link [Essay Writing Details](#)
- All essays are due on Monday, March 24, 2025.

Links/Additional Information

[Parent Letter](#)

[Registration Instructions](#)

[Unity Christian Fellowship Website](#)

NACAC College Fair for Juniors

We are pleased to invite junior students to participate in this year's NACAC College Fair on Tuesday, April 8th, at the Adventist Healthcare Fieldhouse in Boyds. This fair is an excellent opportunity for students to start their college search. Admissions counselors from over 300 colleges and universities will be on-site to provide important information about each school and the college admissions process. Students will be taken to the event on school buses departing DHS at 11:30 a.m. and returning at 2:00 p.m. The field trip costs \$6.00, payable at SchoolCash Online or providing cash. Students must visit Ms. Hernandez Rubio (room 133) as early as possible to participate.

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For many families, the high cost of higher education is a daunting proposition. Parents lie awake at night trying to figure out how to afford sending their children to college and still have enough of their hard-earned money to retire one day. Some families have children attending college next year and others have 12 years to plan; but the fears of tackling these monumental and rising costs are the same. **The College Funding Coach®** is here to help families figure out HOW to pay for it! Through our educational workshop, *Little-Known Secrets of Paying for College* parents can expect to learn the following:

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- The most popular college funding financial vehicles explained and debunked
- How to implement strategies that may allow students to attend out-of-state or private colleges for a lower cost than attending an in-state public
- ...and so much more

Learn more about the event and register here [HERE](#) !!

03.07.25

[*Mensaje en español*](#)

Hive Highlights



Congratulations to Dr. Jeff Sullivan, MCPS Systemwide Athletics Director

We are thrilled to share that our very own Hornet parent has been named the recipient of the 2025 Dr. Edward Award for Excellence in Supervision!

Congratulations to Our Wrestlers Heading to State Championships!

A huge shoutout and recognition to the following wrestlers: ***Porter Gruner, Gabe Hernandez, & Cooper Spoales***, who will be competing in the State Championships this weekend! It is not only an honor but also a tremendous challenge to reach this level of competition. We are incredibly proud of their hard work, dedication, and perseverance. Best of luck as you represent Damascus at States—go Hornets!

Celebrating Our Amazing DHS Art Show!

This week, we had our incredible DHS Art Show, showcasing the amazing talent and artistic ability of our students. The exhibit featured a wide range of artwork, each piece highlighting the creativity and dedication of our students. It was truly inspiring to see such a diverse and impressive collection! A huge thank you to all the students who shared their work and to the staff who made this event possible. Your hard work and passion made this show a success!

Celebrating Women’s History Month

As we celebrate Women’s History Month, we take time to honor the incredible contributions of women throughout history and in our own community. From the women who inspire us every day—our teachers, mentors, leaders, family members, and friends—this month is a reminder of their strength, resilience, and impact. At Damascus High School, we are committed to fostering a culture of respect, equity, and empowerment for all. Let’s use this time to learn from the past, celebrate the present, and continue working toward a future where all voices are heard and valued.

Swarm Schedules

Following Week

Day	Event(s)
Monday 03/10	Regular Bell Schedule
Tuesday 03/11	Regular Bell Schedule

Wednesday 03/12	Adjusted Assembly Bell Schedule for Musical Teaser
Thursday 03/13	Hornet Time Bell Schedule
Friday 03/14	Regular Bell Schedule

Next Week

Day	Event(s)
Monday 03/17	Regular Bell Schedule
Tuesday 03/18	Regular Bell Schedule
Wednesday 03/19	SAT School Day SAT Testing...8:00-10:55 AM LUNCH...11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (60) Period 5... 12:05 - 12:50 PM Period 6... 12:55 - 1:40 PM Period 7... 1:45 - 2:30 PM <i>Transportation will run on a normal schedule. Any student not participating in SAT testing will be supervised in the cafeteria until the testing session concludes.</i>
Thursday 03/20	Hornet Time Bell Schedule
Friday 03/21	Regular Bell Schedule

Hornet Happenings

Don't Miss the Damascus Drama Club's Production of Guys and Dolls!

The Damascus Drama Club proudly presents Guys and Dolls! Shows start next week, and you won't want to miss this exciting musical production. Come out and support our talented students as they bring this classic show to life on stage—see you there! Showtimes: 03/13 at 7PM, 03/14 at 7PM, 03/15 at 2PM & 7PM

DHS Early Child Development Laboratory Program: Currently accepting applications for 2025-2026

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MCPS Chromebook and charger

Every student has been issued an MCPS Chromebook and charger and is responsible for any damages or lost / missing units. Chromebooks must be returned before Graduation or leaving DHS. [Charges for damaged or missing units are listed here](#). Students aren't responsible for defective units—see Mr. Swiger in the Media Center before school or during lunch if there are issues. Ensure your Chromebook is labeled with your name. If the label is missing, use a sticker or new

label to avoid mix-ups. If your Chromebook goes missing, report it immediately to the Media Center to prevent further complications. The longer you wait, the harder it is to recover the device.

SAT School Day - Wednesday, March 19th

The SAT School Day is less than two weeks away. Please visit this link to read about how you will need to prepare for this test at home, as well as how we are preparing students in school:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1qcnuDnwPasUaHGYglTbBhwN5F7Bk9yPv_bEiWbLWnjY/edit?usp=sharing

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Karen_R_Zappone@mcpsmd.org

03.04.25- Support Our Team with Positive Sportsmanship at Tonight's Game

Dear Damascus High School Community,

I hope this message finds you well. I am proud to share the continued success of our boys' basketball team! Tonight (Tuesday, 03/04), we take on Blake High School in an exciting away game, and we look forward to great competition.

As we cheer on our team, I want to remind everyone of the importance of sportsmanship. At our last matchup with Blake HS, there were incidents where individual players were singled out by name and number, which is a direct violation of

MCPS athletic sportsmanship expectations and [R.A.I.S.E.](#) core values. This behavior is unacceptable and does not reflect the values of our school community. Whether you are a student, parent, or community member, your conduct is crucial in creating a positive and respectful atmosphere. We expect all attendees to show good sportsmanship and respect for all players, coaches, officials, and fellow spectators.

We expect all attendees tonight to:

- Cheer positively for our players and support our team.
- Show respect for all players, coaches, officials, and spectators.
- Refrain from any harmful or unsportsmanlike behavior.

Any spectator who violates these expectations—especially by identifying opposing players by name or number—will be asked to leave the game. We want everyone to enjoy the game while upholding the highest standards of sportsmanship.

Additionally, due to the incidents at our last game against Blake HS, additional security and administrative presence will be at the game and in the student section to ensure a safe and positive environment for all.

Let's represent Damascus High School with pride, respect, and unwavering support for our team. I look forward to an exciting game and, hopefully, another victory!

Go Hornets!

B. Rohner

Bradley W. Rohner

Principal

Damascus High School

02.28.25

[Mensaje en español](#)

Hive Highlights



Today, we say goodbye to a part of our Damascus family. ***Mrs. Theresa Sluger***, Special Education teacher, had her last day in MCPS as she begins her well-earned retirement on March 1st. She will always be a Hornet, and we will miss her dearly!

Leo Club Blood Drive - last Friday

Last Friday, the Leo Club sponsored a blood drive at Damascus High School! This event not only helped meet a critical need but also reinforced the powerful message that “**hope begins with you.**” Thank you to everyone who participated, donated, and supported this important cause. Your generosity and commitment make a real difference in our community.

DHS Refurbished Car and Computer Sale - Last Saturday

Last week, Damascus High School proudly sponsored the Montgomery County Student Automotive Trades Foundation Sale, and it was an incredible success! This event once again highlighted the power and energy of a thriving Automotive program here at DHS—one that continues to flourish because of our students’ hard work and the unwavering support of our community.

Congratulations to the Girls’ Swim Team – State Champions! - Last Saturday

Our Girls’ Swim Team brought home the state championship last weekend in an electrifying meet that came down to the final relay against Poolesville. Their hard work, determination, and teamwork made all the difference. Way to go, Hornets! We are so proud of you!

2024 Baila4Life MCPS Junior Latin Dance Competition - Last Sunday

Last Sunday, our Latin Dance Team proudly represented Damascus High School! Our talented students showcase their hard work and passion, supported by their dedicated families. A huge congratulations to our dancers and a heartfelt thank you to the parents and community members who cheered them on. Your support makes all the difference! Our Latin Dance Team placed in every couple’s category: Bachata 2nd; Salsa 1st; Merengue 3rd; Cha Cha 1st, Jack & Jill 1st; Parent/Student 3rd, and the Leadership Award for DHS went to ***Michelle Espinoza***.

Damascus High School Art Show – March 5-7

Join us for the DHS Art Show from March 5-7 and experience the incredible creativity of our students! Stop by in the evening to admire the talent, passion, and hard work they’ve put into their artwork. We look forward to celebrating their artistic achievements with our community!

Wishing a Happy Ramadan to Our Community

This evening marks the beginning of Ramadan, a sacred month of fasting, reflection, and community for our Muslim students, staff, and families. Ramadan is a time of spiritual growth, self-discipline, and generosity, culminating in the celebration of Eid al-Fitr on March 29, 2025. We recognize and support our community members who observe this important time, and we appreciate the strength, dedication, and traditions they bring to our school. Ramadan Mubarak!

Swarm Schedules

Next Week

Day	Event(s)
Monday 03/03	Regular Bell Schedule
Tuesday 03/04	Regular Bell Schedule
Wednesday 03/05	Regular Bell Schedule
Thursday 03/06	Hornet Time Bell Schedule
Friday 03/07	Regular Bell Schedule

Following Week

Day	Event(s)
Monday 03/10	Regular Bell Schedule
Tuesday 03/11	Regular Bell Schedule
Wednesday 03/12	Adjusted Assembly Bell Schedule for Musical Teaser
Thursday 03/13	Hornet Time Bell Schedule
Friday 03/14	Regular Bell Schedule

Hornet Happenings

4th annual Prom Dress Giveaway

Clarksburg Closet is thrilled to be hosting its [4th annual Prom Dress Giveaway](#) event this year on Saturday, March 15th, from 10am-2pm at Cedarbrook Community Church in Clarksburg.

International Night

Let us know if you are interested in participating by completing this form. [International Night Interest Survey](#)

Spring Musical

The Damascus Drama Club is excited to present the classic Broadway musical Guys and Dolls! Shows will be on Thursday March 13 at 7pm, Friday March 14 at 7pm, and Saturday March 15 at 2pm and 7pm. Tickets are \$10 for students and senior citizens, \$12 for adults, and free to children 5 and under. All tickets will be sold at the door starting 30 minutes before showtime. Thank you for supporting the Performing Arts at Damascus HS!

Hallway Checks

- It is very important for students to be in class ON TIME every day.
- DHS Staff will be conducting random hallway checks 2nd Semester.
- Students who are not in their classroom by the late bell will be held by DHS staff and assigned a consequence.
- Please remember - be in class ON TIME and stay out of the hallways without a pass.

Yearbook

Don't wait - secure a [DHS 2024-25 yearbook](#) today. Price increased to \$95 on March 1st. Feeling lucky? Use code GREEN or GOLD to save \$5 off the price until March 17. Any questions, please email

Karen_R_Zappone@mcpsmd.org

Senior Ads

LAST CALL!! The deadline for [Senior Ads](#) has been extended until Sunday, March 2. Last chance to include those sweet baby pictures of your senior. If you have any questions, please email

Karen_R_Zappone@mcpsmd.org

02.27.25- Important Update on Incident

Dear Damascus High School Parents,

I am writing to inform you about an incident that occurred yesterday (Wednesday, February 26, 2025) at our school. Between third and fourth periods, an altercation between two students in a restroom resulted in injuries. Unfortunately,

one student used a small taser during the incident. Both students were promptly seen by our school nurse and reunited with their caregivers. Another concerning aspect is that some students filmed the incident, and it appears that the video has been shared. We want to emphasize that sharing such content only serves to glorify violence and disrupt our school community.

We have investigated the situation and have spoken with all students involved, as well as any witnesses. As per the MCPS protocol and Student Code of Conduct, our law enforcement partners were contacted and appropriate consequences will be applied to those involved in the altercation.

The safety and well-being of our students remain our top priorities. In response to this incident, we are increasing adult supervision in the areas where it occurred, ensuring a stronger staff presence to prevent future issues.

In addition to the altercation yesterday, a separate health-related incident occurred that required EMS assistance during the lunch period. Please note that this health-related incident was completely unrelated to the altercation and was an independent event.

I appreciate your support in reinforcing the expectations for student behavior. To foster a safe and respectful school environment, we encourage ongoing communication between students, staff, and families.

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns.

B. Rohner

Bradley W. Rohner
Principal
Damascus High School

02.21.25

[Mensaje en español](#)

DHS's Latin Dance Team will participate in the 2024 Baila4Life MCPS Junior Latin Dance Competition on Sunday, 02/23 at 5:00 PM at Seneca Valley HS.

Mr. Wise, Mr. Motko, & Ms. Moravy showcasing an instructional video that went live on Tuesday and will be published on our MCPS YouTube Page! [Equity Teaching 2025: Math Language Routines, Stronger & Clearer, Vertical Spaces at Damascus HS](#)

The Montgomery County Students Automotive Trades Foundation will hold its next [Refurbished Car and Computer Sale](#) Saturday, February 22, at **Damascus High School** from 9 – 11 a.m. If you are unfamiliar with this nonprofit organization, it exists to help high school students learn a trade like automotive or computer repair. A list of vehicles available on the date of the sale can be [found here](#).

Swarm Schedules

Next Week

Day	Event(s)
Monday 02/24	Regular Bell Schedule
Tuesday 02/25	Regular Bell Schedule
Wednesday 02/26	Regular Bell Schedule
Thursday 02/27	Hornet Time Bell Schedule
Friday 02/28	Early Release Dismissal Bell Schedule

Following Week

Day	Event(s)
Monday 03/03	Regular Bell Schedule
Tuesday 03/04	Regular Bell Schedule
Wednesday 03/05	Regular Bell Schedule
Thursday 03/06	Hornet Time Bell Schedule
Friday 03/07	Regular Bell Schedule

Hornet Happenings

Senior Class Panoramic Picture (Order by 2/23)

The senior panoramic picture is now available for ordering using this [LINK](#). Order by 2/23, for free bulk shipping to the school, with distribution by your class sponsor. If you order after this date, shipping charges will be added with the picture being mailed to the shipping address on the order.

Upcoming Damascus Art Show

Mark your calendars for the upcoming 2025 Damascus art show. Art from the various art classes will be showcased in the auditorium hallway and display cases from March 5th-7th. Opening night will be held Wednesday March 5th from 6-7:30 where we celebrate the achievements of all our art students.

Spring Musical

The Damascus Drama Club is excited to present the classic Broadway musical Guys and Dolls! Shows will be on Thursday March 13 at 7pm, Friday March 14 at 7pm, and Saturday March 15 at 2pm and 7pm. Tickets are \$10 for students and senior citizens, \$12 for adults, and free to children 5 and under. All tickets will be sold at the door starting 30 minutes before showtime. Thank you for supporting the Performing Arts at Damascus HS!

Yearbook

Don't wait - secure a [DHS 2024-25 yearbook](#) today. Current price is \$90. Price increases on March 1st - don't delay! If you have any questions, please email Karen_R_Zappone@mcpsmd.org

Senior Ads

LAST CALL!! The deadline for [Senior Ads](#) has been extended until Sunday, March 2. Last chance to include those sweet baby pictures of your senior. If you have any questions, please email Karen_R_Zappone@mcpsmd.org

DHS Edmentum Spring Semester

Our Spring Semester is underway. All students enrolled in our Spring Semester were sent an email with information on course access, navigation, content teachers and days and times for student support. Please use this link for all your [DHS Edmentum information](#).

Family Forum on Mental Health and Substance Use Prevention

Important Dates:

Saturday, March 1, 2025, from 8:00 a.m.–noon: The Mental Health and Substance Use Prevention Family Forum will take place at Gaithersburg High School, 101 Education Blvd, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20877.

Links/Additional Information

Breakfast will be provided and the middle and high school with the most attendees will receive free ice cream during their school lunch. Students will receive four student service learning hours for attending the event. Parents/guardians, students, staff, and community members can [RSVP Here](#)

Resources - Immigration

- [Know your rights](#)
- [Flyer](#)
- [MCPS Immigration Supports for Students and Families](#)

02.14.25

[*Mensaje en español*](#)

Hive Highlights



DHS DECA represents at the State Conference on Friday, 02/07!

We are incredibly proud of Aidan Ahn for taking 1st place in the “Business Services Marketing Competition” at the DECA State Conference! Way to represent Damascus High School at the highest level—congratulations, Aidan!

DHS Science Olympiad on Saturday, 02/08!

Out of 23 events in our league (out of 15 teams), our students took First place in five events, second place in four events, third place in six events, and fourth place in eight events. We won't know for certain if we made the States until March 3rd. As of right now, we came in ninth out of 21 teams!

SGA Sponsored Winter Pep Rally

Today's DHS Winter Pep Rally was nothing short of amazing! A huge thank you to our SGA for sponsoring this incredible event, where we recognized multiple sports teams and their captains. We were also treated to an outstanding performance from our Winter Cheer & Poms teams! The energy in the gym was electric as students and staff competed in some fun and exciting activities, including an obstacle course, a mattress relay, and a basketball shooting contest—with students taking the win in the classic Staff vs. Students matchup! Great job to everyone who participated and made this event such a success. Once again, Damascus High School showed that our pride shines every day!

Swarm Schedules

Next Week

Day	Event(s)
Monday 02/17	Holiday - Presidents' Day - Schools Closed
Tuesday 02/18	Regular Bell Schedule
Wednesday 02/19	Regular Bell Schedule
Thursday 02/20	Hornet Time Bell Schedule
Friday 02/21	Regular Bell Schedule

Following Week

Day	Event(s)
Monday 02/24	Regular Bell Schedule
Tuesday 02/25	Regular Bell Schedule
Wednesday 02/26	Regular Bell Schedule

Thursday 02/27	Hornet Time Bell Schedule
Friday 02/28	Early Release Dismissal Bell Schedule

Hornet Happenings

Athletics

If you're curious about the results of our games and matches, please check out [DHS Swarmin" Hornets](#) to stay up to date!

Yearbook

Don't wait - secure a [DHS 2024-25 yearbook](#)! Current price is \$90. If you have any questions, please email Karen_R_Zappone@mcpsmd.org

Senior Ads

EXTENDED!! The deadline for [Senior Ads](#) is fast approaching. Show your senior some love! You must purchase your senior ad by Monday, February 17. If you have any questions, please email Karen_R_Zappone@mcpsmd.org

Spring Musical

The Damascus Drama Club is excited to present the classic Broadway musical Guys and Dolls! Shows will be on Thursday March 13 at 7pm, Friday March 14 at 7pm, and Saturday March 15 at 2pm and 7pm. Tickets are \$10 for students and senior citizens, \$12 for adults, and free to children 5 and under. All tickets will be sold at the door starting 30 minutes before showtime. Thank you for supporting the Performing Arts at Damascus HS!

Damascus PTA

We are inviting all families to join our Damascus PTA Spanish speaker group on Tuesday February 18th at 6:00 pm. This meeting will be via Zoom, and in person, as we support our Spanish speaker families during this challenging time by providing immigration resources and information. While we do not have the answers to all questions, we hope to provide valuable information to support families. Zoom information can be found below. Questions? Call 240-550-3956 Find [here](#) the flyer

SPANISH

Invitamos a todas las familias a unirse a nuestro grupo de habla hispana de la PTA de Damasco el día martes la tarde a las 6:00 p. m. a través de Zoom, y también en persona en la escuela de Damascus High School. Mientras apoyamos a las familias durante este momento difícil brindándoles recursos e información sobre inmigración. Si bien no tenemos las respuestas a todas las preguntas, esperamos brindar información valiosa para apoyar a las familias. Puede encontrar información sobre Zoom a continuación. preguntas? llame al 240-550-3956. Encuentre el boletín [aquí](#)

International Night- Let's make it happen!

We will hold an interest meeting on Tuesday, February 18th during lunch in room 120 for any staff and students who are interested in planning international night events. See Ms. Mullenholz in room 170 with questions. For those interested in participating in international night, more information is coming soon!

One Warm Coat fundraiser

There are only 2 weeks left to donate coats for our One Warm Coat fundraiser! DHS is partnering with One Warm Coat to collect gently used coats for those in need. Donations can be dropped off in the box located outside the Welcome Center. Let's honor Dr. King's legacy by giving back to our community. If you have any questions, please contact **Ms. Stevenson**.

Black History Month SSL Activities – Available Only This Month!

Students can celebrate Black History Month by engaging in meaningful Student Service Learning (SSL) activities! These activities provide a great opportunity to learn, and earn SSL hours while honoring the contributions of Black leaders and changemakers. Don't miss out—these activities are only available through the end of the month! For more details, visit [this link](#). .

Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet at the Chesapeake Arts Center on April 10th.

Attention ninth-grade parents and guardians: the ninth-grade English team would like to invite our students on a field trip to the Chesapeake Arts Center on April 10th to experience a live performance of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet. Permission slips and payment are due to your child's English teacher no later than Friday, February 28th. Please see the attached links for more details or email Heather Trovinger at Heather_M_Trovinger@mcpsmd.org with any questions.

 [2025 Shakespeare Field Trip Letter to Parents.pdf](#)

 [2025 Shakespeare Field Trip Permission Slip.pdf](#)

02.07.25

[*Mensaje en español*](#)

Hive Highlights

A huge shout-out to our Black Student Union (BSU) for an absolutely amazing Black History Month Showcase today! This incredible performance was entirely planned and organized by our very own students, highlighting their hard work, creativity, and leadership. Once again, our students have demonstrated the rich diversity and multiple cultures that make up the Damascus High School community, and it was truly inspiring to see them shine on stage. Thank you to everyone who participated and supported this event!

Swarm Schedules

Next Week

Day	Bell Schedule/Event(s)
Monday 02/10	Regular Bell Schedule
Tuesday 02/11	Regular Bell Schedule
Wednesday 02/12	Regular Bell Schedule
Thursday 02/13	Hornet Time Bell Schedule
Friday 02/14	Seasonal Pep Rally Bell Schedule - Winter Pep Rally

Following Week

Day	Event(s)
Monday 02/17	Holiday - Presidents' Day - Schools Closed
Tuesday 02/18	Regular Bell Schedule
Wednesday 02/19	Regular Bell Schedule
Thursday 02/20	Hornet Time Bell Schedule
Friday 02/21	Regular Bell Schedule

Hornet Happenings

Yearbook

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Senior Ads

EXTENDED!! The deadline for [Senior Ads](#) is fast approaching. Show your senior some love! You must purchase your senior ad by Monday, February 17. If you have any questions, please email Karen_R_Zappone@mcpsmd.org

Fire Alarm Update

As you may recall, a couple of weeks ago, we experienced a fire alarm activation that required us to evacuate the building in very cold weather. This activation was triggered when a student accidentally knocked into a cover, which then set off the alarm. While this cover was not supposed to activate the system, we submitted a work order for a replacement. Additionally, our fire alarm system activated three times on Friday night, 01/31. The fire department responded, and it was determined that there was no fire or smoke present. After further investigation, we identified a faulty smoke detector as the cause of these activations. A work order was placed, and the detector has been replaced. We are working closely with the facilities management team to monitor the condition of our fire alarm system and prevent unnecessary activations.. Please know that we are taking immediate action to identify and resolve these issues as quickly as possible. As always, safety is our top priority.

Senior Class Panoramic Picture (Order by 2/23)

The senior panoramic picture is now available for ordering using this [LINK](#). Order by 2/23, for free bulk shipping to the school, with distribution by your class sponsor. If you order after this date, shipping charges will be added with the picture being mailed to the shipping address on the order.

Cafeteria Accounts & Free and Reduced-Price Meals (FARMS)

Please monitor your student's cafeteria account balance to ensure there are sufficient funds in the account. If financial assistance is needed, it's not too late to apply to FARMS. Please visit this [LINK](#) to apply.

Resources - Immigration

- [Know your rights](#)
- [Flyer](#)
- [MCPS Immigration Supports for Students and Families](#)

Athletic Sportsmanship & R.A.I.S.E. Philosophy

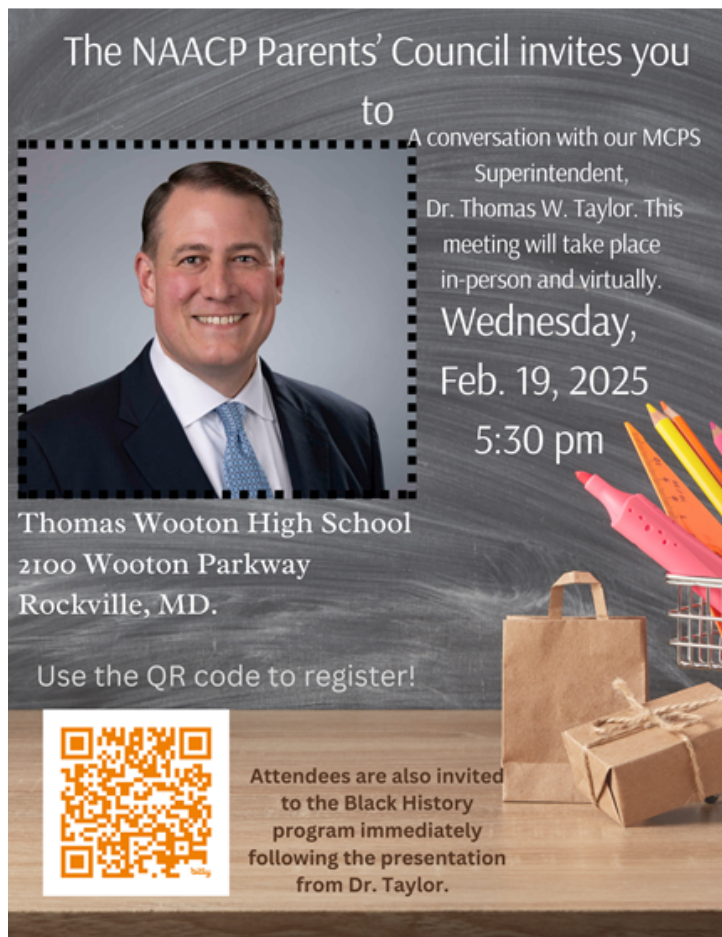
Just a reminder, whether you are a student, parent, or community member, your conduct plays a crucial role in creating a positive and respectful atmosphere. We expect all attendees to show good sportsmanship, respect for all players, coaches, officials, and fellow spectators. Please cheer positively and support our teams with enthusiasm, while refraining from negative comments or unsportsmanlike behavior. The DHS & MCPS philosophy of interscholastic athletics is founded in the vision, mission, purpose, and [R.A.I.S.E.](#) core values. We ask that you join us in promoting these principles by:

- Cheering positively for all players and teams.
- Respecting the decisions of coaches and officials.
- Discussing the importance of sportsmanship with your children.

Athletics

If you're curious about the results of our games and matches, please check out [DHS Swarmin" Hornets](#) to stay up to date!

NAACP Conversation Wednesday, 2/19/25 With Superintendent-In Person & Via Zoom



DHS [Blood Drive Flyer](#)

DHS Leo Club Blood Drive, Friday, February 21, 8:00am - 1:00pm, Small Gym, Donors will receive a \$15 gift card.

Use of the Hornet Logo

Please be aware that DHS has an agreement with Georgia Tech (GT) regarding the appropriate use of the DHS hornet logo. GT is the exclusive owner of the hornet logo. The GT agreement places restrictions on such use by the school and by others. The only use licensed by GT is official use by the school and school-recognized clubs and activities, including use by the DHS PTSA and the DHS Booster Clubs. The agreement does not permit DHS to authorize use or sales of merchandise containing the DHS Hornet Logo by other parties.

Jump Start To College

There will be a virtual parent information meeting on February 13, 2025, at 7:00pm about the Jump Start to College Program and how students can earn college credits while still in high school. A representative from Montgomery College will provide information about student eligibility, the enrollment process, and answer any questions you may have. Whether a student is interested in getting a head start on their college education or exploring new subjects, this meeting is the perfect chance to discover the benefits of this exciting opportunity.

For more information, see the details on [this flyer](#). Please [RSVP](#) to attend this virtual meeting. You may contact Mrs. Audrey Moore with any questions (Audrey_Moore@mcpsmd.org).

01.31.25

[Mensaje en español](#)

Hive Highlights

Black History Month

As we step into February, we proudly recognize Black History Month and the diversity that makes our school community so special. This Friday (02/07), our Black Student Union (BSU) will host a Black History Month Showcase, providing a meaningful opportunity to honor and celebrate Black history and culture. Please note that we will follow an [Adjusted Assembly Bell Schedule](#) for this event.

Montgomery County Best Buddies Winter Formal

Last Saturday (01/25), Damascus High School Best Buddies sponsored and organized this wonderful event, bringing together students from across the county. It was amazing to see the joy and connection among our students.

Maryland Cool Schools Polar Plunge

On Wednesday (01/29), Damascus High School Best Buddies program has participated in the Maryland Cool Schools Polar Plunge for the past 4 years. Best Buddies spreads the message of inclusion for our peers with disabilities. Supporting the Special Olympics is near and dear to our hearts.

Swarm Schedules

Next Week

Day	Bell Schedule/Event(s)
Monday 02/03	Regular Bell Schedule
Tuesday 02/04	Regular Bell Schedule
Wednesday 02/05	Regular Bell Schedule
Thursday 02/06	Hornet Time Bell Schedule
Friday 02/07	Adjusted Assembly Bell Schedule - BSU Black History Month Showcase

Following Week

Day	Bell Schedule/Event(s)
Monday 02/10	Regular Bell Schedule
Tuesday 02/11	Regular Bell Schedule
Wednesday 02/12	Regular Bell Schedule

Thursday 02/13	Hornet Time Bell Schedule
Friday 02/14	Regular Bell Schedule

Hornet Happenings

Yearbook

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The deadline for [Senior Ads](#) is fast approaching. Find those baby pictures now! You must purchase your senior ad by Friday, February 7. If you have any questions, please email Karen_R_Zappone@mcpsmd.org

Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet at the Chesapeake Arts Center on April 10th.

Attention ninth-grade parents and guardians: the ninth-grade English team would like to invite our students on a field trip to experience a live performance of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet at the Chesapeake Arts Center on April 10th. Permission slips and payment are due to your child's English teacher no later than Friday, February 28th. Please see the attached links for more details or email Heather Trovinger at Heather_M_Trovinger@mcpsmd.org with any questions.

 [2025 Shakespeare Field Trip Letter to Parents.pdf](#)

 [2025 Shakespeare Field Trip Permission Slip.pdf](#)

DHS Edmentum Spring Semester

Registration for Edmentum Original Credit or Credit Recovery for our Spring Semester is currently underway. Please see your counselor to register and review your transcripts. Seats are limited and priority is based on the student's original year of graduation. The Spring Semester starts on February 13, 2025.

01.29.25- MP3/Semester B Begins Tomorrow

[*Mensaje en español*](#)

Dear Damascus High School Community,

I hope this message finds you well. As we begin the second semester and third marking period tomorrow, I wanted to share a few important updates and reminders:

Second Semester Reminders

While we will not follow a homeroom schedule (students will report directly to 1st period), we will have a [Hornet Time Bell Schedule](#), where students will receive critical [second-semester reminders](#) about student IDs, mobile devices, schedule changes, and Chromebook expectations.

Recognizing Important Events

- Monday, January 27, marked International Holocaust Remembrance Day. Last Thursday, during Hornet Time, we shared a slideshow to honor and educate our students on this important day. [Here](#) is the slideshow for your reference.
- Today (Wednesday, January 29), marks the beginning of the Lunar New Year, celebrating the Year of the Snake. We wish all those who celebrate a joyful and prosperous year!

Bat Sighting Update

On Monday, a bat sighting was reported in the auditorium during lunch. Both MCPS Pest Control and Montgomery County Animal Services were contacted and evaluated the area but were unable to locate the bat. Out of an abundance of caution, the Baker Middle School sponsored Cluster Chorus Concert was rescheduled to another evening. Since then, there have been no further sightings, and normal auditorium usage has resumed.

As we embark on the second half of the school year, thank you for your continued partnership and support. If you have any questions or need assistance, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Bradley W. Rohner
Principal
Damascus High School

01.24.25

[*Mensaje en español*](#)

Happy Friday, Everyone!

It's hard to believe we are already closing out the first semester—it feels like the school year is flying by! As we approach the end of the marking period, I want to remind students that there are still a couple of days left to connect with their teachers for any additional support they may need.

Looking ahead, please note that there will be no school on Wednesday, January 29, as it is a scheduled in-service day for teachers. The second semester will begin on Thursday, January 30.

Important Schedule Update: [Climate Survey Reminder/ 2nd Semester Reminders: 2025](#)

Unlike previous years, we will not begin the second semester in homerooms. Instead, students will go directly to their first-period class based on their schedules.

During Hornet Time on Thursday, January 30, students will view a slideshow with important reminders for the second semester. These include:

- Student ID visibility requirements
- Personal mobile device expectations
- Lunch procedures and reminders
- Guidance on schedule corrections

If you have any questions or need clarification, please don't hesitate to reach out. Thank you for your continued partnership in supporting our students' success.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Bradley W. Rohner
Principal
Damascus High School

Next Week

Day	Event(s)
Monday 01/27	Regular Bell Schedule
Tuesday 01/28	Regular Bell Schedule
Wednesday 01/29	Professional Day for Teachers (End of MP2/S1)- No School for Students
Thursday 01/30	Hornet Time Bell Schedule (First Day of Second Semester) - No Homerooms
Friday 01/31	Regular Bell Schedule

Following Week

Day	Event(s)
Monday 02/03	Regular Bell Schedule
Tuesday 02/04	Regular Bell Schedule
Wednesday 02/05	Regular Bell Schedule
Thursday 02/06	Hornet Time Bell Schedule
Friday 02/07	Adjusted Assembly Bell Schedule - BSU Black History Month Showcase

Summer RISE 2025 program

Registration is open for the Summer RISE 2025 program. Don't miss your chance to participate this summer as you explore your future career, develop professional and technical skills needed for the workforce, and build your professional network. Participating students are matched with career Hosts in an industry of preference to participate in a minimum of 50 hours of hands-on career learning. Summer RISE runs between June 23, 2025 and July 25, 2025 with students needing to be available Monday-Friday between the hours of 7:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. for the duration of the program.

Consider attending an [Information Session](#) to learn more about the program, visit www.MCPS-SummerRISE.org or meet with Summer RISE staff who will be at school on February 3rd in the College and Career Center (room 133) during lunch.

Complete the [REGISTRATION HERE](#) by Tuesday, February 18, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. to be considered for an opportunity to participate.

DHS Music Boosters—Ledos Fundraiser, 1/28

Please join the DHS Music Boosters at Ledos Damascus on Tuesday, January 28th from 11am - 9pm. 20% of the proceeds will be donated to the DHS Music Boosters to support the music programs. Make sure to mention the fundraiser whether you are ordering online, dining in, or carrying out. *Only mentioned sales will count as part of the fundraiser!* If you order online, please write "fundraiser" in the Coupon/Fundraiser Code section. See all of the details on [this flyer](#). Thank you so much for your support!

Yearbook

Don't wait - secure a [DHS 2024-25 yearbook](#)! Current price is \$90. You can also order senior ads using the same link. Find those baby pictures now! You must purchase your senior ad by Friday, February 7. If you have any questions, please email Karen_R_Zappone@mcpsmd.org

DHS Music Booster's Mattress Sale

Come see the DHS Music Booster's Mattress Sale on January 25th at Damascus High School from 10 AM - 5 PM. We bring the mattress store to you! There will be over 25 different styles of name-brand beds on display (like Purple, Helix, Therapedic, BIA, and more). The mattresses are made to order, just for you, and delivered a few weeks after the sale. We also have adjustable bases, luxury pillows, and premium sheets! EVERY sale supports the Damascus HS Music Program!

Text Hornets to 301-301-3269 to receive a Save the Date to forward to friends and family

Beds 30-50% off. We beat any mattress store prices. Limited overhead costs = Thousands raised for students and money saved for adults.

One Warm Coat fundraiser

DHS is partnering with *One Warm Coat* to collect gently used coats for those in need. Donations can be dropped off in the box located outside the Welcome Center. Let's honor Dr. King's legacy by giving back to our community. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Stevenson. Thank you for your support!

FAFSA & MHEC ONE-APP Completion Night

Have you completed the FAFSA or MHEC ONE-APP? Do you need help completing it? You are welcome to our **FAFSA & MHEC ONE-APP Completion Night** on **Friday, February 7th**, from **6 to 7 PM** at **DHS Media Center**. Montgomery College financial aid specialists will help families understand and complete these financial aid applications, whether the student will attend MC or not. They will also answer questions about MC. Families can register [HERE!](#) [Flyer](#).

01.17.25

[Mensaje en español](#)

Happy Friday, Everyone!

As we look ahead to Monday, we recognize it as not only the celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy but also as Inauguration Day, an important process in our government. The inauguration ushers in the President of the United States, representing a peaceful transition of power—one of the most defining and remarkable aspects of our democracy. These moments remind us of the importance of civic engagement and the lessons we impart to our students about participating in and upholding the values of our democratic system.

The birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., honors his life and legacy as a champion for equity and justice for all people. His words and actions continue to inspire us and remain an essential part of the education we provide today. As a former

civics teacher, I had the honor of studying and teaching about the profound meaning of Dr. King’s speeches, as well as recognizing the immense impact of his leadership and vision. His message of equality and unity is as relevant now as ever, reminding us of the importance of standing together to create a more just and compassionate society.

These days highlight the values of equality, unity, and democratic principles that guide our nation. At Damascus High School, our commitment to fostering a safe, inclusive, and respectful environment for all remains steadfast. Let us be mindful of the diverse perspectives, experiences, and emotions that these events may bring to our students and colleagues.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Bradley W. Rohner
Principal
Damascus High School

Next Week

Day	Event(s)
Monday 01/20	Holiday - Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday - School System Closed
Tuesday 01/21	Regular Bell Schedule
Wednesday 01/22	Regular Bell Schedule
Thursday 01/23	Hornet Time Bell Schedule
Friday 01/24	Regular Bell Schedule

Following Week

Day	Event(s)
Monday 01/27	Regular Bell Schedule
Tuesday 01/28	Regular Bell Schedule
Wednesday 01/29	Professional Day for Teachers (End of MP2/S1)- No School for Students
Thursday 01/30	Hornet Time Bell Schedule
Friday 01/31	Regular Bell Schedule

Service Project in Honor of Dr. King

DHS is honoring Dr. King’s vision of service and equality through our school-wide service project with “[One Warm Coat](#).” Donate coats: Bring clean, gently used coats DHS! Drop Off Instructions: Coat donations can be dropped off at the DHS Welcome Center during school hours (7:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.) Coat Drive Dates: January 8 - February 28, 2025.

Be The Change! Let's Honor Dr. King Together: Make a difference in our community by taking part in this meaningful service project!

End of MP/S2

Course Request: We will begin the course request process next week through English classes. Students received information through history classes on courses and the course request process this week. Please see [here](#) for the presentation.

Class of 2025 News & Info

Please visit the [Class of 2025 Messages](#) page to keep on top of senior class happenings. The class is currently promoting their donation fundraiser to help defray costs of senior class activities, including graduation. If you are interested in donating, you can do so through this [LINK](#). Thank you in advance for your support!

Student Member of the Board (SMOB) The SMOB candidate nomination period is January 2, 2025 through January 23, 2025 at 5:00 PM. Any interested MCPS student who is a **current 10th or 11th grader**, enrolled in an MCPS school, and a resident of Montgomery County is eligible to apply. In order to submit your nomination for candidacy, please review the SMOB Election Protocols ([Download the pdf](#)) and submit the application on page 31-32 of the protocols. The timeline and directions are available on the [MCPS SMOB Election webpage](#). Filing closes at 5:00 PM on Thursday, January 23, 2025. Please contact Mrs. Shella Cherry with any questions (shella_b_cherry@mcpsmd.org).

DHS Edmentum Original & Credit Recovery

Shout out to all the students who have earned credit through our program! Our Fall Semester will end this Friday, January 10, 2025 at 11:59 PM, please make sure all assignments are completed and submitted by this deadline. Any credits earned will be processed at the end of the Fall Semester. Registration for our Spring Semester will take place on January 31, 2025 -February 11, 2025 and is based on your counselor's recommendation and review of your transcripts. Spring Course enrollment confirmation will take place on February 13th via MCPS student gmail account. All Edmentum courses will begin on Friday, February 14, 2025. Please reach out to your counselor with any questions.

DHS Music Boosters—Ledos Fundraiser, 1/28

Please join the DHS Music Boosters at Ledos Damascus on Tuesday, January 28th from 11am - 9pm. 20% of the proceeds will be donated to the DHS Music Boosters to support the music programs. Make sure to mention the fundraiser whether you are ordering online, dining in, or carrying out. *Only mentioned sales will count as part of the fundraiser!* If you order online, please write "fundraiser" in the Coupon/Fundraiser Code section. See all of the details on [this flyer](#). Thank you so much for your support!

Yearbook

Don't wait - secure a [DHS 2024-25 yearbook](#)! Current price is \$90. You can also order senior ads using the same link. Find those baby pictures now! You must purchase your senior ad by Friday, February 7. If you have any questions, please email Karen_R_Zappone@mcpsmd.org

DHS Music Booster's Mattress Sale

Come see the DHS Music Booster's Mattress Sale on January 25th at Damascus High School from 10 AM - 5 PM. We bring the mattress store to you! There will be over 25 different styles of name-brand beds on display (like Purple, Helix, Therapedic, BIA, and more). The mattresses are made to order, just for you, and delivered a few weeks after the sale. We also have adjustable bases, luxury pillows, and premium sheets! EVERY sale supports the Damascus HS Music Program!

Text Hornets to 301-301-3269 to receive a Save the Date to forward to friends and family

Beds 30-50% off. We beat any mattress store prices. Limited overhead costs = Thousands raised for students and money saved for adults.

01.10.25

Mensaje en español

Happy Friday, Everyone!

I hope you all had a wonderful and unexpected extended snow break! I trust that everyone stayed safe and sound while enjoying the snowy weather. Due to the snow, many of our athletics and other programs have been rescheduled. Sponsors and coaches will communicate those updates as details are finalized. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we navigate these changes.

Here's to a more stable and productive week ahead—fingers crossed!

Bradley W. Rohner
Principal
Damascus High School

Next Week

Day	Event(s)
Monday 01/13	Regular Bell Schedule (Winter Government MCAP Testing - select students)
Tuesday 01/14	Regular Bell Schedule
Wednesday 01/15	Regular Bell Schedule (Winter Life Science MISA Testing - select students)
Thursday 01/16	Hornet Time Bell Schedule
Friday 01/17	Regular Bell Schedule

Following Week

Day	Event(s)
Monday 01/20	Holiday - Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday - School System Closed
Tuesday 01/21	Regular Bell Schedule
Wednesday 01/22	Regular Bell Schedule
Thursday 01/23	Hornet Time Bell Schedule
Friday 01/24	Regular Bell Schedule

[MCPS Operating Status and Notifications](#)

Below, you'll find important information from Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) regarding operational notifications and winter weather preparedness. Please take a moment to review the details to ensure you stay informed and prepared:

- [MCPS Operating Status and Notifications](#): In the event of inclement weather and we have to push the button, please refer to the MCPS color codes for operational decisions, including school closures, delayed openings, or early dismissals.
- Where to Find Winter Weather Information: For the latest updates on MCPS decision-making processes and communications during inclement weather, please visit the following resource: [MCPS Winter Weather Preparedness](#)

[Damascus Library Closes Soon for Extensive Renovations](#)

The Damascus branch of [Montgomery County Public Libraries](#) will close on Jan. 31 for about 21 months. The library and senior center on 9701 Main Street will undergo renovations before reopening in the Fall of 2026.

DHS Music Boosters–Ledos Fundraiser, 1/28

Please join the DHS Music Boosters at Ledos Damascus on Tuesday, January 28th from 11am - 9pm. 20% of the proceeds will be donated to the DHS Music Boosters to support the music programs. Make sure to mention the fundraiser whether you are ordering online, dining in, or carrying out. *Only mentioned sales will count as part of the*

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Yearbook

Don't wait - secure a [DHS 2024-25 yearbook](#)! Current price is \$90. You can also order senior ads using the same link. Find those baby pictures now! You must purchase your senior ad by Friday, February 7. If you have any questions, please email Karen_R_Zappone@mcpsmd.org

Course Requests for 2025-26

Next week, on Tuesday, January 14th, counselors will be meeting with all students in grades 9-11 to discuss the course request process and distribute course cards. During the week of January 21st, all 9th - 11th grade students will meet one on one with their counselor to complete course requests in English classes. Completed course request cards will be due on Friday, January 24th.

Personal Body Safety Lesson (PBSL)

Montgomery County Public Schools is committed to preventing child abuse and neglect through early education and intervention. On January 16th, staff will present Personal Body Safety Lessons to help students develop knowledge and skills for self-protection, recognizing abuse, seeking help, and fostering safe, positive interactions with others. A letter with additional information about the lesson can be found [here](#). If you have any questions, please contact me or your child's school counselor.

01.03.24

[*Mensaje en español*](#)

Happy Friday, Everyone!

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable holiday season. It’s hard to believe we’re already in January and nearing the end of the first semester. Time really flies when we’re working together to support our students and school community. As we step into 2025, I’m excited about the great things ahead for Damascus High School. Together, we will continue to build on the successes of the first half of the school year and look forward to new opportunities for growth and achievement. Thank you for your continued partnership and support. Let’s make 2025 another incredible year for our school and students!

And just like that, the new year brings the possibility of a winter storm! Below, you’ll find important information from Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) regarding operational notifications and winter weather preparedness.

Please take a moment to review the details to ensure you stay informed and prepared:

- [MCPS Operating Status and Notifications](#): In the event of inclement weather and we have to push the button, please refer to the MCPS color codes for operational decisions, including school closures, delayed openings, or early dismissals.
- Where to Find Winter Weather Information: For the latest updates on MCPS decision-making processes and communications during inclement weather, please visit the following resource: [MCPS Winter Weather Preparedness](#)

Updated for today (01/03)

MCPS Schools Close on Time; After-School and Evening Activities Canceled

Montgomery County Public Schools will close at the regularly scheduled time today, Friday, January 3. All after-school and evening school and community activities in school buildings are canceled. Daycare programs in school buildings will remain open as scheduled. Families should check with their childcare provider.

Bradley W. Rohner
Principal
Damascus High School

Next Week

Day	Event(s)
Monday 01/06	Regular Bell Schedule
Tuesday 01/07	Regular Bell Schedule
Wednesday 01/08	Regular Bell Schedule
Thursday 01/09	Hornet Time Bell Schedule
Friday 01/10	Regular Bell Schedule

Following Week

Day	Event(s)
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Monday 01/13	Regular Bell Schedule
Tuesday 01/14	Regular Bell Schedule
Wednesday 01/15	Regular Bell Schedule
Thursday 01/16	Hornet Time Bell Schedule
Friday 01/17	Winter Sports Pep Rally Bell Schedule

Welcome Our Newest Hornet Family Members!

I'm thrilled to start 2025 by welcoming two new members to our Hornet family. Please join me in warmly welcoming **Ms. Aixa Hernandez-Rubio, our new College and Career Information Coordinator & Ms. Evelyn Campos, our new Welcome Center monitor**. Both started yesterday (01/02) and have already positively impacted our school. Their enthusiasm, dedication, and professionalism are evident, and I know they will continue to be excellent additions to our community. Let's all extend our support and help them feel at home here at Damascus High School!

DHS Music Boosters Mattress Sale Fundraiser

Mark your calendars! The DHS Music Boosters is running their 2nd annual Mattress Sale Fundraiser on Saturday, January 25 from 10am-5pm in the cafeteria. We carry brand-name beds, including Helix and Purple, and the lowest prices you'll find anywhere. All beds are built after you place your order and shipped to your home in 2-4 weeks. If you need a new bed, or know someone that does, please come and support the music program!

Student Parking (G-Lot Overflow)

Beginning Monday, 1/6, students with approved tags may also park in the "gated lot", referred to as the G-Lot. This lot is to the left of the tractor shed (if facing the shed).

Course requests for SY 2025-26

Next week, Counselors will be visiting all 9th - 11th grade Social Studies classes to review graduation requirements and course offerings with students. A Course Request Information Meeting will be held on Zoom on January 7th, at 7pm for all current DHS Students and Parents/Caregivers (see log-in information below).

Zoom Meeting

<https://mcpsmd.zoom.us/j/86748966314?pwd=kfWGAXZbgSibybw7Ugv8d7uaqavluP.1>

Meeting ID: 867 4896 6314

Passcode: 840919

During the week of January 21st, all 9th - 11th grade students will meet one on one with their counselor to complete course requests in English classes.

12.20.24

[Mensaje en español](#)

Dear Damascus Community,

As we approach winter break, I want to take a moment to wish each of you a restful and joyful time away from school. Winter break has its origins in various traditions and holidays celebrated around this time of year, but regardless of individual beliefs or customs, it is a time for all of us to pause, recharge, and spend meaningful time with loved ones.

I wanted to share some fantastic news about one of our very own—Mr. Andre Wise, math department chair and teacher extraordinaire. Recently, Mr. Wise and his class were highlighted by Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) TV for the incredible work he is doing to impact mathematics education positively. The video showcases Mr. Wise’s dedication to fostering a love for math and his ability to engage and inspire his students. It is an outstanding recognition of his efforts and a proud moment for our school community. Please join me in congratulating Mr. Wise on this well-deserved acknowledgment. His passion and commitment to his students make a difference, and we are lucky to have him as part of the Damascus High School family. As soon as we receive the link to the video, we will share it. As soon as we receive the link to the video, we will share it.

I am also thrilled to share some exciting news about the achievements of our DECA club, sponsored by our very own Mr. Ken Buffum. Recently, several of our DECA students were recognized for their outstanding performance in categories such as Principles of Business and Management and Financial Services Team Decision-Making. Please join me in congratulating the talented individuals in the DECA club for their hard work and dedication. Their accomplishments are a testament to their commitment to excellence and their bright futures in the world of business. A special thank you goes out to Mr. Buffum for his exceptional leadership and guidance in sponsoring this group. His support and mentorship have been instrumental in helping our students reach these achievements.

In addition, I want to take a moment to recognize and celebrate our students who participate in the Naval Junior ROTC program. On Wednesday, I had the privilege of attending the annual Naval Inspection at Seneca Valley High School, and it was truly one of the most amazing events I’ve ever observed. It was wonderful to see our Damascus students representing our school with such pride, dedication, and professionalism. Their hard work and commitment to excellence were evident throughout the event, and they made us all incredibly proud. Please join me in congratulating and appreciating these outstanding students for their efforts and accomplishments in the NJROTC program.

I wanted to take a moment for one last recognition. It was an absolute pleasure to hear the music department spreading holiday cheer with their caroling around the school. Their talent and dedication brought so much joy to everyone. I also want to highlight the amazing work of our American Sign Language class. I had the privilege of hearing them perform a carol in ASL, and it was truly remarkable. What a beautiful and inclusive way to celebrate the season! Thank you to everyone who contributed to making this day special.

I hope you take this opportunity to relax and enjoy the season in your own way. Whether celebrating a holiday or simply cherishing moments with family and friends, may your break be filled with peace and happiness.

Wishing you all a Happy New Year, and I look forward to seeing you refreshed and ready to begin 2025 when we return!

As a reminder the main office will be closed over Winter Break.

Winter Break

Day	Event(s)
Monday 12/23	Winter Break- No School For Students and Teachers

Tuesday 12/24	Winter Break- No School For Students and Teachers
Wednesday 12/25	Winter Break- No School For Students and Teachers
Thursday 12/26	Winter Break- No School For Students and Teachers
Friday 12/27	Winter Break- No School For Students and Teachers

After Winter Break

Day	Event(s)
Monday 12/30	Winter Break- No School For Students and Teachers
Tuesday 12/31	Winter Break- No School For Students and Teachers
Wednesday 01/01	New Year's Day- Schools and Offices Closed
Thursday 01/02	Hornet Time Bell Schedule
Friday 01/03	Regular Bell Schedule

After Winter Break

Day	Event(s)
Monday 01/06	Regular Bell Schedule
Tuesday 01/07	Regular Bell Schedule
Wednesday 01/08	Regular Bell Schedule
Thursday 01/09	Hornet Time Bell Schedule
Friday 01/10	Regular Bell Schedule

After Winter Break

Day	Event(s)
Monday 01/13	Regular Bell Schedule
Tuesday 01/14	Regular Bell Schedule
Wednesday 01/15	Regular Bell Schedule
Thursday 01/16	Hornet Time Bell Schedule
Friday 01/17	Winter Sports Pep Rally Bell Schedule

2025-2026 School Year Calendar

During the December 5, 2024, Board of Education (Board) business meeting, the Board adopted the school year calendar for 2025-2026. The school year calendar includes a new Student Transition Day, which is a non-instructional full day

designed to support students transitioning to new school levels or schools by fostering a sense of belonging and preparedness. It is designed for students in Grades K, 6, 9, Grade 3 students in Grades 3-5 elementary schools, and students new to a school or MCPS.

[2025-2026 Traditional School Year Calendar](#)

[2025-2026 Innovative School Year Calendar](#)

DHS Edmentum

Please use your Winter Break to submit assignments and complete your courses. Remember the end of our Fall Semester is January 10, 2025 at 11:59 PM. Please use [this link](#) to find helpful information to navigate your coursework.

Yearbook

Searching for the perfect holiday gift? Secure a [DHS 2024-25 yearbook](#)! Current price is \$85. You can also order senior ads using the same link. Find those baby pictures now! If you have any questions, please email

Karen_R_Zappone@mcpsmd.org

12.20.24- Incident

Dear DHS Community,

I want to inform you about an incident before lunch today (12/20/24). Unfortunately, two students were involved in an altercation during the transition between periods. Security, administration, and staff responded and separated those involved upon arrival. Both students received medical attention as a precaution, and no serious injuries were reported. We have contacted the student's parents and continue investigating the situation.

Because this incident occurred during a busy time of day, several students were present and witnessed the altercation. Some students recorded the incident and shared it with others. Fighting is not an acceptable way to resolve disagreements and is a clear violation of the MCPS Student Code of Conduct.

As I've mentioned in previous communications, I encourage all families to talk with their children about the importance of communicating concerns with trusted adults—whether you as parents or any staff member in our building. Early communication allows us to intervene and prevent issues from escalating. Additionally, I ask for your support in addressing the use of social media, as sharing videos of such incidents can further complicate and worsen these situations.

Our investigation will ensure that disciplinary actions for those found violating the Student Code of Conduct align with MCPS guidelines. At Damascus High School, we are dedicated to maintaining a safe and respectful environment for all students, and it takes the collaboration of our entire community to achieve this.

I apologize for the timing of this message on the last day before winter break. It was essential to share this information with you. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Thank you for your understanding and support. Wishing you and your family a safe and restful winter break.

Bradley W. Rohner
Principal
Damascus High School

12.13.24

Mensaje en español

Dear Damascus Community,

As we approach our final week of school before winter break, I hope everyone is looking forward to a well-deserved and relaxing holiday. Here are a few updates and highlights with you.

First, I had the wonderful opportunity to visit Cedar Grove Elementary School last weekend, where the PTA invited me to help create their Winter Wonderland landscape. It was a fantastic experience! Seeing our future Damascus High School students in such a warm and festive environment was heartwarming. Here are some pictures from the event—I'm so glad I could be part of it! [Community Spirit Shines in Clarksburg/Damascus](#)

I also want to thank everyone involved in Wednesday's Winter Choral and Orchestra Concert. It was an incredible showcase of talent, with stunning performances and perfectly chosen music pieces that highlighted the abilities of our students. Thank you to all the staff and students who worked so hard to make this and last week's band concert unforgettable.

As we head into the winter sports season, I encourage everyone to cheer on our teams as they compete. You can find all the latest results and updates at the [Swarmin' Hornets](#) website. Let's support our Hornets as they strive for excellence on and off the field!

Finally, I want to remind parents and students about lunch expectations:

- 9th and 10th graders cannot leave the school building during lunch.
- 11th and 12th graders are allowed to leave and return during lunch, but they may not transport 9th or 10th graders.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. Let's make this last week before break a great one! Have a wonderful weekend!

Bradley W. Rohner
Principal
Damascus High School

Next Week

Day	Event(s)
Monday 12/16	Regular Bell Schedule
Tuesday 12/17	Regular Bell Schedule
Wednesday 12/18	Regular Bell Schedule
Thursday 12/19	Hornet Time Bell Schedule
Friday 12/20	Regular Bell Schedule

Following Week

Day	Event(s)
Monday 12/23	Winter Break- No School For Students and Teachers
Tuesday 12/24	Winter Break- No School For Students and Teachers
Wednesday 12/25	Winter Break- No School For Students and Teachers
Thursday 12/26	Winter Break- No School For Students and Teachers
Friday 12/27	Winter Break- No School For Students and Teachers

After Winter Break

Day	Event(s)
Monday 12/30	Winter Break- No School For Students and Teachers
Tuesday 12/31	Winter Break- No School For Students and Teachers
Wednesday 01/01	New Year's Day- Schools and Offices Closed
Thursday 01/02	Hornet Time Bell Schedule
Friday 01/03	Regular Bell Schedule

Personal Body Safety Lesson (PBSL)

Montgomery County Public Schools is committed to preventing child abuse and neglect through early education and intervention. On January 9th, staff will present Personal Body Safety Lessons to help students develop knowledge and skills for self-protection, recognizing abuse, seeking help, and fostering safe, positive interactions with others. A letter with additional information about the lesson can be found [here](#). If you have any questions, please contact me or your child's school counselor.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

The 2025–26 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form is available now at fafsa.gov. Students who plan to attend college, career school, or trade school between July 1, 2025, and June 30, 2026, should fill out the FAFSA form to be eligible for as much aid as possible.

[This FAFSA application guide](#) provided by Collegiate Directions will walk families through the steps of filling out the FAFSA. Or, families can view [this video](#) that can be found on the Federal Student Aid website. The video demonstrates the process of filling out the FAFSA form. Additionally, families may join a hands on workshop that will provide help completing the FAFSA on Monday, December 16th at 6pm. Please register for this event [here](#).

Information regarding MealViewer, a new interactive menu platform for MCPS Breakfast and lunch menus.

- [MCPS MealViewer Introductory Video](#)
- [How to Print a Menu](#)
- [Nutritional Calculator](#)
- [Setup a User Profile - Nurses or Staff](#)

Seniors, Order Your Cap & Gown!

The Deadline to order your Cap and gown is January 17, 2025. Please get your order ASAP.

Graduation Cap & Gown Ordering Information- Please use [this link](#) to our Jostens page. All graduates are required to have a cap & gown and 2025 tassel. If you/ your senior will be wearing a sibling's cap and gown, please let Mrs. Stultz know, and make sure to order a '25 tassel.

Yearbook

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Karen_R_Zappone@mcpsmd.org

Leo Club Toy Drive

The Leo Club Toy Drive has begun!! There are drop-off boxes in the main office, welcome center, the rotunda and in room 149. Please bring in toy donations to help families in need. We will collect donations until 1pm on Friday, 12/20. Thank you for supporting this effort! Rob Hyman & the DHS Leo Club. Please see the flyer [here](#).

DHS Edmentum

Attention Edmentum Students! Our Fall Term for Edmentum Original Credit and Credit Recovery closes on January 10, 2025 at 11:59 PM. Please use your Winter Break to submit assignments and complete your courses. If you have any questions or need help, make sure to visit your Edmentum Teachers next week. Please use [this link](#) to find helpful information to navigate your coursework.

Winter Spirit Week

SGA has planned a week of spirit and activities from Monday, December 16th to Friday, December 20th. Monday: PJ Day, Tuesday: Twin Day, Wednesday: Teacher/Student Switch Day, Thursday: Ugly Sweater, and Friday: Blizzard Day.

DHS Drama Club

The DHS Drama Club will be sponsoring a special holiday community movie night on December 19th. We will be showing The Polar Express in our Damascus HS auditorium at 6pm, with special holiday arts and crafts starting at 4:30 in the auditorium lobby. There is no admission charge, but donations will happily be accepted on behalf of the Performing Arts program at DHS. All children must be accompanied by adults. If you have any questions, please contact Steve Kachadorian at steven_r_kachadorian@mcpsmd.org

Dear Clarksburg and Damascus Communities,

This is a joint message from Damascus High School and Clarksburg High School. We are reaching out with heavy hearts to inform you of a serious incident that occurred today, Wednesday, December 11, 2024, during the lunch period off school property near Clarksburg High School. This altercation involved Clarksburg and Damascus High School students and, unfortunately, resulted in injury. The injured student was evaluated by the school nurse as well as Fire and Rescue who ultimately transported the student to the hospital for further evaluation.

Both schools are actively investigating the incident in partnership with MC Police, and all students involved in this serious matter will face appropriate consequences in accordance with the Montgomery County Public Schools Code of Conduct.

It has also come to our attention that the incident was videotaped and is being shared among students and possibly others. We strongly urge families to talk with their children about the harm that sharing such videos can cause. Disseminating footage of an incident like this adds to the trauma and hinders the efforts to resolve conflicts and restore a sense of safety in our schools.

We are deeply saddened that this conflict escalated to physical violence, and we remain committed to fostering a safe and supportive environment for all students. Both schools will continue using restorative practices to address and prevent conflicts, promoting proactive strategies to help students manage disputes constructively. Please also take this opportunity to communicate with your children about the importance of reporting incidents like this to school officials. Early communication can help prevent situations from escalating.

Thank you for your support as we work together to maintain a safe and respectful community.

Bradley W. Rohner
Principal
Damascus High School

Anita R. O'Neill
Principal
Clarksburg High School

[Mensaje en español](#)

Dear Damascus Community,

Welcome back! I hope everyone had a restful and enjoyable Thanksgiving break. With just a few short weeks before our extended winter break, I'm sure we're all looking forward to making the most of this time together.

This week, we kick off our winter sports season. Congratulations to all the athletes and coaches working hard to represent Damascus proudly. We also enjoyed the incredible performances at the Winter Band and Jazz Concert—well done to all the talented students and staff who made it such a memorable event!

Looking ahead to next week, we look forward to the Winter Chorus & Orchestra Concert on Wednesday, December 11, 2024.

Thank you to students, staff, and families who continue to organize, participate in, and support these events. Your dedication makes Damascus High School a vibrant and inspiring community.

Next Week

Day	Event(s)
Monday 12/09	Regular Bell Schedule
Tuesday 12/10	Regular Bell Schedule
Wednesday 12/11	Regular Bell Schedule
Thursday 12/12	Hornet Time Bell Schedule
Friday 12/13	Regular Bell Schedule

Following Week

Day	Event(s)
Monday 12/16	Regular Bell Schedule
Tuesday 12/17	Regular Bell Schedule
Wednesday 12/18	Regular Bell Schedule
Thursday 12/19	Hornet Time Bell Schedule
Friday 12/20	Regular Bell Schedule

Winter Break: Monday, 12/23 thru Wednesday, 01/01

Day	Event(s)
Monday 12/30	Winter Break- No School For Students and Teachers

Tuesday 12/31	Winter Break- No School For Students and Teachers
Wednesday 01/01	New Year's Day- Schools and Offices Closed
Thursday 01/02	Hornet Time Bell Schedule
Friday 01/03	Regular Bell Schedule

[DHS College and Career Center](#)

SENIORS: Have you completed your [Brag Sheet](#)? If not, do it today! Please ensure you are matching your Naviance & Common Application accounts. The [Authorization to Release Pupil Records](#) form MUST be completed for DHS to send your transcripts for college applications. Turn it into Ms. Brown in the Counseling Office. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) has opened. Learn more and access resources [here](#). Every student planning to attend college or trade school after graduating should complete the FAFSA. Need help with the FAFSA or have Financial Aid questions? There are several in person and online events happening this month. Please view the document [here](#) with dates and resources. Students in all grades can find College and Career related information on the DHS College and Career Center page found [here](#).

DHS Edmentum

Attention Edmentum Students! Our Fall Term for Edmentum Original Credit and Credit Recovery closes on January 10, 2025 at 11:59 PM. Please make sure you maintain your pacing guidelines and seek support from your Edmentum Teachers if you need any help. Please use [this link](#) to find helpful information and links to navigate your coursework.

[2024 Maryland Report Card](#)

The Maryland State Department of Education has released its [2024 Maryland Report Card](#).

Yearbook

Searching for the perfect holiday gift? Secure a [DHS 2024-25 yearbook](#)! Current price is \$85. You can also order senior ads using the same link. Find those baby pictures now! If you have any questions, please email Karen_R_Zappone@mcpsmd.org

DHS Drama Club

The DHS Drama Club will be sponsoring a special holiday community movie night on December 19th. We will be showing The Polar Express in our Damascus HS auditorium at 6pm, with special holiday arts and crafts starting at 4:30 in the auditorium lobby. There is no admission charge, but donations will happily be accepted on behalf of the Performing Arts program at DHS. All children must be accompanied by adults. If you have any questions, please contact Steve Kachadorian at steven_r_kachadorian@mcpsmd.org

Weiss Market- New Policy

To ensure a safe and secure shopping experience for all our patrons, they are implementing a new policy effective immediately (12/06). Due to an increase in theft incidents, no more than 10 students will be allowed inside the store at a time. They kindly ask for your understanding and cooperation as they enforce this measure. Their goal is to maintain a welcoming environment for all customers while addressing security concerns. Thank you for your support. Should you have any questions, or concerns, please feel free to reach out to the store. (301) 253-9787

Leadership Opportunity

Are you skilled in an area of leadership? Do you want experience creating your own leadership workshop? Do you want to enhance your presentation and public speaking skills? Do you want to inspire a group of future leaders? Apply to be a workshop creator or presenter for our Next Generation Leadership Day on March 22nd, 2025. For more details about participating in this event and being a workshop presenter or creator, check out the application info:

<https://bit.ly/NGLD2025application> All workshop creator submissions can earn **10 SSL hours**. Students who are chosen and participate as workshop presenters will earn **15 SSL hours**.

Overdue Books

The media center currently has approximately 250 overdue books. Students who still have books that were due in September or October have been issued an official obligation. Once the book is returned we will delete the obligation. If the book is lost please pay for the cost on [SCO](#). If you have any questions about the library book or books you child owes, please contact the media specialist, [Catherine E Ward@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Catherine_E_Ward@mcpsmd.org) or call 240-207-2230. If you have questions about SCO, please contact sharon_m_weston@mcpsmd.org in the business office. Thank you!

DHS PTSA HONEYBAKED Fundraiser - [Order Entry Procedures](#)

[Mensaje en español](#)

Dear DHS Community,

As Thanksgiving approaches, I hope everyone is looking forward to a well-deserved break. Please take this time to rest, recharge, and enjoy the company of friends and loved ones.

This is just a reminder that next week features early release days on Monday, 11/25, and Tuesday, 11/26. The schedule is provided below for your convenience.

Upcoming Events Tonight (Friday, 11/22):

- Playoff Game – Our second playoff game is at Westlake High School tonight, with kickoff at 7:00 PM. Let's fill the stands and show our Hornets pride, even on the road!
- Family Community Night—Join us at 6:00 PM for a showing of Zootopia! This is a great opportunity for families to connect and have fun. Admission is free, but donations are happily accepted to support the performing arts programs at Damascus.

Please see a letter from Dr. Thomas W. Taylor, MCPS Superintendent, [A Safe and Welcoming Community for All Letter](#).

Thank you for your continued support of our school community. Have a wonderful weekend, and I wish everyone a happy and safe Thanksgiving break.

Next Week

Day	Event(s)
Monday 11/25	Early Release Days for Students; Early Dismissal Bell Schedule
Tuesday 11/26	Early Release Days for Students; Early Dismissal Bell Schedule
Wednesday 11/27	Systemwide Closure—Schools and Offices Closed
Thursday 11/28	Thanksgiving—Schools and Offices Closed
Friday 11/29	Thanksgiving—Schools and Offices Closed

**EARLY DISMISSAL
for
Monday, November 25 &
Tuesday, November 26**

Warning Bell	7:40 a.m.
Period 1	7:45 - 8:12 (27)
Announcements	8:12 - 8:16 (4)
Period 2	8:21 - 8:48 (27)

Period 3	8:54 - 9:21 (27)
Period 4	9:26 - 9:53 (27)
Period 5	9:58 - 10:25 (27)
Period 6	10:30- 10:57 (27)
Period 7	11:02 - 11:30 (28)
LUNCH	11:30 - 12:00 (30)
Dismissal	12:00

Following Week

Day	Event(s)
Monday 12/02	Regular Bell Schedule
Tuesday 12/03	Regular Bell Schedule
Wednesday 12/04	Regular Bell Schedule
Thursday 12/05	Hornet Time Bell Schedule
Friday 12/06	Regular Bell Schedule

Parent Conferences - November 18 through November 26

As part of our commitment to supporting student success, we are pleased to announce that parent conferences will be held from November 18 through November 26. We recognize that the MCPS-scheduled parent conferences on the afternoon of November 25 and 26 may limit options for some parents and caregivers. In our commitment to increase accessibility and provide greater opportunities for engagement, we are extending our parent conferences to run from November 18 through November 26. These conferences will be guided by the goals outlined in our School Improvement Plan, which is linked [here](#). During this timeframe, administrators, counselors, and teachers will contact parents and caregivers of specific students to engage in meaningful conversations about their child. Conferences can be conducted through a two-way phone call, a virtual meeting, or an in-person meeting, depending on what works best. ***Any parent or caregiver is welcome to request a meeting with a teacher, counselor, or administrator anytime.***

Federal Impact Aid Survey

Each year we are asked to assist in surveying students in connection with Title VII of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (Impact Aid). The US Department of Education funds school districts that have many students with parents/guardians connected to the federal government and live on certain federal housing properties. The purpose of the funds is to reimburse school districts for the loss of property taxes from tax-exempt federal properties. The amount of funds received is based on the number of completed surveys received from parents/guardians who are on active duty with the uniformed services, employed on federal property, reside in federal or public housing, and/or are a foreign government military officer.

Below is the link the Federal Impact Aid Survey

The form can either be emailed per the instructions or brought to the school. The completed form is due by December 6th. Thank you for your support in helping us to identify the federal and military presence with our Montgomery County Public Schools student population.

DHS Fall Edmentum

Students who are enrolled in our Edmentum Program (Original Credit or Credit Recovery) please take advantage of our upcoming break in order to complete your online course work. As a friendly reminder, our final due date for the Fall Session is January 10, 2024 at 11:59 PM. Please see our [DHS Edmentum Link](#) with helpful information on course access and your content teacher's availability.

Honeybaked Ham Fundraiser

The damascus high school PTSA is holding a honeybaked ham fundraiser. please find ordering instructions below. Thank you in advance for considering supporting the DHS PTSA.

Please review all prior to ordering, especially highlighted area to ensure your order will be associated and delivered with the fundraiser.

- Start at this link: <https://www.honeybaked.com/stores/2205>
- Make sure it says Honeybaked of Gaithersburg at the top of the web page. If asked for your state, select Maryland.
- Choose "Place Pickup Order"
- Go shopping! Select all items you would like to order and place them in your cart.
- Review cart for accuracy.
- Checkout: your choice! guest or login/sign up for account and rewards.
- Enter your personal information and click continue to pick up details.
- Pickup order details - very important!! If this section is not followed explicitly there is a good chance your order will not be included in the fundraiser delivery and you will have to come pickup your order at the store.

Order Preference – Pre-pay/In-store pickup.

- Pickup person – click on edit
- First name – **DHS**
- Last name – **Fundraiser**
- Phone – **3015298205**
- Click save and continue
- Pickup date & time – click schedule pickup:
- Date – 11/29 (or later if no slots are available, this will not affect your actual fundraiser pickup date below).
- Time – Select Earliest Available, this will not affect your actual fundraiser pickup time below.
- Click "Confirm"
- Click "Continue To Payment"
- Billing information – enter your correct information. click "Save and Continue".
- Payment information – click "+ add a new card". use your correct information, "save and continue", click "i agree...", then "place order". you can "print your confirmation" and you will also get an email confirmation. ignore the pickup date & time on the confirmation. The correct information is below:
 - **Your deadline for ordering for the DHS fundraiser pickup is: Sunday, November 24**
 - **Your pickup information for the DHS Fundraiser is:**
 - **Tuesday, November 26**

- **Between 5:00 pm and 6:30pm**
- **Damascus High School Student Parking Lot**

For Questions or Additional Information Contact Jaime Kemp 301-529-8205

Information About A Charlie Brown Christmas

As the Drama Sponsor, I would like to share some details about the absence of our annual performance of A Charlie Brown Christmas from our list of shows. The production of any show is dependent on receiving the performance rights for the company that controls the show. When the application for a performance was submitted, the controlling company Concord Theatricals denied the request. There are many potential reasons for this decision, but none was offered by the company. It goes without saying that this decision was a disappointment to the Drama Club, and specifically to me. Our production has been running for about a decade and has been a seasonal tradition for many members of our community as well as my own family. However, I would like to make it clear that the absence of A Charlie Brown Christmas this year was solely due to a denial of the performance rights by the company. The Drama Club is considering some options for a seasonal program, but planning has been delayed during our production of the Fall Show Clue. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Steve Kachadorian at steven_r_kachadorian@mcpsmd.org. Sincerely, Steve Kachadorian, DHS Drama Sponsor

Winter MCAP Testing Session - December 2024 & January 2025

It is that time of year again and we have students who need to complete state required MCAP testing for graduation if they did not test last year. This Winter Testing Session is only for students who have completed Algebra 1, English 10, Government, and Biology, so students who are currently taking these courses will have to wait until our Spring MCAP administration to test.

Students, and their families, who will be testing will receive an email about their test dates and locations. Below is the list of when and where we will be offering each test.

- **Algebra Testing**
 - December 16th - Afternoon: 12:00-2:30 pm (Sections 1 & 2)
 - December 17th - Afternoon: 12:00-2:30 pm (Sections 3 & 4)
 - Make Ups: December 17th am only, December 20th all day
 - *In the Auditorium and Room 120*
- **ELA 10 Testing**
 - December 18th - Morning: 7:45-11:30 am (Sections 1 & 2)
 - December 19th - Morning: 7:45-11:30 am (Sections 3 & 4)
 - Make Ups: Afternoons of the 18th and 19th, December 20th all day
 - *In the Auditorium and Room 120*
- **Government Testing**
 - January 13th: 7:45-11:00 am (Sections 1 & 2) & 12:00-2:30 pm (Sections 3 & 4)
 - January 14th: Make Up Testing (Same Schedule)
 - *In the Auditorium and Room 120*
- **Life Science MISA Testing**
 - January 15th: 7:45-11:00 am (Sections 1 & 2) & 12:00-2:30 pm (Sections 3 & 4)
 - January 16th: Make-Up Testing (Same Schedule)
 - *In the Auditorium and Room 120*

Personal Body Safety Lesson (PBSL)

Montgomery County Public Schools is committed to preventing child abuse and neglect through early education and intervention. During the week of December 9th, our school counselors will present Personal Body Safety Lessons to help students develop knowledge and skills for self-protection, recognizing abuse, seeking help, and fostering safe, positive

interactions with others. A letter with additional information about the lesson can be found [here](#). If you have any questions, please contact me or your child's school counselor.

Cedar Grove Winter Wonderland Decorations

Help transform the hallways of Cedar Grove into a winter wonderland. Whether you can volunteer all day or a few hours, any help is appreciated! Sign up [here](#)!

DHS College and Career Center

Check out the Weekly Messages from the College and Career Center [here](#) for information and for upcoming events. SENIORS: Have you completed your [Brag Sheet](#)? If not, do it today! Please ensure you are matching your Naviance & Common Application accounts. The [Authorization to Release Pupil Records](#) form MUST be completed for DHS to send your transcripts for college applications. Turn it into Ms. Brown or Mrs. Lee. MCPS has been hosting On-the-Spot Admissions events. The November 13th event was a huge success and congratulations to the many students who received admissions! If you could not attend the previous events, you can still sign up for December 3rd at Richard Montgomery. Sign up [here](#). Several colleges will be there including Frostburg, MC, McDaniel, Mount St. Mary's, Salisbury and others. You don't want to miss this opportunity to receive an admissions decision that same day and possibly receive scholarship offers! The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) has opened their Beta testing phase to ALL students. Learn more and access resources [here](#). Every student planning to attend college or trade school after graduating should complete the FAFSA. The ASVAB Test will be given at DHS on December 3rd at 7:45 a.m. in the College and Career Center. Students need to turn in a Permission Slip found [here](#). If you have any College and Career related questions, please see [Mrs. Lee](#) in the College and Career Center, Room 133.

Mrs. Lee will be leaving DHS. Her last day will be December 3rd. She has thoroughly enjoyed working with all of the amazing students and families at DHS. After December 3rd, students will be supported by their counselors and other staff for college related assistance until a new College and Career Coordinator is hired.

On-The-Spot Admissions

Several local and regional colleges and universities are offering on-the-spot admissions to MCPS seniors from 3–6 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 3, at Richard Montgomery High School. Attendees will also get FAFSA support and learn about the Montgomery College application process. Richard Montgomery is located at 250 Richard Montgomery Drive in Rockville. Seniors from all MCPS high schools are welcome to attend. For planning purposes, please register [here](#) if you plan to participate. Once registered, students will receive updated information, including how to prepare, before the event.

Student Service Learning (SSL) hours

Students may now submit their SSL forms online [here](#). Hard copy forms do not need to be turned in if the form has been uploaded into the online submission form. New in-person and virtual SSL activities are added regularly to the [DHS SSL information page](#).

Vision Zero Youth Ambassador Program

The Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) is seeking up to 35 high school students to join the Vision Zero Youth Ambassador Program for 2024. The program offers students a chance to influence road safety policies and infrastructure, with selected ambassadors required to attend in-person sessions starting in January. For more information or to apply, visit the [MCDOT website](#).

11.15.24

Mensaje en español

Dear DHS Community,

I am delighted to share my heartfelt appreciation for everyone who joined our recent band and string cluster school concerts. The performances showcased our student musicians' hard work, dedication, and talent. A huge thank you to our talented musicians for their hours of practice and commitment and to all of the cluster school music directors and staff for their unwavering support and guidance. Their combined efforts made these concerts a resounding success. Your presence and support mean the world to our community members who attended. Your enthusiasm and encouragement help foster a nurturing environment where the arts continue to thrive. Thank you again for making these events so memorable. We look forward to many more performances together!

As part of our commitment to supporting student success, we are pleased to announce that parent conferences will be held from November 18 through November 26. We recognize that the MCPS-scheduled parent conferences on the afternoon of November 25 and 26 may limit options for some parents and caregivers. In our commitment to increase accessibility and provide greater opportunities for engagement, we are extending our parent conferences to run from November 18 through November 26. These conferences will be guided by the goals outlined in our School Improvement Plan, which is linked [here](#). During this timeframe, administrators, counselors, and teachers will contact parents and caregivers of specific students to engage in meaningful conversations about their child. Conferences can be conducted through a two-way phone call, a virtual meeting, or an in-person meeting, depending on what works best. *Any parent or caregiver is welcome to request a meeting with a teacher, counselor, or administrator anytime.*

As a reminder, our playoff football game is tonight at Damascus High School! We will face off against Wilde Lake High School, and kickoff is set for 6:30 PM. Let's fill the stands, cheer on our team, and create an atmosphere celebrating our school's spirit and pride. I hope to see you there and am ready to cheer loudly and be proud of our Hornets!

Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Thank you,

B. Rohner
Bradley Rohner
Principal
Damascus High School

Next Week

Day	Event(s)
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Monday 11/18	Regular Bell Schedule
Tuesday 11/19	Regular Bell Schedule
Wednesday 11/20	Regular Bell Schedule
Thursday 11/21	Hornet Time Bell Schedule
Friday 11/22	Regular Bell Schedule

Following Week

Day	Event(s)
Monday 11/25	Early Release Days for Students; Early Dismissal Bell Schedule
Tuesday 11/26	Early Release Days for Students; Early Dismissal Bell Schedule
Wednesday 11/27	Systemwide Closure—Schools and Offices Closed
Thursday 11/28	Thanksgiving—Schools and Offices Closed
Friday 11/29	Thanksgiving—Schools and Offices Closed

Minority Scholars Program

Next Wednesday, November 20th, the Minority Scholars Program will be hosting a meeting in Room 235 (Mrs. Turner's Room) to discuss school-wide tutoring for all subjects and grade levels. This is a fantastic opportunity for students in any grade who need assistance in their classes to receive tutoring, as well as for those seeking SSL hours or tutoring hours.

Additionally, students who require tutoring hours for National Honor Society, Math Honor Society, and similar clubs can earn their hours by participating in the meeting. Lastly, there will be food available, including pizza, chips, and more, so students can enjoy a snack while attending. We encourage everyone to come and take advantage of this valuable resource!

Honeybaked Ham Fundraiser

The Damascus High School PTSA is holding a honeybaked ham fundraiser. Please find ordering instructions below. Thank you in advance for considering supporting the DHS PTSA.

Please review all prior to ordering, especially highlighted area to ensure your order will be associated and delivered with the fundraiser.

- Start at this link: <https://www.honeybaked.com/stores/2205>
- Make sure it says Honeybaked of Gaithersburg at the top of the web page. If asked for your state, select Maryland.
- Choose "Place Pickup Order"
- Go shopping! Select all items you would like to order and place them in your cart.
- Review cart for accuracy.
- Checkout: your choice! guest or login/sign up for account and rewards.
- Enter your personal information and click continue to pick up details.
- Pickup order details - very important!! If this section is not followed explicitly there is a good chance your order will not be included in the fundraiser delivery and you will have to come pickup your order at the store.

Order Preference – Pre-pay/In-store pickup.

- Pickup person – click on edit
- First name – **DHS**
- Last name – **Fundraiser**
- Phone – **3015298205**
- Click save and continue
- Pickup date & time – click schedule pickup:
- Date – 11/29 (or later if no slots are available, this will not affect your actual fundraiser pickup date below).
- Time – Select Earliest Available, this will not affect your actual fundraiser pickup time below.
- Click “Confirm”
- Click “Continue To Payment”
- Billing information – enter your correct information. click “Save and Continue”.
- Payment information – click “+ add a new card”. use your correct information, “save and continue”, click “i agree...”, then “place order”. you can “print your confirmation” and you will also get an email confirmation. ignore the pickup date & time on the confirmation. The correct information is below:
 - **Your deadline for ordering for the dhs fundraiser pickup is:**
 - **Sunday, November 24**
 - **Your pickup information for the DHS Fundraiser is:**
 - **Tuesday, November 26**
 - **Between 5:00 pm and 6:30pm**
 - **Damascus High School Student Parking Lot**

For Questions or Additional Information Contact Jaime Kemp 301-529-8205

DHS College and Career Center

Check out the Weekly Messages from the College and Career Center [here](#) for information and for upcoming events.

SENIORS: Have you completed your [Brag Sheet](#)? If not, do it today! Please ensure you are matching your Naviance & Common Application accounts. The [Authorization to Release Pupil Records](#) form MUST be completed for DHS to send your transcripts for college applications. Turn it into Ms. Brown or Mrs. Lee. Congrats to students who have finished their college applications! MCPS has been hosting On-the-Spot Admissions events. The November 13th event was a huge success and congratulations to the many students who received admissions! If you could not attend the previous events, you can still sign up for December 3rd at Richard Montgomery. Sign up [here](#). Several colleges will be there including Frostburg, MC, McDaniel, Mount St. Mary's, Salisbury and others. You don't want to miss this opportunity to receive an admissions decision that same day and possibly receive scholarship offers! The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) will open December 1st. Every student planning to attend college or trade school after graduating should complete the FAFSA. You can set up your Federal Student Aid account now so that you will be ready when the application opens. The slideshow [here](#) will walk you through setting up the FSA ID and Maryland State Aid account. If you have any College and Career related questions, please see [Mrs. Lee](#) in the College and Career Center, Room 133.

11.08.24

Mensaje en español

Dear DHS Community,

I hope you are all doing well! Our Parent/Caregiver [Open House](#) is scheduled for this Monday. This day is offered each year at all schools in MCPS. Please [RSVP here](#) if you plan to attend.

We've had a great start to the second marking period. As many of you may have heard, we began enforcing the MCPS policy of wearing IDs and ensuring they are always visible. After the initial day, I'm pleased to report that by day two and three, students were already on board and wearing their IDs before entering the building.

Lastly, don't forget to come and enjoy our Drama Club's final production of *Clue*, which takes place tonight and tomorrow. You won't want to miss it!

Thank you for your continued support, and I hope to see many of you at the Open House!

Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Thank you,

B. Rohner

Bradley Rohner
Principal
Damascus High School

Next Week

Day	Event(s)
Monday 11/11	Regular Bell Schedule; Parent/Caregiver Open House
Tuesday 11/12	Regular Bell Schedule, <i>Seal of Biliteracy Test</i>
Wednesday 11/13	Regular Bell Schedule, <i>MPI Report Cards Distributed</i>
Thursday 11/14	Hornet Time Bell Schedule
Friday 11/15	Regular Bell Schedule

Following Week

Day	Event(s)
Monday 11/18	Regular Bell Schedule

Tuesday 11/19	Regular Bell Schedule
Wednesday 11/20	Regular Bell Schedule
Thursday 11/21	Hornet Time Bell Schedule
Friday 11/22	Regular Bell Schedule

Following Following Week

Day	Event(s)
Monday 11/25	Early Release Days for Students; Early Dismissal Bell Schedule
Tuesday 11/26	Early Release Days for Students; Early Dismissal Bell Schedule
Wednesday 11/27	Systemwide Closure—Schools and Offices Closed
Thursday 11/28	Thanksgiving—Schools and Offices Closed
Friday 11/29	Thanksgiving—Schools and Offices Closed

Leo Club Food Drive

November 11 - 15 is the Leo Club Food Drive. Items will be collected all week in first period classes. Needed: non-perishable foods, hygiene products, children's juice, cooking oil, mayonnaise/condiments, tea bags, pancake mix, children's snacks, soups, sugar, flour, toothpaste, shampoo, baby wipes & diapers. Thank you for supporting this effort!
Rob Hyman

Drama Club

Don't miss the final weekend of the Drama Club's production of Clue! Shows are at 7pm on 11/8 and 11/9. Admission is \$7. If you have any questions, please contact [Steve Kachadorian](#).

Information About A Charlie Brown Christmas

As the Drama Sponsor, I would like to share some details about the absence of our annual performance of A Charlie Brown Christmas from our list of shows. The production of any show is dependent on receiving the performance rights for the company that controls the show. When the application for a performance was submitted, the controlling company Concord Theatricals denied the request. There are many potential reasons for this decision, but none was offered by the company. It goes without saying that this decision was a disappointment to the Drama Club, and specifically to me. Our production has been running for about a decade and has been a seasonal tradition for many members of our community as well as my own family. However, I would like to make it clear that the absence of A Charlie Brown Christmas this year was solely due to a denial of the performance rights by the company. The Drama Club is considering some options for a seasonal program, but planning has been delayed during our production of the Fall Show Clue. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Steve Kachadorian at steven_r_kachadorian@mcpsmd.org. Sincerely, Steve Kachadorian, DHS Drama Sponsor

Music Boosters (Chick-Fil-A Fundraiser 11/12)

Please join the DHS Music Boosters for a restaurant fundraiser at Chick-Fil-A in Mount Airy on Tuesday, November 12th from 4-7pm. The Music Boosters will receive 15% of the proceeds to support our music programs. Check out the flyer [here](#)! Make sure to mention the fundraiser if you are ordering at the counter. If you order online, please use the code MUSIC24. Directions for mobile ordering can be found [here](#). Thank you for your support!

Fundraiser for Special Ed Talent Show & Activities Starting Monday 11/11 - 11/15

Please click this link to order (but not until Monday)...[DHS Special Ed Double Good Info & Ordering Link](#). We will be using the funds to help support the Special Ed Talent Show, SCB Prom and other activities!

You're invited to support

DHS's

Virtual Fundraiser

November 11 - November 15

Get the details and support here:

<https://popup.doublegood.com/s/e0p64g5c>

DHS College and Career Center

Check out the Weekly Messages from the College and Career Center [here](#) for information and for upcoming events.

SENIORS: Have you completed your [Brag Sheet](#)? If not, do it today! Please ensure you are matching your Naviance & Common Application accounts. The [Authorization to Release Pupil Records](#) form MUST be completed for DHS to send your transcripts for college applications. Turn it into Ms. Brown or Mrs. Lee. **McDaniel College is hosting Discover McDaniel Day on Saturday, November 9th and they are bussing students from MCPS there from Blair and Gaithersburg High Schools.** Please see the information [here](#). McDaniel will be sharing admissions info and financial aid info. **MCPS will be hosting an On-the-Spot Admissions event on November 13th at Seneca Valley High School. Mrs. Lee will be in attendance.** Several colleges will be there including **Frostburg, MC, Mount St. Mary's, Salisbury and others.** You don't want to miss this opportunity to receive an admissions decision that same day and possibly receive scholarship offers! Students MUST apply to the college(s) before the event. Learn more and sign up [here](#) by Monday! Are you not able to attend our events, but need information? Check out the [Recordings & Presentations page](#) for recordings of some previous events. If you have any College and Career related questions, please see [Mrs. Lee](#) in the College and Career Center, Room 133.

11.01.24

Mensaje en español

Dear DHS Community,

We are thrilled to share the success of today's Hispanic Heritage Month Assembly! This event was a wonderful celebration of the vibrant culture and heritage that shines so brightly within our school. A special thank you goes out to our dedicated students, staff, and especially the talented performers who brought this rich heritage to life. Thank you for supporting our diverse and inclusive school community.

As the upcoming election approaches, we want to inform you about how we engage students in this necessary democratic process. We understand that elections are significant events that affect people differently, and we are committed to providing students with a thoughtful, neutral environment for understanding the foundational elements of our democracy.

Our social studies teachers will guide students through the election process in the United States, which is part of the social studies instructional program's requirements. Students will also examine the constitutional role of elections, including the systems and structures that uphold our democracy. Through these discussions, we aim to ensure students understand the procedural and institutional aspects of elections and the candidates' platforms.

Election Discussion Resources

- [MSDE: High School; United State History Social Studies Framework: D. Civics](#)
- [MCPS Election Letter to Parents & Caregivers](#)
- [Contentious Talks: Pathways](#)
- [DHS 2024 Election Slides](#) and [capture sheet](#)

Our primary goal is to equip students with a clear understanding of the election process. By emphasizing the framework of how elections are structured, we aim to empower students to become informed participants in our democracy. This educational approach will enable students to ask questions, analyze the structure, and gain a deeper understanding of how leaders are chosen in our country.

We are acutely aware that election outcomes can impact individuals and families differently. We are prepared to support students as they navigate the election process with respect and care. We are committed to ensuring that our school remains a safe and supportive environment for all, regardless of the election results.

Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Thank you,

B. Rohner

Bradley Rohner

Principal

Damascus High School

Student IDs- Starting Wednesday, November 6, 2024 (MP2 Begins)

All students will be required to wear their school-issued ID at all times while on school grounds starting MP2, Wednesday November 6, 2024. Students should also be prepared to present their ID at all MCPS sponsored events as soon as they are issued an ID. If ID is lost, a temporary sticker ID can be provided.

Next Week

Day	Event(s)
Monday 11/04	Grading and Planning Day for Teachers: No School for Students
Tuesday 11/05	Holiday—School System Closed
Wednesday 11/06	Regular Bell Schedule
Thursday 11/07	Hornet Time Bell Schedule
Friday 11/08	Regular Bell Schedule

Following Week

Day	Event(s)
Monday 11/11	Regular Bell Schedule; Parent / Caregiver Open House
Tuesday 11/12	Regular Bell Schedule
Wednesday 11/13	Regular Bell Schedule
Thursday 11/14	Hornet Time Bell Schedule
Friday 11/15	Regular Bell Schedule

Parent / Caregiver Open House

On Monday, November 11th, DHS will offer a [Parent / Caregiver Open House](#). This day is offered each year at all schools in MCPS. Please [RSVP here](#) if you plan to attend.

Information About A Charlie Brown Christmas

As the Drama Sponsor, I would like to share some details about the absence of our annual performance of A Charlie Brown Christmas from our list of shows. The production of any show is dependent on receiving the performance rights for the company that controls the show. When the application for a performance was submitted, the controlling company Concord Theatricals denied the request. There are many potential reasons for this decision, but none was offered by the company. It goes without saying that this decision was a disappointment to the Drama Club, and specifically to me. Our production has been running for about a decade and has been a seasonal tradition for many members of our community as well as my own family. However, I would like to make it clear that the absence of A Charlie Brown Christmas this year was solely due to a denial of the performance rights by the company.

The Drama Club is considering some options for a seasonal program, but planning has been delayed during our production of the Fall Show Clue. We hope you can join us for our performances on 11/1, 11/2, 11/8, and 11/9. All shows start at 7pm and admission is \$7. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Steve Kachadorian at steven_r_kachadorian@mcpsmd.org. Sincerely, Steve Kachadorian, DHS Drama Sponsor

Class of 2025 DHS Graduation Ceremony- Friday, May 30, at 9:00 a.m

MCPS released the tentative 2025 High School Commencement Ceremony Schedule today. We're excited to announce that the Class of 2025 DHS Graduation Ceremony will tentatively be held on Friday, May 30, at 9:00 a.m. This will be a rain-or-shine event on this date, with the ceremony planned for outside in our stadium. However, a limited number of guests will only be permitted if the ceremony needs to be relocated to our auditorium due to severe weather or poor field conditions. Other guests will be moved into classrooms and can watch a live ceremony stream. We wanted to share this date as soon as possible so families and caregivers can have ample time to make arrangements. As the date approaches, we will provide more information about the ceremony, including ticket details, seating, parking, and a possible relocation plan to our auditorium.

B.O.L.T. 9th & 10th Grade Leadership Development Opportunity

⚡ Want to learn how to be a leader in your community? Building Our Leaders of Tomorrow (BOLT) is a new MCPS program for 9th and 10th-grade students who are developing, rising leaders looking to strengthen their leadership capacity. Students will learn about advocacy, how they display leadership, and effective team management skills. They will then identify a topic of interest and do a Passion Project to benefit the MCPS community!

🔗 Registration closes November 5th, so sign up today: <https://tinyurl.com/mcpsbolt24>

Underclass Picture Ordering

View and order student pictures for Grades 9-11 through this [link](#). The student ID# is the online code.

Yearbook

[The link](#) to order your 2024-25 yearbook is live! Current price is \$85. You can also order senior ads using the same link. Find those baby pictures now! If you have any questions, please email Karen_R_Zappone@mcpsmd.org

Seal of Biliteracy

If you are a DHS senior and you are bilingual, add the MD Seal of Biliteracy to your résumé to showcase your skills to future employers and college admissions offices. Damascus High School will be offering testing for SENIORS (no cost)

Test Date: Tuesday Nov 12, 2024

Where: Room 120 (small auditorium)

At what time: The test starts at 7: 45 sharp

Register here: <https://bit.ly/SealRegisterMCPS25>

Contact Dr. Laura Cuppone at Laura_Cuppone@mcpsmd.org for more information.

Find more information about the benefits of this test and the language offered [HERE](#).

DHS Major Capital Project Update- BOE CIP Work Session November 4, 2024 at 6:00 PM

Damascus Cluster Coordinators, Danielle Ibarra and Aimee Ibacache will be giving testimony in the Monday, November 4, 2024 MCPS Board of Education Facilities and Boundaries Hearing. The meeting begins at 6:00 PM. Damascus parents and community members are welcome to watch or attend in their school shirts to support advocacy to the Board of Education for the Damascus High School, Damascus Elementary School and Woodfield Elementary School projects. [Ways to Participate](#). You can view the presentation slides [here](#). Construction funds for our project are slated for FY 2029, and the completion date is currently "to be determined".

BOE CIP Work Session November 4, 2024 at 6:00 PM

Damascus Cluster Coordinators, Danielle Ibarra and Aimee Ibacache will be giving testimony in the Monday, November 4, 2024 MCPS Board of Education Facilities and Boundaries Hearing. The meeting begins at 6:00 PM. Damascus parents and community members are welcome to watch or attend in their school shirts to support advocacy to the Board of Education for the Damascus High School, Damascus Elementary School and Woodfield Elementary School projects.

[DHS College and Career Center](#)

Check out the Weekly Messages from the College and Career Center [here](#) for information and for upcoming events.

SENIORS: Have you completed your [Brag Sheet](#)? If not, do it today! Please ensure you are matching your Naviance & Common Application accounts. The [Authorization to Release Pupil Records](#) form MUST be completed for DHS to send your transcripts for college applications. Turn it into Ms. Brown or Mrs. Lee. **MCPS will be hosting two more On the Spot Admissions Events** where students will have interviews and receive on the spot admissions decisions and scholarship offers. There is a November 13th event at Seneca Valley that Mrs. Lee will be attending. Students MUST apply to the college(s) before the event. Learn more and sign up [here](#). Are you not able to attend our events, but need information? Check out the [Recordings & Presentations page](#) for recordings of some previous events. If you have any College and Career related questions, please see [Mrs. Lee](#) in the College and Career Center, Room 133.

Dear DHS Community,

MCPS released the tentative 2025 High School Commencement Ceremony Schedule today. We're excited to announce that the Class of 2025 DHS Graduation Ceremony will tentatively be held on Friday, May 30, at 9:00 a.m. This will be a rain-or-shine event on this date, with the ceremony planned for outside in our stadium.

However, a limited number of guests will only be permitted if the ceremony needs to be relocated to our auditorium due to severe weather or poor field conditions. Other guests will be moved into classrooms and can watch a live ceremony stream.

We wanted to share this date as soon as possible so families and caregivers can have ample time to make arrangements. As the date approaches, we will provide more information about the ceremony, including ticket details, seating, parking, and a possible relocation plan to our auditorium.

We look forward to celebrating this milestone with you!

B. Rohner

Bradley W. Rohner
Principal
Damascus High School

Dear DHS Community,

I am sharing an update from our PTSA Cluster Coordinators, Aimee Ibacache and Danielle Ibarra, on the Capital Improvements Program across our cluster. Together, we're working on initiatives to enhance our schools and create a more enriching environment for all students. These projects reflect our shared commitment to growth and collaboration, and we're grateful for the support of our PTSA and community partners.

Stay tuned for more details as these projects take shape, and please don't hesitate to reach out to Aimee, Danielle, or me if you have any questions or would like to get involved. Thank you for your continued dedication to our schools and students!

Please see below for the updates to each cluster school affected by the Capital Improvements Program.

Thank you,

B. Rohner

Bradley Rohner

Principal

Damascus High School

Damascus Cluster Capital Improvement Program Updates

On October 24, 2024, Montgomery County Public Schools' Superintendent Dr. Thomas Taylor provided his recommendations to the FY 2026 Capital Budget and Amendments to the FY 2025 – 2030 Capital Improvement Program. Please find information about the recommendations for the Damascus High School, Damascus Elementary School, and Woodfield Elementary School projects below.

Damascus High School:

Due to fiscal constraints, the County Council shifted the expenditures for the Damascus High School Major Capital project to the out years of the adopted capital Improvement Program (CIP) with a "to be determined" completion date. In the presentation given in the October 24, 2024 Board of Education meeting, it was indicated that construction funds for Damascus High School would be allocated in FY 2029. Additionally, the presentation noted that there will be an upcoming boundary study to determine the service area for the new Crown High School and the expansion of Damascus High School.

Damascus Elementary School:

Damascus Elementary School was approved for a feasibility study for a major capital project as part of the FY 2023-2028 CIP. The Key Facility Indicators were used to identify Damascus Elementary School for a possible major capital project. The scope for the project will be identified based on the individual building system and programmatic and capacity needs. An FY 2025 appropriation was approved to begin the planning and design for this project. Due to fiscal constraints, the County Council shifted construction placeholder expenditures to the out-years of the adopted FY 2025 – 2030 CIP. Once planning is complete, construction funds, along with a completion date, will be considered in the future CIP. The Superintendent recommended that a portion of the out-year placeholder expenditures for the Damascus Elementary School project (along with the expenditures for Cold Spring ES, Twinbrook ES, and Whetstone ES) to be reallocated to other CIP projects in order to keep them on their approved schedules. According to the October 24, 2024 presentation, it was indicated that construction funds for Damascus Elementary School would be allocated in FY 2029.

Woodfield Elementary School:

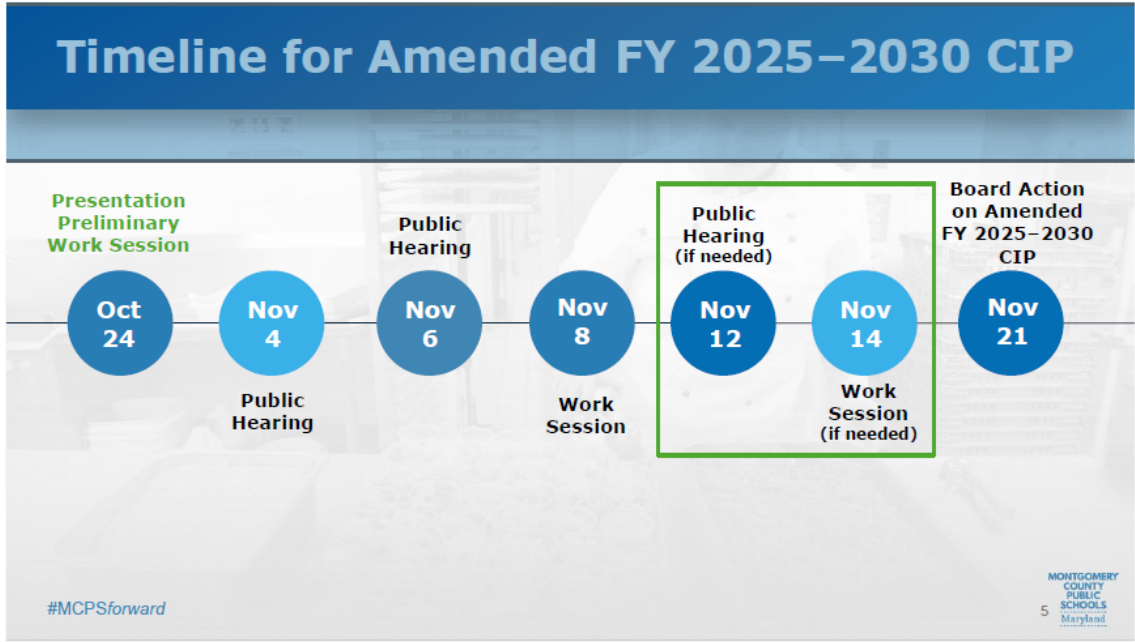
Woodfield Elementary School was approved for a feasibility study for a major capital project. The Key Facilities Indicators were utilized to identify schools for possible major projects. The scope for the project will be identified based on the individual building system and programmatic and capacity needs. Once the feasibility study is complete, a recommendation regarding scope, timeline, and funding will be considered in a future CIP.

BOE CIP Work Session November 4, 2024 at 6:00 PM

Damascus Cluster Coordinators, Danielle Ibarra and Aimee Ibacache will be giving testimony in the Monday, November 4, 2024 MCPS Board of Education Facilities and Boundaries Hearing. The meeting begins at 6:00 PM. Damascus parents and community members are welcome to watch or attend in their school shirts to support advocacy to the Board of Education for the Damascus High School, Damascus Elementary School and Woodfield Elementary School projects.

DHS Major Capital Project Update

While there have not been any changes since the County Council’s action in May 2024, we wanted to share information on the status of our renovation project. The Superintendent’s Recommended FY 2026 Capital Budget and Amendments to the FY 2025-2030 Capital Improvements Program was presented to the Board of Education yesterday. You can view the presentation slides [here](#). Construction funds for our project are slated for FY 2029, and the completion date is currently “to be determined”. This shift was made by the County Council due to fiscal constraints. In the months ahead, the MCPS Office of Facilities Management will be continuing its work on the pre-planning side, and we expect they will re-engage with our community once this work has been completed.



Mensaje en español

Dear DHS Community,

As we approach the final week of the first marking period, I want to remind students of the four key messages: this is important; you can do it, we won't give up on you, and effective effort leads to achievement. This is your time to shine, and we believe in you.

Students, your efforts are essential, and they matter. I strongly recommend that you check your Gradebook regularly, touch base with your teachers about any missing work or questions you may have, and make the extra effort to ensure your grades reflect the hard work you've put in. Whether it's taking advantage of extra help sessions or reviewing for upcoming assessments, your efforts will pay off. Now is the time to push through and give it your all.

We want to see everyone finish this marking period on a high note. Keep up the momentum, stay motivated, and know that your teachers and the entire staff are here to support you every step of the way.

Let's make this last week of the marking period a success for everyone!

Thank you,

B. Rohner

Bradley Rohner
Principal
Damascus High School

Next Week

Day	Event(s)
Monday 10/28	Regular Bell Schedule
Tuesday 10/29	Regular Bell Schedule
Wednesday 10/30	Regular Bell Schedule
Thursday 10/31	Hornet Time Bell Schedule
Friday 11/01	Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration Adjusted Assembly Bell Schedule (End of MP1)

Following Week

Day	Event(s)
Monday 11/04	Grading and Planning Day for Teachers: No School for Students
Tuesday 11/05	Holiday—School System Closed
Wednesday 11/06	Regular Bell Schedule
Thursday 11/07	Hornet Time Bell Schedule
Friday 11//08	Regular Bell Schedule

Student IDs- Starting Wednesday November 6, 2024 (MP2 Begins)

All students will be required to wear their school-issued ID at all times while on school grounds starting MP2, Wednesday November 6, 2024. Students should also be prepared to present their ID at all MCPS sponsored events as soon as they are issued an ID. If ID is lost, a temporary sticker ID can be provided.

Underclass Picture Ordering

View and order student pictures for Grades 9-11 through this [link](#). The student ID# is the online code.

Drama Club

The Drama Club is excited to present the movie and game board inspired Clue as our fall show! We perform Friday 11/1, Saturday 11/2, Friday 11/8, and Saturday 11/9. All shows start at 7pm and tickets are available at the door for \$7. Come out and enjoy the performing arts at Damascus High School!

AP Exams

AP exams are free for all students in an AP class and registered for the exam in their College Board account by November 15th. **MCPS expects all AP students to take their respective AP exam. Students must register in their College Board accounts by November 15th.** Please review and sign this [letter detailing AP expectations](#). Return signed letters to your AP teacher(s). Printed copies are available in your classroom and the counseling office. Here is a copy of the [AP testing schedule](#).

Yearbook

[The link](#) to order your 2024-25 yearbook is live! Current price is \$85 but you can use a coupon code to save \$5. (This is the lowest price all year.) **Use HORNETS or SWARM to save - code deadline has been extended until October 31. No tricks! Just a \$5 off treat!!** You can also order senior ads using the same link. Find those baby pictures now! If you have any questions, please email Karen_R_Zappone@mcpsmd.org.

Administration of the 2024–2025 Maryland Youth Risk Behavior Survey and Youth Tobacco Survey

DHS has been selected to participate in the 2024–2025 Maryland Youth Risk Behavior Survey and Youth Tobacco Survey (YRBS/YTS). The project is a collaborative effort between the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), and ICF, the survey vendor. This biennial survey of youth tobacco and other risk behaviors is mandated by State statute (MD. Health-General Code Ann. § 13-1003 and §13-1004 and MD. Education Article §7-420), which requires that the MSDE, county boards of education, and schools selected to participate in the survey cooperate with MDH in administering the survey.

To comply with the requirements of the law, the MD YRBS/YTS will be administered to students in Grades 6 through 12 in randomly selected schools during the fall of 2024. The online version of the survey, which is available in English and Spanish, will take approximately 30 minutes to complete. The paper-pencil version of the survey, if needed by a student, will take approximately 45 minutes to complete. Data from the MD YRBS/YTS are used to (1) monitor how priority health-risk behaviors among middle and high school students increase, decrease, or remain the same over time; (2) evaluate the impact of broad state and local efforts to prevent health-risk behaviors; and (3) improve school health education policies and programs.

[MD YRBS/YTS Video: History and Background](#)

[2024 – 2025 Maryland YRBS/YTS Overview](#)

[2024 – 2025 General YRBS Fact Sheet](#)

Music Boosters (Chick-Fil-A Fundraiser 11/12)

Please join the DHS Music Boosters for a restaurant fundraiser at Chick-Fil-A in Mount Airy on Tuesday, November 12th from 4-7pm. The Music Boosters will receive 15% of the proceeds to support our music programs. Check out the flyer [here](#)! Make sure to mention the fundraiser if you are ordering at the counter. If you order online, please use the code MUSIC24. Directions for mobile ordering can be found [here](#). Thank you for your support!

Student Service Learning (SSL) hours

Students may now submit their SSL forms online [here](#). Hard copy forms do not need to be turned in if the form has been uploaded into the online submission form.

New in-person and virtual SSL activities are added regularly to the [DHS SSL information page](#). The Hispanic Heritage Month SSL activities that students can complete remotely will only be available until October 31st. Completion of these activities will earn students up to 13 SSL hours!

DHS Major Capital Project Update

While there have not been any changes since the County Council's action in May 2024, we wanted to share information on the status of our renovation project. The Superintendent's Recommended FY 2026 Capital Budget and Amendments to the FY 2025-2030 Capital Improvements Program was presented to the Board of Education yesterday. You can view the presentation slides [here](#). Construction funds for our project are slated for FY 2029, and the completion date is currently "to be determined". This shift was made by the County Council due to fiscal constraints. In the months ahead, the MCPS Office of Facilities Management will be continuing its work on the pre-planning side, and we expect they will re-engage with our community once this work has been completed.

[DHS College and Career Center](#)

Check out the Weekly Messages from the College and Career Center [here](#) for information and for upcoming events.

SENIORS: Have you completed your [Brag Sheet](#)? If not, do it today! Please ensure you are matching your Naviance & Common Application accounts. The [Authorization to Release Pupil Records](#) form MUST be completed for DHS to send your transcripts for college applications. Turn it into Ms. Brown or Mrs. Lee. November 1st and 15th application deadlines are quickly approaching. Make sure you are completing all the necessary steps for your applications now and see Mrs. Lee if you have questions. **MCPS will be hosting three On the Spot Admissions Events** where students will have interviews and receive on the spot admissions decisions. Students MUST apply to the college(s) before the event. Learn more and sign up [here](#). Are you not able to attend our events, but need information? Check out the [Recordings & Presentations page](#) for recordings of some previous events. If you have any College and Career related questions, please see [Mrs. Lee](#) in the College and Career Center, Room 133.

10.22.24- Homecoming Dance

Dear Damascus High School Parents,

I want to address some concerns raised by students, parents, and social media posts regarding alcohol use and possession at our school dance on Saturday night. I want to reiterate that Damascus High School does not condone or tolerate alcohol or any substance use at any of our events. In fact, alcohol and consequences for its use or possession are expressly prohibited in the MCPS Student Code of Conduct. We take these matters very seriously and are committed to acting swiftly and responsibly when these concerns are brought to our attention. Your concerns are our concerns, and we will always strive to address them effectively.

While we were aware of some incidents of inappropriate behavior by individual students during the evening, additional information was communicated to us the following day and into yesterday. In light of the new information over the last couple of days, we took action to ensure that the matter was addressed appropriately. As part of our response, I am sending this message to all parents, informing them of the situation and our commitment to maintaining a safe and respectful environment for all students at school events. Another part of the response is that we continuously review our dance processes and level of supervision structures to ensure we provide the safest environment possible for our students. The entire administrative team, security personnel, Montgomery County police, parent volunteers, and various DHS staff chaperones were present. They intervened immediately when inappropriate behavior by individual students was reported or observed. Our standard practice regarding inappropriate behavior at school events is to contact the parents immediately, and they must come and pick up their child, which unfortunately happened on Saturday night.

I want to personally thank the parents and students who have shared information with us. Your partnership allows us to take the necessary steps to keep our school events safe and enjoyable for everyone. I encourage all students to continue following the principle of "See Something, Say Something," while I assure you that we will continue to take action when concerns are raised. This collaboration is vital in ensuring the safety and well-being of all our students.

If you have any further questions or concerns, or if additional information comes to light, please do not hesitate to contact me directly. Together, we can ensure that Damascus High School remains a place of respect, safety, and responsibility. This commitment to safety and responsibility is at the core of our school's values, and we will continue to uphold it.

Thank you,

B. Rohner

Bradley Rohner
Principal

10.19.24- Homecoming Dance Expectations

Dear Students and Parents,

We are thrilled and eagerly looking forward to an exciting and memorable Homecoming Dance tonight (10/19)! To ensure that everyone has a safe and enjoyable time, we ask that all students follow these expectations.

Dance entry is between 7:00 PM and 8:30 PM, and no one will be allowed to enter after 8:30 PM. The dance will end at 10:00 PM, and students are expected to arrange for transportation home at that time.

We want this to be a fun and positive event for everyone, so please remember to represent Damascus High School with pride. The Homecoming Dance is an extension of the classroom, and MCPS Student Code of Conduct violations will not be tolerated. Students who fail to follow these expectations may be asked to leave the dance, and parents will be contacted.

Please bring your school ID and Homecoming tickets via the GoFan app, which must be accessible so we can validate them and ensure they have been purchased and used. A screenshot (picture of a ticket) cannot be validated, so screenshots of tickets will not be accepted. Bags are not allowed inside the school. Please plan accordingly.

Thank you for your cooperation in making this event a success. Your behavior and adherence to these guidelines are not just important, but crucial in ensuring a safe and enjoyable Homecoming Dance for everyone. See you tonight!

Thank you,

B. Rohner

Bradley Rohner
Principal

10.18.24

Mensaje en español

Dear DHS Community,

Thank you to our students, caregivers, and staff for your fantastic support during this year's Homecoming Week. From the incredible hallway decorations to the spirit and energy of the pep rally, it has been an unforgettable week of events that truly showcased the pride and unity of our Hornet community.

I'm so proud to be the principal of such a supportive and enthusiastic school. Your involvement and encouragement have made a huge difference in making this week special for everyone.

As we look forward to tonight's Homecoming football game against Clarksburg and the Homecoming dance tomorrow to conclude our fantastic week, I can't help but feel the excitement building. Thank you again for your continued support, and let's keep this momentum going as we cheer on the Hornets tonight!

Thank you,

B. Rohner

Bradley Rohner
Principal

Following Week

Day	Event(s)
Monday 10/21	Regular Bell Schedule
Tuesday 10/22	Regular Bell Schedule
Wednesday 10/23	Regular Bell Schedule
Thursday 10/24	Hornet Time Bell Schedule
Friday 10/25	Regular Bell Schedule

Following Week

Day	Event(s)
Monday 10/28	Regular Bell Schedule
Tuesday 10/29	Regular Bell Schedule
Wednesday 10/30	Regular Bell Schedule
Thursday 10/31	Hornet Time Bell Schedule
Friday 11/01	Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration Adjusted Assembly Bell Schedule (End of MP1)

Mental Health Awareness Week (10/21-10/26)

The Office of School Support and Improvement and the Montgomery County School Psychologists’ Association will co-host the 2024 Mental Health Awareness Week (MHAW), from October 21–26, 2024. The Mental Health Resource Fair will be held on Saturday, October 26, 2024, from 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. at Seneca Valley High School, 19401 Crystal Rock Drive, Germantown, Maryland 20874. The event is open to students, families, and staff and will include Montgomery County Public Schools and community partners sharing information about mental health and wellness; as well as a student-lead forum focusing on issues impacting Montgomery County youth. Students may earn student service learning hours for participation in the Resource Fair. The MHAW website includes more specific details. Please share this information with your staff and families.

Homecoming 2024

The week was buzzing with spirit from class hallways to our Fall Athletics, Clubs and Homecoming Pep Rally, Damascus pride was at an all time high! We are looking forward to hosting “An Evening Under the Stars” Homecoming

Dance which will take place on Saturday, October 19th in the Main Gym from 7:00 PM-10:00 PM. Please keep in mind that entry into the dance is from 7:00 PM-8:30 PM. Screenshots of tickets will not be permitted for entry into the dance. Please do not validate your ticket in advance, a DHS staff member will do this when you enter the dance. Bags will not be permitted in the school, just bring yourself:) If you have not signed up for a snack donation, there is still time! Check out our [Homecoming Dance Sign-Up Genius](#). A sincere thank you to those who have already signed up!

Student IDs- Starting Wednesday November 6, 2024 (MP2 Begins)

All students will be required to wear their school-issued ID at all times while on school grounds starting MP2, Wednesday November 6, 2024. Students should also be prepared to present their ID at all MCPS sponsored events as soon as they are issued an ID. If ID is lost, a temporary sticker ID can be provided.

Yearbook

[The link](#) to order your 2024-25 yearbook is live! Current price is \$85 but you can use a coupon code to save \$5. (This is the lowest price all year.) **Use HORNETS or SWARM to save - code deadline has been extended until October 31. No tricks! Just a \$5 off treat!!** You can also order senior ads using the same link. Find those baby pictures now! If you have any questions, please email Karen_R_Zappone@mcpsmd.org.

Underclass Picture Ordering

View and order student pictures for Grades 9-11 through this [link](#). The student ID# is the online code.

AP exams

AP exams are free for all students in an AP class and registered for the exam in their College Board account by November 15th. **MCPS expects all AP students to take their respective AP exam. Students must register in their College Board accounts by November 15th.** Please review and sign this [letter detailing AP expectations](#). Return signed letters to your AP teacher(s). Printed copies are available in your classroom and the counseling office. Here is a copy of the [AP testing schedule](#). Please contact Ms. Burkhalter with any questions (Nicole_D_Burkhalter@mcpsmd.org)

[DHS College and Career Center](#)

Check out the Weekly Messages from the College and Career Center [here](#). **SENIORS:** Have you completed your [Brag Sheet](#)? If not, do it today! Please ensure you are matching your Naviance & Common Application accounts. The [Authorization to Release Pupil Records](#) form MUST be completed for DHS to send your transcripts for college applications. Turn it into Ms. Brown or Mrs. Lee. **There will be an online Zoom meeting with Collegiate Directions hosted by DHS on Thursday, October 24th at 6 p.m. on Financial Aid Basics.** See the flier [here](#) for registration. **MCPS will be hosting three On the Spot Admissions Events** where students will have interviews and receive on the spot admissions decisions. Students MUST apply to the college(s) before the event. Learn more and sign up [here](#). Are you not able to attend our events, but need information? Check out the [Recordings & Presentations page](#) for recordings of some previous events. **Mrs. Lee and members of the Counseling Department will have a table with College and Career Information at home Varsity Football Games.** Be sure to stop and say “Hello!” and get all of your questions answered! If you have any College and Career related questions, please see [Mrs. Lee](#) in the College and Career Center, Room 133.

Hero Dog Ashley will be back at DHS Friday, October 25th. Stop by outside the Auditorium to visit with her!

10.18.24- Homecoming Football Game

Dear Damascus Community,

We are excited for tonight's Homecoming football game as our Damascus Hornets take on Clarksburg Coyotes is always a special time to come together as a community to support our school, our students, and our teams. To ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone, please take note of the following expectations:

Hornet Only Parking Lot

For this game, our students have requested a designated parking area for Homecoming, and we are pleased to support their request. The senior parking lot will be reserved for Hornet parents and students only on game day, giving them space to celebrate and enjoy this special occasion.

Athletics Safety Plan - Tier 1

- Students of the participating schools will be allowed to attend with a valid ticket and by presenting their student ID or StudentVue verification of their schedule. All other school-aged spectators must be accompanied by an adult chaperone—this includes all elementary, middle, and high school students from other schools. Adult chaperones must stay and supervise students for the duration of their stay at the game.
- Students and spectators must sit in the stands during the course of the game. While there will be potential gatherings at halftime and postgame, gatherings will not be allowed during the game.
- There is no re-entry to events. Spectators will not be admitted after halftime (halftime of the second game of a doubleheader).
- Backpacks are not allowed.

Sportsmanship & Expectations

A condition of entry into an MCPS athletic event is that all spectators agree to recognize the event as an extension of the learning process and that all present are responsible for modeling appropriate behavior.

APPLAUD student-athletes for their efforts

ACCEPT the decisions of officials and coaches

APPRECIATE all participants for their commitment

SUPPORT school personnel in conducting a spirited and safe contest

MAINTAIN composure when breaks seem to go against your team

RESPECT the rights of other spectators

REWARD sportsmanlike behavior through cheering

FOCUS attention on the positive aspects of competition

ENCOURAGE student-athletes by showing enthusiasm & positive recognition

DEMONSTRATE concern for the safety and welfare of student-athletes

REPORT any negative or discriminatory comments or behaviors to school personnel — SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING!

The students competing are not professional athletes. They will make errors during competition, as will game officials and coaches. However, all participants exhibit the highest degree of effort and commitment to excellence. Negative criticism and booing will not help them to improve and are unacceptable forms of expression. Additionally, comments that are discriminatory in any manner are unacceptable and should be reported immediately to school personnel. As spectators, you can assist in student-athletes development by focusing on the positive aspects of their performance.

Let's remember this night by supporting our team and proudly representing Damascus! We expect a great turnout and encourage everyone to arrive early, show their school spirit, and cheer on the Hornets!

Thank you for your cooperation, and we look forward to seeing you at the game.

Go Hornets!

Bradley W. Rohner
Principal
Damascus High School

10.11.24

Mensaje en español

Dear DHS Community,

I hope this message finds you well. I want to express my excitement for the upcoming festivities as we approach Homecoming Week. This is always one of the most anticipated times of the year when school pride and the unique culture of Damascus shine through in everything we do.

From the spirited hallway decoration competition to the pep rally and, of course, the big game against Clarksburg HS, Homecoming Week offers us a unique opportunity to come together and celebrate what makes Damascus High School so special. As this is my first Homecoming at DHS, I have only heard about how our students, staff, and community go above and beyond to make these events memorable, and I can’t wait to see that energy in full force for myself.

Our SGA ([Homecoming Information](#)) and the entire school have planned and organized a fantastic lineup of events for Homecoming Week, and I urge each of you to join in and show your support. Whether you’re a student, staff member, parent, or community supporter, your active participation makes this week special. Your presence adds meaning and energy to our celebrations.

Let’s make this Homecoming Week one to remember as we continue to build on our strong traditions and celebrate everything that makes Damascus a great place to learn and grow.

I'm eagerly looking forward to seeing you at the events and experiencing the energy and enthusiasm that Homecoming Week always brings!

Please see below for important information.

Thank you,

B. Rohner
Bradley Rohner
Principal
Damascus High School

Movie Night at DHS for Tonight (10/11)- Postponed

Unfortunately, we must postpone our upcoming Movie Night that was scheduled fortnightly (Friday, October 11). We understand that many of you were looking forward to this event, and we sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. We are already working on rescheduling and will announce the new date as soon as possible. We are excited about the next opportunity to come together as a community and enjoy a fun evening together.

Next Week - [HoCo Spirit Week](#)!

Day	Event(s)
Monday 10/14	Regular Bell Schedule; HoCo Spirit Week
Tuesday 10/15	Regular Bell Schedule; HoCo Spirit Week
Wednesday 10/16	PSAT / Wellness Day Modified Bell Schedule
Thursday 10/17	Modified Bell Schedule : MCAP Score Distribution/Pep Rally Bell Schedule
Friday 10/18	Non-Instructional Day for Students

Following Week

Day	Event(s)
Monday 10/21	Regular Bell Schedule

Tuesday 10/22	Regular Bell Schedule
Wednesday 10/23	Regular Bell Schedule
Thursday 10/24	Regular Bell Schedule
Friday 10/25	Regular Bell Schedule

Student IDs- Starting Wednesday November 6, 2024 (MP2 Begins)

All students will be required to wear their school-issued ID at all times while on school grounds starting MP2, Wednesday November 6, 2024. Students should also be prepared to present their ID at all MCPS sponsored events as soon as they are issued an ID. If ID is lost, a temporary sticker ID can be provided.

PSAT School Day: October 16th

On Wednesday, October 16th, all 10th and select 11th grade students will take the PSAT. The PSAT provides an important measure of each student's readiness for advanced coursework, college and careers, and preparation for future college readiness examinations. Students testing should come to school at their regular arrival time and report to their testing location (testing locations will be displayed on the main office windows). All 9th grade students will report to the auditorium, and the remaining students not testing will complete SSL activities in the cafeteria. All students testing will need their chromebook (fully charged), a charger, and a No. 2 pencil. Calculators are permitted on all sections of the math test and there is one embedded in the testing platform. We will not be able to provide calculators to students, so students who want a handheld one should make arrangements ahead of time. Snacks and drinks are permitted and should be easily accessible in the back of the testing room for when students have an official testing break. After the PSAT testing on Wednesday, October 16th, students will have their lunch period and then we will move into our Wellness Day activities.

- Here is the bell schedule for PSAT School Day the day:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1VScNPYd_AUO6xzEmhes5QC8hDdR3PwkFgmngMONsaE_w/edit?usp=s_haring
- Here is a roster of students testing with their testing locations:
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1_6MFyGU9Mjm9_I6GAMv0XFOsw-j2zoyH1sHow1JGjAs/edit?usp=s_haring

Frequently Asked Questions:

Who is taking the P-SAT at DHS?

- All 10th Grade Students
- Select - 11th Grade Students who paid for the test.

What will other DHS students be doing if they are not testing?

- 9th Grade Students - CTE Rotation (CTE Wing)
- 11th/12th Grade Students - Completing SSL Hour Projects (Cafe - Stevenson)

Please contact Ms. Lora Brazil if you have any questions.

Homecoming 2024

Homecoming Spirit Week kicks off on **Friday, October 11th**. Find everything from Class colors, Class themes, important dates and deadlines, dance information and ticket sales on SGA's [Homecoming Information](#). To purchase tickets for the dance, your student ID number is your Access Code. If GoFan does not allow you to purchase a ticket, please see Ms. Weston to pay your financial obligation. Guest tickets application final deadline was on 10/4/2024. Emails confirming approval and steps to purchase a student's guest ticket were sent to their MCPS Gmail.

Please consider donating snacks and treats through our [Homecoming Dance Sign-Up Genius](#). A sincere thank you to those who have already signed up!

Check out [SGA's Events and Updates](#) for the latest leadership opportunities, SSL Hours, DHS Club offerings and SGA Meetings.

Student Member of the Board (SMOB)

The Maryland Association of Student Councils (MASC) is pleased to inform you that nominations for the 2025-2026 State Student Member on the Board of Education (SMOB) are open. This important public official position requires a nomination by the student's school principal. The student must be regularly enrolled in a public high school, in good standing, and a junior or senior as of July 1, 2025 (meaning they are current sophomores or juniors). The school does not have to be a member of MASC. The school nomination is due by 5:00 p.m., Monday, November 18, 2024. Education Article §2-202 of the Maryland General Assembly Statute authorizes the appointment by the Governor of a student member of the Maryland State Board of Education. The responsibilities of this position are extensive, therefore, we highly encourage students to read, research, and talk to the current and former state SMOBs before applying. Any student interested in learning more about becoming a SMOB candidate should access a packet [HERE](#) and see the [SMOB application](#) information page.

2025–2026 School Year Calendar Input

MCPS is seeking input about the 2025–2026 school year calendar! Please take a moment to complete the MCPS School Calendar Feedback Survey. Your input will be used to select the first and last day of school, as well as other important dates for the coming school year.

- [MCPS School Calendar Feedback Survey](#)
- [MCPS School Calendar Feedback Survey QR Code](#)

AP exams

AP exams are free for all students in an AP class and registered for the exam in their College Board account by November 15th. **MCPS expects all AP students to take their respective AP exam. Students must register in their College Board accounts by November 15th.** Please review and sign this [letter detailing AP expectations](#). Return signed letters to your AP teacher(s). Printed copies are available in your classroom and the counseling office. Here is a copy of the [AP testing schedule](#). Please contact Ms. Burkhalter with any questions (Nicole_D_Burkhalter@mcpsmd.org)

2024 Fall Game Changer Conference for Young Males

Be part of "The World is Shifting Forward! Focus Forward and Compete" conference, designed especially for Black/African American and Hispanic/Latino students. Learn how to level up and stand out with skills and knowledge that will help young men succeed in school, college, and beyond. With engaging sessions, plus parent workshops every half hour, attendees will be set to tackle any challenge. Don't miss out on the essay writing competition where students can showcase their talents and prepare for the future! Parents and guardians should register their student(s) using [this link](#) by Monday, October 21st —spaces are limited!

Music Boosters – Hornet's Nest Grille, 10/14

Please join the DHS Music Boosters for our first restaurant fundraiser of the school year at Hornet's Nest Grille on Monday, October 14th from 11:30am until closing! 20% of the proceeds will be donated to the DHS Music Boosters to support the music programs. Make sure to show the [FLYER](#) if you are dining in. If you order online, please write "fundraiser" in the promo code section. Proceeds from both carry out and dine in orders apply to this fundraiser. Thank you for your support!

Conversion from A/C to Heat

MCPS will begin converting schools from air conditioning to heat on October 15th, beginning with elementary schools. It will take approximately three weeks to convert all MCPS facilities. Unlike residential systems, most schools cannot switch automatically from a/c to heat so a/c will not be available once the changeover process begins.

Yearbook

[The link](#) to order your 2024-25 yearbook is live! Current price is \$85 but you can use a coupon code to save \$5. (This is the lowest price all year.) Use HORNETS or SWARM to save until Oct. 21. You can also order senior ads using the same link. Find those baby pictures now! If you have any questions, please email Karen_R_Zappone@mcpsmd.org

10.04.24

[Mensaje en español](#)

Next Week

Day	Event(s)
Monday 10/07	Regular Bell Schedule
Tuesday 10/08	Regular Bell Schedule
Wednesday 10/09	Regular Bell Schedule
Thursday 10/10	Hornet Time Bell Schedule
Friday 10/11	Regular Bell Schedule - HoCo Spirit Week Begins

Following Week

Day	Event(s)
Monday 10/14	Regular Bell Schedule; HoCo Spirit Week
Tuesday 10/15	Regular Bell Schedule; HoCo Spirit Week
Wednesday 10/16	PSAT / Wellness Day Modified Bell Schedule
Thursday 10/17	Adjusted Bell Schedule: MCAP Score Distribution/Pep Rally Bell Schedule
Friday 10/18	Non-Instructional Day for Students

Yearbook

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Homecoming 2024

Homecoming Tickets go on sale from Monday, October 7th (after 4PM) to Monday, October 14th through GoFan. All DHS students will be able to purchase a ticket if obligations are settled. Please check School Cash Online or see Ms. Weston in the Business Office to clear your account by Monday morning. All students who submitted a non-DHS Guest Form, please check your email for confirmation of guest approval.

Homecoming Spirit Week kicks off on Friday, October 11th. Find everything from Class colors, Class themes, important dates and deadlines, dance information, ticket sales and non-DHS guest permission forms on SGA's [Homecoming Information](#). For any student bringing a guest from another school, please make sure you plan for approval with our [DHS Non-Guest Permission Form](#) due on **Friday, October 4, 2024**.

Underclass Student Pictures (Grades 9-11)

If your student missed picture day, there will be a final make-up session on Monday, **October 7**. Students should obtain passes to the auditorium through their social studies class. If a student does not have a social studies class, they may go during another class period (with a teacher's pass) or visit during lunch. This photo day is for students who were absent on their original picture day, are new to the school, or who were not happy with their original package (students are required to return their original package to the photographer). Additional info can be found [here](#). Anyone who has not ordered can still preorder retake photos using this [link](#). Questions about ordering? Email underclass@vosphoto.com. All students must have a picture taken even if they are not making a purchase. This picture will be used for the required student ID card and yearbook.

Senior Portraits

If your senior still needs a portrait appointment with our photographer, Victor O'Neill Studios (VOS), please plan on signing up for the final make-up session to be held at DHS on **October 8** (after school). Visit this [link](#) for the letter, which includes the appointment link. If you couldn't find an open appt. time earlier, try again as additional slots were added on 9/25. VOS should photograph all students for their student IDs and yearbook pictures. There is no sitting fee for the yearbook only pose. Please note that a portion of all picture sales helps support DHS. If you have any questions about senior portraits, contact VOS via seniors@vosphoto.com.

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Please join the DHS Music Boosters for our first restaurant fundraiser of the school year at Hornet’s Nest Grille on Monday, October 14th from 11:30am until closing! 20% of the proceeds will be donated to the DHS Music Boosters to support the music programs. Make sure to show the [FLYER](#) if you are dining in. If you order online, please write “fundraiser” in the promo code section. Proceeds from both carry out and dine in orders apply to this fundraiser. Thank you for your support!

Family Movie Night at DHS

The DHS Drama Club is hosting a screening of Coco in the DHS Auditorium on **Friday, October 11th**. Doors open at 5:30pm, and the film will start at 6pm. Admission is free; however, donations to benefit the performing arts at Damascus HS will gladly be accepted. All students under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult. The presentation will end by 8:15 and students are required to have rides waiting at that time. Please email Mr. Kachadorian at Steven_R_Kachadorian@mcpsmd.org with any questions.

Conversion from A/C to Heat

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National Principal Appreciation Month

October is National Principal Appreciation Month! We are thankful for Mr. Rohner, who leads us every day! Thank you, Mr. Rohner!

Appreciation for our Building Services Staff (Observed on 10/2 & Celebrated on 10/3)

Please join us in thanking our fabulous building services team for all the hard work they do to keep our building & grounds looking their best! It’s not easy keeping up with an older building, but they do a great job with ole’ DHS! While we appreciate them every day, this gives us a moment to stop and shout it out loud (and provide lunch for them as well)!

Supporting Services and Teacher Awards

Opportunities to nominate outstanding Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) teachers and supporting services staff for distinguished awards available this school year. Each award is unique and has specific nomination guidelines.

	Supporting Services Award Teacher Awards	Supporting Services Award Teacher Awards
Nomination Deadline:	Sunday, December 1, 2024 (by midnight)	Friday, December 13, 2024 (by midnight)
Submit Materials to:	memberservices@seiu500.org	Sandra_J_Karis@mcpsmd.org
Awards:	Supporting Services Employee of the Year	- MCPS Teacher of the Year - MCPS Rising Star Teacher

		• The Washington Post Teacher of the Year • Shirley J. Lowrie “Thank You for Teaching”
If you have any questions, please contact:	Mrs. Carlene Butt-Pruitt, Service Employees International Union Local 500, at 240-740-8076, or via email. Carlene_M_Butt-Pruitt@mcpsmd.org	Ms. Casey B. Crouse, administrator, Office of Human Resources and Development, at 240-740-7012, or via email. Casey_B_Crouse@mcpsmd.org

- To access nomination materials, including specific guidelines and criteria, please visit the Office of Human Resources and Development Awards and Recognition [website](#)
- For detailed information regarding teacher awards, please see [Attachment A](#).
- Awards Flyer, please see [Attachment B](#).

Open House for Career Readiness Programs at Seneca Valley High School

Next Wednesday, October 9th at 6pm Seneca Valley High School will be hosting an Open House that will highlight career readiness programs DHS students can access. Additional information can be found [here](#). Also, interest forms for MCPS’ Regional and Countywide Programs will open Monday, October 7th. The landing page for the various programs can be found [here](#).

Apply for FARMS by October 8th

The Free and Reduced-price Meals (FARMS) [application](#) is available for this school year. Families must reapply every year to determine whether they are eligible for the FARMS program, even if their child qualified the previous year. Tuesday, Oct. 8 is the last day that student eligibility from last school year carries over into this year. After Oct. 8, students without a new eligibility will revert to a paid status and be charged for meals.

Holiday Giving Project

The Holiday Giving Project has provided Thanksgiving and December holiday assistance to low-income households for over 30 years. A network of social workers, school counselors, and human service professionals refer families in need of assistance. Local non-profits, faith-based organizations, and public agencies serve Holiday Giving recipients, as donations are available. If you and your family are in need and would like to be referred for possible assistance for the holiday season, please complete this referral form to provide the required information. Resources are limited. While a referral is not a guarantee of assistance, the Project helps as many families in need as donations allow. Please complete [this form](#) no later than Tuesday, October 22, 2024.

*Mensaje en español***Next Week**

Day	Event(s)
Monday 09/30	Regular Bell Schedule
Tuesday 10/01	Regular Bell Schedule
Wednesday 10/02	Club Fair (Assembly Bell Schedule)
Thursday 10/03	Non-Instructional Day (No school for students and teachers)
Friday 10/04	Regular Bell Schedule

Following Week

Day	Event(s)
Monday 10/07	Regular Bell Schedule
Tuesday 10/08	Regular Bell Schedule
Wednesday 10/09	Regular Bell Schedule
Thursday 10/10	Hornet Time Bell Schedule
Friday 10/11	Regular Bell Schedule- HoCo Spirit Week Begins

Homecoming 2024

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Parent-Child Reunification Drill

On October 8, we will have a Parent-Child Reunification drill from 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM. We are looking for parent volunteers to participate in our drill. If you would like to participate, please arrive at Damascus High School at 9:30 AM on October 8. Thank you for your support!

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT AT DAMASCUS HS

The DHS Drama Club is hosting a screening of Coco in the DHS Auditorium on Friday, October 11th. Doors open at 5:30pm, and the film will start at 6pm. Admission is free; however, donations to benefit the performing arts at Damascus HS will gladly be accepted. All students under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult. The presentation will end by 8:15 and students are required to have rides waiting at that time. Please email Mr. Kachadorian at Steven_R_Kachadorian@mcpsmd.org with any questions.

Student Member of the Board

The Maryland Association of Student Councils (MASC) is pleased to inform you that nominations for the **2025-2026 State Student Member on the Board of Education (SMOB) are open**. This important public official position requires a nomination by the student’s school principal. The student must be regularly enrolled in a public high school, in good standing, and a junior or senior as of July 1, 2025 (meaning they are current sophomores or juniors). The school does not have to be a member of MASC. The school nomination is due by **5:00 p.m., Monday, November 18, 2024**. Education Article §2-202 of the Maryland General Assembly Statute authorizes the appointment by the Governor of a student member of the Maryland State Board of Education. The responsibilities of this position are extensive, therefore, we highly encourage students to read, research, and talk to the current and former state SMOBs before applying. **Each public high school may nominate one student.** There are no exceptions to the 5:00 p.m., Monday, November 18th deadline as this is the appointment of a public official. The packet can also be accessed [HERE](#). In addition, this year the Maryland Association of Student Councils (MASC) is again hosting a virtual SMOB Informational Webinar from 7:00-8:00 p.m., on Thursday, October 10, 2024. This webinar is being facilitated by Abhiram Gaddam (current state SMOB), Abisola Ayoola (immediate past SMOB), Shradha Bista (MASC president), and special guest Dr. Joshua Michael (state SMOB 2005-2006 and current President of the State Board of Education). We highly recommend interested students attend this webinar so they fully understand the scope and time commitments of this position. If unable to attend, students may reach out to me for a link to the recording. Interested students register themselves for the webinar from the [SMOB application](#) information page.

MOCO EmpowHER’s Leadership Institute

MoCo EmpowHER’s Leadership Institute is an opportunity for high school students to develop leadership skills and learn how to take action on issues about which they are passionate. Leadership Institute fellows will participate in 6 sessions where they will learn about various leadership topics and engage with other student leaders and special guest speakers. The application can be found [here](#)!

SSL opportunity

MCPS is seeking students interested in creating a video presentation that teaches a skill or process that would be inspiring or useful for students in middle or high school. Students may earn 10 SSL hours for successful submission of all items identified in the [submission form](#).

National Honor Society

Juniors who are eligible to apply for the National Honor Society should have received an email about the application process this morning. Applications are due on Tuesday, October 8th. Please reach out to Ms. Burkhalter with any questions (Nicole_D_Burkhalter@mcpsmd.org).

Pickleball Tournament Fundraiser for Post Prom

Join us for the first annual Pickleball Tournament Fundraiser for Post Prom. Novice? Sign up! Played before? Sign up! This will be an afternoon of pickleball, prizes, lots of fun. All proceeds benefit the After Prom Party for Damascus High School! \$20 per team and must be paid upon signing up via venmo, paypal or cash. All sign ups will close by October 9 at midnight. Prizes will be awarded for: First Place, Second Place, Team Spirit and Best Team Name.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4CAAFA2CA46-51516864-damascus>

Home Football Games- Front Gate Adjustments

Thank you for your flexibility and understanding during our recent adjustments at the football game to ensure everyone's safety, particularly at the entrance gate. These changes were implemented to enhance security. We appreciate your continued support as we work to maintain a safe and welcoming environment at our events. Before every home game, we make a PA announcement to all students to remind them of the following expectations.

- Students from participating schools will be allowed to attend by presenting their student ID.
- There is no re-entry to events. Spectators will not be admitted after halftime (halftime of the second game of a doubleheader).
- Backpacks are not allowed.
- No food or water bottles are allowed past the front gate.

DHS College and Career Center

Check out the Weekly Messages from the College and Career Center [here](#). **SENIORS:** Have you completed your [Brag Sheet](#)? If not, do it today! Your counselor will use this information to write your letter of recommendation. Please ensure you are matching your Naviance & Common Application accounts. The [Authorization to Release Pupil Records](#) form **MUST** be completed for DHS to send your transcripts for college applications. Turn it into Ms. Brown, Ms. Lee or email it to Ms. Lee. **Students in Grades 10-12:** DHS will be taking a field trip to the Universities of Shady Grove for the Hispanic College Fair on October 4th. Sign up today by turning in a permission slip found here in [English](#) and [en espanol](#). Permission slips must be turned into Mrs. Lee by 9/30/24 or by sending an electronic copy to Bethany_F_Lee@mcpsmd.org. You don't want to miss this opportunity to meet with college representatives in one location! **Mrs. Lee and members of the Counseling Department will have a table with College and Career Information at home Varsity Football Games.** Be sure to stop and say "Hello!" See the Weekly Messages linked above for all of this information and so much more! If you have any College and Career related questions, please see [Mrs. Lee](#) in the College and Career Center, Room 133.

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DHS Edmentum Fall/Spring 2024-2025

Edmentum classes officially began on Monday, September 9, 2024. Registration is based on the recommendation of your DHS Counselor upon review of your transcripts. Seats are limited and priority is based on the student's original year of graduation. All students who were enrolled received a confirmation email with a link to [DHS Edmentum 2024-2025](#) on Saturday, September 7th. Please check emails to find important information on course log-in information, Edmentum Teachers and helpful tips to ensure your student's success.

Yearbook

[The link](#) to order your 2024-25 yearbook is live! Current price is \$85 but you can use a coupon code to save \$5. (This is the lowest price all year.) Use HORNETS or SWARM to save until Oct. 21. You can also order senior ads using the same link. Find those baby pictures now! If you have any questions, please email Karen_R_Zappone@mcpsmd.org

Next Week

Day	Event(s)
Monday 09/23	Regular Bell Schedule
Tuesday 09/24	Regular Bell Schedule
Wednesday 09/25	Regular Bell Schedule
Thursday 09/26	Hornet Time Bell Schedule
Friday 09/27	Early Release Bell Schedule

Following Week

Day	Event(s)
Monday 09/30	Regular Bell Schedule
Tuesday 10/01	Regular Bell Schedule

Wednesday 10/02	Club Fair (Assembly Bell Schedule)
Thursday 10/03	Non-Instructional Day (No school for students and teachers)
Friday 10/04	Regular Bell Schedule

MCPS Annual Environmental Information

[MCPS Drinking Water Testing Program website.](#)

[Annual Notification of Asbestos Management Plan](#)

[Annual IPM Notification](#)

[Damascus Placemaking Festival](#)

The Damascus Placemaking Festival will be held on Saturday, October 19 from 1 to 6 p.m. and Sunday, October 20 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This free community street festival will feature local food, art, music, and activities for all ages!

[DHS College and Career Center](#)

Check out the Weekly Messages from the College and Career Center [here](#). **SENIORS:** Have you completed your [Brag Sheet](#)? If not, do it today! Your counselor will use this information to write your letter of recommendation. Mrs. Lee visited some English 12 classrooms this week to assist students with setting up their Federal Student Aid and Maryland State Aid accounts. You can view the slideshow that was presented [here](#) for more information. **Students in Grades 10-12:** DHS will be taking a field trip to the Universities of Shady Grove for the Hispanic College Fair on October 4th. Sign up today by turning in a permission slip found here in [English](#) and [en espanol](#). You don't want to miss this opportunity to meet with college representatives in one location! **Mrs. Lee and members of the Counseling Department will have a table with College and Career Information at home Varsity Football Games.** Be sure to stop and say "Hello!" See the Weekly Messages linked above for all of this information and so much more! If you have any College and Career related questions, please see [Mrs. Lee](#) in the College and Career Center, Room 133.

SGA Opportunity

MoCo EmpowHER is hosting our third annual College Expert and Alumni Panel, designed to provide Montgomery County students with valuable insights from college admissions experts and alumni. We are excited to feature panelists who work in admissions for UMD and other universities. We will also have a panelist who can give key insights into the benefits of women's colleges. Additionally, we will have several organizations giving information and workshops that will be key during college application season! This event will be held on Tuesday, September 24th, from 6-8 PM at the Carver Educational Services Center in Rockville, Maryland. RSVP at this link, and email mocoempowher@gmail.com with any questions.

09.13.24

[*Mensaje en español*](#)

Damascus Community Fair

This past weekend was an incredible reminder of the strength and spirit of our community. On Saturday, I had the pleasure of visiting the Damascus Community Fair, where it was great to see so many familiar faces and enjoy the local festivities.

Baker Middle School BTSN

Later, I attended the Back-to-School Night at Baker Middle School on Wednesday, September 10, which was equally amazing. The atmosphere was filled with excitement and energy, and it was wonderful to see so many families, students, and staff coming together to start the school year off on a positive note. From the warm welcome to the sense of community, it was an event to remember.

Hispanic Heritage Month

I am also excited to announce that from September 15 to October 15, we will be celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month at Damascus High School. This is a special time for us to recognize and honor the rich cultural contributions, histories, and achievements of Hispanic and Latino communities, both within our school and across the nation. Throughout the month, we will dedicate a Hornet Time to share a [presentation](#) that will highlight the diverse traditions and stories that shape Hispanic culture. This is a wonderful chance for our students to engage, learn, and celebrate the values of inclusion and diversity that are at the heart of our school community. We invite you to join us in celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month by embracing the rich history, and learning more about the incredible contributions of the Hispanic community.

[Best Buddies](#) Filming

I wanted to take a moment to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone involved in Best Buddies. Your dedication and support have not only impacted the lives of those directly involved but have truly created a ripple effect throughout our entire school community. Best Buddies fosters inclusion, friendship, and understanding among all students, and it has been inspiring to witness the positive influence it has on our school culture. Through your efforts, we are creating a more compassionate and connected environment for everyone. I'm also excited to announce that the filming capturing some of these special moments is [here](#).

Damascus Gardens Community Day

I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who took part in making Damascus Gardens Community Day such a wonderful success. It was fantastic to see so many members of our community come together in support of this new initiative led by the Street Outreach Network.

Your involvement and enthusiasm truly made the day special, and it was inspiring to witness the positive energy and sense of community that filled the event. This initiative is a vital step in building stronger connections and creating meaningful opportunities for everyone, and your participation is what made it all possible.

Thank you again for your continued support and commitment to our students and school community. Together, we are making a difference and fostering a welcoming and inclusive environment for all.

Next Week

Day	Event(s)
Monday 09/16	Regular Bell Schedule
Tuesday 09/17	Adjusted Assembly Bell Schedule- Period 3

	MCPS Rights and Responsibilities and Code of Conduct/Culture of Respect Lessons
Wednesday 09/18	Regular Bell Schedule
Thursday 09/19	Hornet Time Bell Schedule
Friday 09/20	Regular Bell Schedule

Following Week

Day	Event(s)
Monday 09/23	Regular Bell Schedule
Tuesday 09/24	Regular Bell Schedule
Wednesday 09/25	Regular Bell Schedule
Thursday 09/26	Hornet Time Bell Schedule
Friday 09/27	Early Release Bell Schedule /MP1 Interims Post by 5PM

Student Government Association (SGA)

For upcoming events, SGA & Class Officer information, new member applications and meeting dates, please see our [SGA Events and Updates](#) for the latest information. SGA will host its NEW Member Meeting on Thursday, September 19, 2024 at 2:45-3:45 PM in room 142. Please see SGA Sponsor, Ms. Sybrant, if you have any questions.

Homecoming 2024

The season of Swarm Spirit is quickly approaching. Homecoming Spirit Week kicks off on Friday, October 11th. Find everything from Class colors, Class themes, important dates and deadlines, dance information, ticket sales and non-DHS guest permission forms on SGA's [Homecoming Information](#).

Underclass Student Pictures (Grades 9-11)

If your student missed picture day, there will be a make-up session on Monday, October 7. You may pre-order via this [link](#). Questions about ordering? Email underclass@vosphoto.com. All students will have a picture taken even if they are not making a purchase. This picture will be used for the required student ID card and yearbook.

Senior Portrait

If your senior still needs a portrait appointment with our photographer, Victor O'Neill Studios (VOS), please plan on signing up for the final make-up session to be held at DHS on October 8 (after school). Visit this [link](#) for the letter, which includes the appointment link. VOS should photograph all students for their student IDs and yearbook pictures. There is no sitting fee for the yearbook only pose. Please note that a portion of all picture sales helps support DHS. If you have any questions about senior portraits, contact VOS via seniors@vosphoto.com.

Montgomery County Board of Elections

Montgomery County Board of Elections will be at DHS on September 19th-20th in the Auditorium Lobby. Did you know you can earn up to \$250 or up to 25 SSL hours per day for serving as an election worker during the 2024 presidential general elections, on November 5th, and/or during the early voting weekend (October 26-27, 2024)? Election workers are responsible for administering voting procedures and for making the process as easy as possible for

voters. Students must be U.S. citizens, at least 16 years of age or older and registered to vote in Maryland to serve. Yes, that's correct! 16 to register but 18 to vote in Maryland! To apply visit [Election Worker Portal](#), text SERVE to 77788, or register in person with Montgomery County Board of Elections staff during lunch on September 19-20 (Auditorium lobby). Individuals not registered to vote, and would like to serve, must have Maryland driver's license, Learner's permit, MVA ID and/or know the last 4-digits of your social security number to register: [Position Description & Stipend Info](#), [High School Poll Workers - Montgomery County MD](#), [Election Worker FAQs](#)

SSL/Leadership Opportunity

The Montgomery County Board of Elections is in search of civic-minded students grade 6-12. Since 2004, the Montgomery County Board of Elections has conducted the Future Vote Initiative to encourage students from grades 6 to 12 to participate in elections. To date, +52,000 students have participated in the Future Vote, including over +12,000 who have served as election workers after their sixteenth birthday. The program also provides an experience for young people that will shape their values and character and give them an understanding of what it means to exercise their vote and empower others to do the same. To apply, review the registration instructions provided here:

[2024_FV_Registration_Instructions_03292024-2.pdf \(montgomerycountymd.gov\)](#).

Future Vote deadline is October 16, 2024, with mandatory training held from October 8-17, 2024. Training information, dates and locations provided during registration.

- FV FAQs [Montgomery County Board of Elections: Future Vote FAQs \(montgomerycountymd.gov\)](#)
- Future Vote Recognition by the U.S. Election Assistance Commission [Montgomery County MD 2018 Clearinghouse Award Winner | U.S. Election Assistance Commission \(eac.gov\)](#)

Students 16 years or older are eligible to register to vote and serve as election poll workers. Each minor must demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the Maryland State Board of Elections, that they meet all qualifications for voter registration in the State. Each student will earn a minimum \$250 stipend or up to 25 Student Service Learning (SSL) hours per full day of service. Individuals who served at the polling places or early voting in previous elections will receive a \$100 bonus per full day served (\$50 for half-day shifts). To serve in this paid volunteer position election workers must be U.S. citizens, registered to vote in the State of Maryland, able to speak, read, and write the English language, and cannot hold, or be a candidate for, public or party office. In addition, election workers may not serve as campaign managers for candidates or as treasurer for any campaign finance entity. Training is required and will be provided to election workers. This includes an online quiz and in-person classroom training held now through October. Volunteers will be paid for completing training and working during Early Voting and/or on Election Day. Due to the diversity within the county, voters who speak multiple languages are encouraged to apply. We offer several different positions, full-day, and part-day. To apply, text SERVE to 77788, or [EJ Connection - Montgomery County Board of Elections \(montgomerycountymd.gov\)](#). The Maryland voter registration deadline is Tuesday, October 15, 2024.

- High School Election Worker FAQs [High School Poll Workers - Montgomery County MD](#)
- Position Description & Stipend/SSL Amounts [Montgomery County Board of Elections - Election Worker Job Descriptions \(montgomerycountymd.gov\)](#)

DHS Edmentum Fall/Spring 2024-2025

Edmentum classes officially began on Monday, September 9, 2024. Registration is based on the recommendation of your DHS Counselor upon review of your transcripts. Seats are limited and priority is based on the student's original year of graduation. All students who were enrolled received a confirmation email with a link to [DHS Edmentum 2024-2025](#) on

Saturday, September 7th. Please check emails to find important information on course log-in information, Edmentum Teachers and helpful tips to ensure your student's success.

MCCPTA North Area Survey

Please find a link below to a survey from [MCCPTA](https://forms.gle/8sKNxcYd6mC9smUL8). The purpose of this survey is to hear from your PTA/parent/caregiver communities. The survey will be due September 27.

English: <https://forms.gle/8sKNxcYd6mC9smUL8>

Spanish: <https://forms.gle/tSgQHqaWZ5yqW6aYA>

1st PTSA Meeting September 17, 2024

Join the PTSA for an ice cream social on Tuesday, September 17, 2024 at 7pm in the Damascus High School Cafeteria. The first PTSA gathering is a great opportunity to meet other Damascus High School Parents and families, the DHS Principal, and the PTSA leadership. Have some ice cream and mingle! Students are welcome too. All students who attend will receive SSL hours.

Family Movie Night at DHS

The DHS Drama Club is hosting a screening of Encanto in the DHS Auditorium on Friday September 20. Doors open at 5:30 and the film will start at 6pm. Admission is free and donations will benefit the performing arts at Damascus HS. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Please email Mr. Kachadorian at steven_r_kachadorian@mcpsmd.org with any questions.

We're going to Spain in Summer 2025, and you're invited!

We're excited to tell you more about the trip we're planning with EF Tours, our educational travel partner. While this trip is not MCPS-sponsored, it has been selected for MCPS students to encourage them to expand their knowledge of the world and discover more about themselves. Please be sure to register for our Sept. 24th info. session (7pm at DHS Media Center) to be considered for this opportunity: <https://bit.ly/4gbDaRc>. Email Ms. Liz Chevalier at elizabeth_chevalier@mcpsmd.org with any questions!

Thank you,

B. Rohner

B. Rohner
Bradley Rohner
Principal
Damascus High School

Mensaje en español

09.06.24

Dear Damascus High School Community,

I want to extend my sincere thanks to all of you for making our Back-to-School Night such a success! It was wonderful to see so many families and community members come together to support our students and staff as we begin this new school year. We are excited for the journey ahead and look forward to continuing this partnership as we work together to make this year a memorable and successful one for all. If you have not already, please take a moment to provide feedback on the DHS Back to School Night using this [link](#).

Thank you again for your support and for being an integral part of the Hornet family!

Next S

Day	Event(s)
Monday 09/09	Normal Bell Schedule
Tuesday 09/10	Normal Bell Schedule
Wednesday 09/11	Normal Bell Schedule
Thursday 09/12	Hornet Time Bell Schedule
Friday 09/13	Normal Bell Schedule

Following Week

Day	Event(s)
Monday 09/16	Normal Bell Schedule
Tuesday 09/17	Adjusted Assembly Bell Schedule- Period 3 MCPS Rights and Responsibilities and Code of Conduct/Culture of Respect Lessons
Wednesday 09/18	Normal Bell Schedule
Thursday 09/19	Hornet Time Bell Schedule
Friday 09/20	Normal Bell Schedule

Student Pictures

Underclass (Grades 9-11) pictures took place this past week. If your student missed picture day, there will be a make-up session on Monday, October 7. You may pre-order via this [link](#). Questions about ordering? Email underclass@vosphoto.com. All students will have a picture taken even if they are not making a purchase. This picture will be used for the required student ID card and yearbook.

Senior Portrait

Senior portrait summer sessions at DHS have concluded. If your senior still needs a portrait appointment with our photographer, Victor O'Neill Studios (VOS), please plan on signing up for the final make-up session to be held at DHS on October 8 (after school). Visit this [link](#) for the letter, which includes the appointment link. VOS should photograph all students for their student IDs and yearbook pictures. There is no sitting fee for the yearbook only pose. Please note that a portion of all picture sales helps support DHS. If you have any questions about senior portraits, contact VOS via seniors@vosphoto.com.

Thank you,

B. Rohner

Bradley Rohner
Principal
Damascus High School

Mensaje en español

Dear DHS Community,

As we prepare for an exciting season of sports, starting with our first-ever Flag Football against BCC this afternoon, I want to take a moment to remind everyone of our expectations for behavior at all sporting events. Whether you are a student, parent, or community member, your conduct plays a crucial role in creating a positive and respectful atmosphere. At Damascus High School, we take pride not only in the talent and dedication of our athletes but also in the way they conduct themselves on and off the field. Sportsmanship is at the heart of our school's values, and it is essential that we demonstrate this in both victory and defeat.

We expect all attendees to show good sportsmanship, respect for all players, coaches, officials, and fellow spectators. Please cheer positively and support our teams with enthusiasm, while refraining from negative comments or unsportsmanlike behavior.

Our goal is to ensure that our sporting events are enjoyable and safe for everyone involved. Let's work together to uphold the high standards of Damascus High School and demonstrate the true spirit of our community.

The MCPS philosophy of interscholastic athletics is founded in our vision, mission, purpose, and [R.A.I.S.E.](#) core values.

Respect & Sportsmanship

Academic Excellence

Integrity & Character

Spirited & Safe Competition

Equity & Access

Winning is a wonderful feeling, but it is crucial that our students learn to win with grace and humility. Celebrating victories respectfully, congratulating opponents, and acknowledging the effort of all participants are key behaviors we encourage in our athletes. It is important that we, as a community, support and model this behavior for our students.

Equally important is how we handle losses. We aim to teach our students resilience and the ability to maintain composure in the face of adversity. Accepting defeat with dignity, congratulating the opposing team, and reflecting on how to improve are valuable lessons that extend far beyond the sports arena.

As parents, your role is vital in reinforcing these values. Your support and encouragement can greatly influence how our students perceive and practice sportsmanship. We ask that you join us in promoting these principles by:

- Cheering positively for all players and teams.
- Respecting the decisions of coaches and officials.
- Discussing the importance of sportsmanship with your children.

With that in mind, we want to elevate a few reminders.

- **All high school aged students must show ID or class schedule** and be enrolled in one of the schools that is competing
- At all sporting events, **middle school and elementary students** must be accompanied by an adult and must remain with that adult throughout the game. This precaution helps us ensure the safety of all our fans.
- There is no reentry into our stadium once you leave

- There will be no backpacks allowed

Thank you for your continued support and for helping to make Damascus High School a community of excellence and respect. Let's make this season a shining example of what true sportsmanship looks like.

Thank you,

B. Rohner

B. Rohner
Bradley Rohner
Principal
Damascus High School

08.30.24

[*Mensaje en español*](#)

Dear DHS Community,

I want to take a moment to thank everyone for a fantastic first week of school! It’s been wonderful to see our students back in the building, filled with energy and excitement for the year ahead. I truly appreciate the support from our dedicated staff, parents, and the entire Damascus community in making this week a success.

I am pleased to inform you that our Safety Day today was a great success. We conducted some of our scheduled safety drills, including fire, lockdown, and evacuation procedures. I am proud of how smoothly everything went and of the cooperation from both students and staff. These drills are an essential part of keeping our school community safe and prepared for any emergency situation. Your children did an excellent job, and I appreciate the understanding and participation of everyone involved.

I also wanted to share my experience attending Hallie Wells MS's Back-to-School Night (BTSN) this past Wednesday night. It was an incredible event, and I was genuinely impressed by the staff and families' energy, enthusiasm, and dedication. Seeing the great things happening at Hallie Wells MS reinforces the importance of our continued partnership with families of future DHS students. I will also be attending Baker MS's BTSN on 09/10.

I look forward to all the great things we will accomplish together this year. Let’s keep up the positive momentum!

Please see below for important information.

Thank you,

B. Rohner
Bradley Rohner
Principal
Damascus High School

Next Week

Day	Event(s)
Monday 09/02	No School- Holiday
Tuesday 09/03	Normal Bell Schedule
Wednesday 09/04	Picture Day (and on Thursday, 09/05)
Thursday 09/05	Back to School Night is Thursday, September 5, 2024, at 6:00 PM BTSN Flyers
Friday 09/06	Senior Meeting (Period 2)

Back to School Night

We will have our Back to School Night on September 5. From 6-7 PM, we will have pertinent meetings for 9th and 12th grade parents and info sessions. At 7:00 PM, we will have a welcome in the auditorium and then parents can meet teachers. **Teachers will not be available to meet with parents until after the welcome meeting at 7:00 PM.**

Student Parking Tags Required

Students must have an approved hang tag displayed while parking on school grounds and may only park in the student lot. There are still spaces available for eligible juniors and seniors. For more information, visit [Student Parking Info \(on](#)

[DHS website](#)). Security will be enforcing the lots, so don't risk receiving a warning sticker, a parking fee obligation, or being towed at the owner's expense!

Student Pictures

Underclass pictures (Grades 9-11) will take place through English classes on September 4 and 5. Picture order forms will be distributed via English classes. You may also pre-order via this [link](#). Questions about Ordering? Email underclass@vosphoto.com. All students will have a picture taken even if they are not making a purchase. This picture will be used for the required student ID card and yearbook.

Senior Portrait

Senior portrait summer sessions at DHS have concluded. If your senior still needs a portrait appointment with our photographer, Victor O'Neill Studios (VOS), please plan on signing up for the final make-up session to be held at DHS on October 8 (after school). Visit this [link](#) for the letter, which includes the appointment link. VOS should photograph all students for their student IDs and yearbook pictures. There is no sitting fee for the yearbook only pose. Please note that a portion of all picture sales helps support DHS. If you have any questions about senior portraits, contact VOS via seniors@vosphoto.com.

Staffing update in the Counseling Department

Ms. Kerry Oswald has decided to step down as Resource Counselor. In the interim, Ms. Kristen Stevenson will assume the position of Acting Resource Counselor. Consequently, there will be a slight change in Ms. Oswald's and Ms. Stevenson's student caseload assignments. Students and families affected by the change have already been notified.

For the remainder of the school year, the breakdown of student-counselor assignments will be as follows:

Counselor	Last names
Mr. Higgins	A - C
Ms. Stevenson	D - Fle
Ms. Oswald	Flo - Hed
Ms. Burkhalter	Hef - Mad
Ms. Kohajda	Mae - Qua
Mr. Jurado	Qui - T
Ms. Oswald	U - Z

Meet our [Parent Community Coordinator](#) - Ms. Veronica Palleres

My name is Veronica Palleres, and I am honored to serve as the Parent Community Coordinator at Damascus High School for the 2024-2025 school year. My primary objective is to foster family engagement and work collaboratively with our families to provide support in various areas. For your convenience, I have included a QR code in this [flyer](#) that allows you to request my assistance. Please feel free to reach out, as I am here to help.

[Google Applications Permission](#)

Parents, please fill out the form [linked here](#) and also on the DHS website to allow your student access to various google applications needed for classes. Thank you!

College and Career Center

Learn more about the College and Career Center by viewing the [weekly updates](#) or by accessing the website [here](#). There is important information for Seniors and students in all grades. Important info: every Senior applying for college will

need to turn in an [Authorization to Release Pupil Records](#). This **must** be turned in before transcripts can be sent. If you need a transcript uploaded for the NCAA, email [Mrs. Brown](#) and make sure you submit the release form. There will be a **Senior Meeting** on Friday, September 6th during 2nd Period for all seniors on the College Application Process. Mrs. Lee will share the slides after the meeting. College Representatives will be at DHS to meet with students beginning the week of September 9th. Juniors and Seniors can sign up for RepVisits using Naviance. Visits occur during 2nd-4th Periods in the College and Career Center or in Room 120. Students are responsible for any work they miss. Please email [Mrs. Lee](#) or stop by the College and Career Center with any questions.

Furry Fridays are back in September!

DHS' favorite dog friend, Hero Dog Ashley, will resume visits on Friday, September 20th and be here every third Friday of the month this school year. Be on the lookout for her in the Auditorium hallway or by the stadium if weather permits.

08.23.24

Mensaje en español

Dear DHS Community,

The wait is almost over—school starts this Monday, and we are excited to welcome all of our students back for an amazing new year! Our staff has been hard at work preparing, and we are ready to kick off a successful 2024-2025 school year.

I want to thank our amazing PTSA, Athletic Booster Club, Football Team and all the parents who contributed to providing delicious and thoughtful food for our staff this week. Your generosity and support mean so much to us; it truly made our day. The support provided by our parent organizations reminds us how fortunate we are to be part of such a caring and engaged community. Our staff is re-energized and ready to give their best this school year, and your kindness plays a big part in that. We truly appreciate your continued support and for making Damascus High School such a special place to be!

We look forward to seeing everyone on Monday morning. Let's make it a great year.

Please see below for important information.

Thank you,

B. Rohner

Bradley Rohner
Principal
Damascus High School

[First Week Bell Schedules 08/26-08/30](#)

Day	Change	Topics
Monday	Homeroom Bell Schedule	Review School Expectations
Tuesday	Extended 1st Period	Review School Expectations
Wednesday	Regular Bell Schedule	NA
Thursday	Regular Bell Schedule	NA
Friday	Safety Day/Regular Bell Schedule	Practice Severe Weather, Fire Evacuation, Code Purple, Lockdown, Directed Eactuation, & Earthquake Drills

Attendance

- You can see all of your students' attendance on ParentVue. If you need help logging on or navigating ParentVue please go to, <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/parents/tech-info-support>, for assistance.
- To excuse an absence please email or have your student drop off a note to the attendance office with your student's name, date of absence, and reason for absence within three days of your students return to school. Email to jessica_c_shelhorse@mcpsmd.org
- If a student arrives to class after the bell they will be marked late as long as they arrive before half the class is over. If a student misses more than 50% of a class they will be marked absent for the whole class.

Chromebooks

All students new to DHS received a chromebook at New Student Orientation. If you are a new student and didn't receive a chromebook, please report to the media center Monday morning.

Student IDs- NEW

All students will be required to wear their school-issued ID at all times while on school grounds starting MP2, Wednesday November 6, 2024. Students will be required to display their ID upon entry into the school at the start of the day and during late arrival. Students should also be prepared to present their ID at all MCPS sponsored events as soon as they are issued an ID. If ID is lost, a temporary sticker ID can be provided

Timeline:

- MP1- provisioning and preparation, picture days 09/04 & 09/05. All students will be provided a lanyard.
- MP2- implementation of the ID requirement - November 6

Personal Mobile Device (PMD) Expectations- Away and Out of Sight - NEW

Personal Mobile Device refers to any non-MCPS-issued device that sends or receives 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.

As a school, we are adopting a clear and consistent approach to support students from actively using their PMDs during the instructional period, such as

- Students will store all PMDs out of sight in their backpacks (NOT on their person).
- Students will deposit their PMDs in a classroom pocket phone holder (or other receptacle).
- Students will follow another approach that is in agreement with an individual staff member.

As a result, there is no need to interrupt instructional time to retrieve a device when a student leaves a classroom for a short period.

What are the consequences of violating these expectations? Warning, Parent contact, and then confiscation of the PMDs by school administrators including the requirement for a parent or guardian to retrieve the device.

DHS Grading & Reporting Expectations - *NEW*

Updates to 50% Rule, Support & Interventions, Zs and New Grading Categories

Student Pictures

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Student Parking

Applications are still being accepted for eligible juniors and seniors as there are spaces available. For more information, visit our [Student Parking Information](#) (on the DHS website). You may also refer to the information provided in the August 9th community message. Students must have an approved hang tag displayed while parking on school grounds and may only park in the student lot.

Student Government Association (SGA)

See our [SGA Events & Updates](#) for the most up to date information on dances, spirit weeks, and events.

Parent Community Coordinator (PCC)

My name is Veronica Palleres, the Parent Community Coordinator at Damascus High school. My main focus is building strong connections between our staff and the families we serve through outreach programs, parent conferences, workshops, and newcomer orientations. By improving communication and collaboration, we can create a nurturing environment that empowers both staff and families, contributing to our students' success and well-being. Request PCC Support [here](#).

Schedule and Counselor Changes

The Counselors have been working hard all summer on creating schedules for students based on the requests from last school year. We understand that students change their minds about an elective or want to move up a level. Schedule change requests can be made by completing [this google form](#). Students must be signed in to the MCPS google account to access the form. The deadline to make a schedule change is 3pm Sept 6th. Counselor caseloads were also updated over the summer. For more information about schedule changes and to see the updated counselor caseloads [please click here](#).

College and Career Center

The College and Career Center is excited to welcome new and returning students to DHS! The College and Career Center is located in Room 133, near the Welcome Center. [Mrs. Lee](#) the College and Career Center Information Coordinator, [Mr. Kioko](#) the Career Coach, and [Mrs. Moore](#) the Dual Enrollment Program Advisor are located in the College and Career Center. Learn more about the College and Career Center by viewing the [weekly updates](#) or by accessing the website [here](#). There is important information for Seniors and students in all grades. The College and Career Center staff are available daily during lunch.

08.16.24

Mensaje en español

Dear DHS Community,

I hope this message finds you enjoying the final weeks of summer! As the new school year approaches, I am excited to share that our dedicated teachers will return next week for pre-service preparation. This time is crucial as our staff collaborates and plans to ensure a successful and enriching academic year for all our students. Our teachers will engage in professional development, curriculum planning, and team-building activities during pre-service week. These sessions equip our educators with the latest strategies and tools to provide students with the best learning experiences. We are committed to fostering an environment where every student can thrive, and our teachers are at the heart of that mission. We are eager to welcome back all students on **Monday, August 26, 2024**. Please make sure you review last week's welcome back message, which is below.

This week also marks the exciting return of athletics, the marching band, and other extracurricular activities. It is wonderful to see our talented students and hear the vibrant sounds of the band. And I was impressed with our very own majorette dance team! Their energy and enthusiasm set the tone for a fantastic year ahead. Thank you to all the coaches, directors, and volunteers who make these programs possible.

I'm thrilled to share that I recently had the pleasure of participating in a wonderful community event at the Montgomery County Agricultural Fair. I joined the Damascus Lions Club in scooping ice cream, and it was a fantastic opportunity to connect with our community members. Events like these remind us of the importance of community involvement and the lasting impact we can make when we come together.

I would also like to note the recent passing of Dr. Judith Docca, who dedicated her life to inspiring and nurturing countless students. Dr. Docca served the entire MCPS community with distinction, leaving a lasting legacy of commitment and passion for education. Please join me in reflecting on her profound impact on us and expressing our deepest sympathies to her loved ones. [Message from the Board of Education on the Passing of Dr. Judith Docca](#)

Upcoming Events:

New Student Orientation on Thursday, August 22, 2024, 7:45 AM - 11:30 AM [NSO Flyer](#)

Attention all new students! Please mark your calendars for our New Student Orientation on Thursday, August 22, from 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM at Damascus High School. Get a head start on the school year by learning about DHS, meeting teachers, and making new friends. Transportation will be provided, following the regular morning pick-up schedule. Take advantage of this opportunity to start your high school journey on the right foot! [Please check the DHS Website for bus route information.](#)

First Day of School is Monday, August 26, 2024

We will begin in the homeroom on the first day of school. Please use [this link](#) to find your homeroom teacher. On August 26, all students will report to their homeroom teacher for their Semester 1 schedule.

Back to School Night is Thursday, September 5, 2024, at 6:00 PM [BTSN Flyers](#)

Save the date for our Damascus Hive Night (6:00 PM - 7:00 PM) and Back to School Night (7:00 PM - 8:30 PM) on September 5! Our Damascus Hive Night will feature building tours, drop-in opportunities to learn about DHS resources, and 9th and 12th-grade parent meetings (6:30 PM). *A change from the past is that the New Parent Orientation (NEO) will be on BTSN and will be incorporated into the 9th-grade parent meeting.* Then, meet our teachers during our Open House from 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM. We look forward to seeing you there!

Student Parking

Applications are still being accepted for eligible juniors and seniors as there are spaces available. For more information, visit our [Student Parking Information](#) (on the DHS website). You may also refer to the information provided in the August 9th community message. Students must have an approved hang tag displayed while parking on school grounds and may only park in the student lot.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. Together, we can make this school year a success for all our students. We are looking forward to a fantastic year ahead!

Thank you,

B. Rohner

Bradley Rohner

Principal

Damascus High School

08.09.24- Welcome Back Message

Mensaje en español

Dear DHS Community,

As the new principal of Damascus High School, it is with great excitement and anticipation that I welcome you to the 2024-2025 school year. I am honored to join this wonderful community and look forward to working together to ensure a successful and enriching year for all of our students.

Over the summer, I have had the pleasure of meeting many dedicated staff members and learning about the strong traditions and values that make Damascus High School such a special place. I am committed to continuing this legacy of excellence while fostering a supportive and inclusive environment where every student can thrive.

Our building service team has worked tirelessly to prepare our school for the new year, ensuring that our facilities are clean, safe, and welcoming. Their hard work and dedication are greatly appreciated, and I am confident that you will notice the positive changes as you walk through our halls.

As we embark on this new school year, we are presented with numerous opportunities for growth, learning, and collaboration. I encourage our students to take advantage of the diverse academic and extracurricular programs offered at Damascus High School. Whether you are passionate about the arts, athletics, sciences, or any other field, there are countless ways to get involved and make the most of your high school experience.

During Leadership Week this summer, our school leadership team diligently analyzed student performance data to identify critical areas for improvement and set targeted goals for the upcoming year. By examining trends and pinpointing specific needs, we tailored our instructional strategies to better support student growth and achievement. This data-driven approach ensures that our efforts are focused and effective, allowing us to impact our students' success. In addition, we had students and parents involved in providing input on how to engage students in the classroom.

Parents, your partnership is essential to the success of our students. I look forward to working closely with you to support your child's educational journey. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions, concerns, or ideas as we move forward together.

I am excited to meet each of you and to witness the incredible achievements that this school year will bring. Thank you for welcoming me into the Damascus High School family. Let's make this year one of growth, discovery, and success.

Below is information to guide you as you prepare for the school year.

Warm regards,

B. Rohner

Bradley Rohner

Principal

Damascus High School

Weekly Communicate via Remind App

We will communicate weekly through the [Remind](#) App every Friday afternoon.

- [Getting Started for Parents](#)
- [How to Access Your Remind Student Account](#)

New Student Orientation on Thursday, August 22, 2024, 7:45 AM - 11:30 AM

Attention all new students! Mark your calendars for our New Student Orientation on Thursday, August 22, from 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM at Damascus High School. Get a head start on the school year by learning about DHS, meeting teachers, and making new friends. Transportation will be provided, following the normal morning pick-up schedule. Don't miss this opportunity to start your high school journey on the right foot! [Please check the DHS Website for bus route information.](#)

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We will begin in the homeroom on the first day of school. Please use [this link](#) to find your homeroom teacher. On August 26, all students will report to their homeroom teacher for their Semester 1 schedule.

Back to School Night is Thursday, September 5, 2024 at 6:00 PM

Save the date for our Damascus Hive Night (6:00 PM - 7:00 PM) and Back to School Night (7:00 PM - 8:30 PM) on September 5! Our Damascus Hive Night will feature building tours, drop-in opportunities to learn about DHS resources, and 9th and 12th grade parent meetings (6:30 PM). *A change from the past is that the New Parent Orientation (NEO) will be on BTSN and will be incorporated into the 9th-grade parent meeting.* Then, meet our teachers during our Open House from 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM. We look forward to seeing you there!

Student IDs

All students must have their student ID accessible at all times. Any student who loses their ID can pay to have another ID printed. This safety measure will ensure that only DHS students have access to the school.

Personal Mobile Device (PMD) Expectations

Updated expectations coming soon!

Supplies and Chromebooks

Students will be responsible for bringing their MCPS-issued Chromebooks to and from school daily. During the first week of school, we will distribute Chromebooks to students who need them during Advisory/Homeroom. Individual teachers will let students know if they need other supplies for their class.

Athletics

We will hold our "fall" meet-the-coaches night on August 27 at 6:30 PM in the auditorium. The general session will be followed by breakout sessions for each sport. This meet-the-coaches night is only for students participating in a fall sport. Please visit our [athletic website](#) for additional information involving EVERYTHING DHS athletics-related.

Website

Our website will be updated as we receive information for the school year. Please [check this link for 'Back to School'](#) information.

PTSA News

Your PTSA is already hard at work preparing for this year. Over the next couple of weeks, you will receive emails directly from us about how and why you should join the DHS PTSA this year, and we hope you will - whether you are a new member or a returning member! We also hope you take advantage of the popular option of joining the PTSA and the Athletic Boosters Club simultaneously, earning a \$10 discount on joint membership dues. *Why join the PTSA?* Our membership drive is our largest fundraiser, allowing us to continue supporting programs for our students, teachers, staff, and the school. Over the last couple of years, the PTSA actively led the charge to update our antiquated building, resulting in DHS receiving short-term fixes and obtaining approval for a significant capital project with a completion date of September 2029. We look forward to supporting our DHS students, staff, and teachers during this challenging year, and we hope you will join us in doing so!

Ready to Join?

- Connect to AtoZConnect using this new link: <https://dhsptsamembershiptoolkit.com/>.
- Click "Create Account" under New User. (AtoZ has upgraded its platform, so everyone will have to Register even if they have used the old platform in the past.) Complete the form on the next page and click "Verify My Email."
- Please check your email for a message from the Damascus High School PTSA asking you to verify your email and complete the registration process.
- TO JOIN, click on the "Membership" link in the green box on the left side.
- Select a membership option. To join both the PTSA and Boosters Club for a \$10 discount, select either "Joint DHS PTSA DUAL Adults + DHS Athletic Booster Club: Family Membership" (which will provide you with a PTSA membership for two adults) OR "Joint DHS PTSA SINGLE Adult + DHS Athletic Booster Club: Family Membership" (which will provide you with a PTSA membership for one adult)
- Follow the prompts to add it to your cart and pay for your membership using your PayPal account.
- Questions? Email membership.dhs@gmail.com
- You can also review the information under "My Account" (in the green box on the left side) to confirm your information and what you would like others to see in the directory.
- To join via our paper form – print, complete, and turn in your form with a check payable to DHS PTSA. You can bring it to Back to School Night or mail your form and payment to DHS PTSA, 25921 Ridge Road, Damascus, MD 20872. The form can be found on the DHS website.

Homecoming Week

DHS Homecoming's "An Evening Under the Stars" will take place on Saturday, October 19, from 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM. Please see our [Homecoming Hub](#), which hosts important information on the schedule of events, Spirit Week, and more! Ticket sales for our Homecoming Dance will take place through GoFan from October 7 - October 14. Note that non-DHS student guest forms are due on October 4. All financial obligations must be cleared before purchasing tickets. Obligations can be checked through [School Cash Online](#).

Student Service Learning (SSL)

SSL hours earned by a student are now visible on the myMCPS Student Portal. SSL hours must be documented using the [form](#), which can be found in the DHS Main Office or on the school website. According to the following updated timeline, [Ms. Stevenson](#), DHS Service Learning Coordinator, is responsible for documenting all SSL hours. Hours will only be accepted for the current school year.

Hours completed during the summer:	Due by the last Friday in September
Hours completed during the summer and first semester:	Due by the last Friday in January
Hours for consideration of Certificate of Meritorious Service:	Due by the first Friday in April
Hours completed during the summer, first and second semester:	Due by the last Friday in June

Students must earn 75 SSL hours to meet high school graduation requirements. For more information, including how to check SSL hours, forms, and available in-person and remote SSL opportunities, please visit the [MCPS SSL website](#) or contact [Ms. Stevenson](#).

Assistant Principals

Assistant Principals are assigned to students alphabetically by last name and are as follows:

- Ms. Fitzgerald A - Gra
- Mr. Saltzman Gre - Ob
- Ms. Brazil Oh - Z

Counselors

Counselors continue to be assigned to students alphabetically by last name and are as follows:

- Mr. Higgins A - C
- Ms. Stevenson D - Hed

- Ms. Burkhalter Hef - Mad
- Mrs. Kohajda Mae - Qua
- Mr. Jurado Qui - T
- Mrs. Oswald U - Z

Breakfast & Lunch

Both are served daily in the DHS Cafeteria. Breakfast is served daily from 7:15 to 7:40 AM. Lunch begins daily at 11:10 AM and ends at noon. Breakfast will be \$1.30 and lunch will be \$2.80. To support a cleaner building, all food must be consumed in the cafeteria, supervised classroom, or courtyard (weather permitting). Eating is not allowed in the hallways. More info regarding meals can be found through this [link](#). Please refer to the information on [Free and Reduced-Priced Meals \(FARMS\)](#) to review program benefits and eligibility guidelines. Students who qualify for reduced-price meals will not be charged that cost - meaning that reduced-price students will eat for free! Families are encouraged to complete the [FARMS Application](#) if they qualify. Meal benefit eligibility from last school year will remain current only through the first 30 scheduled school days OR until a 2024-2025 application is processed.

Lunch

This time allows students to receive academic support from staff, for clubs to meet, and for colleagues to work collaboratively. While students are permitted in most areas of the building during the second half of lunch, roaming the building is prohibited. SENIORS and JUNIORS are allowed off-campus lunch privileges. Parents who would like to revoke this privilege can complete [this form](#). Seniors and juniors must have their student ID to exit the building daily. This lunch privilege may be revoked anytime in response to academic concerns or disciplinary reasons.

Student Parking

Applications are available for eligible juniors and seniors through this [link](#) and are due by 3:00 PM on Tuesday, August 13. A student must have a valid driver's license and be obligation-free by the application deadline to be considered for a parking permit. Preference will be given to seniors. If there are sufficient spaces, juniors will be considered. Students will be notified of their approval status via the email address on the application. If approved, instructions on how to make payment for the permit, along with how to obtain the parking tag, will be included in the email. Student parking, by permit only, will go into effect on the first day of school. Security will be enforcing the [student parking regulations](#). If spaces remain after school begins, additional applications will be approved through the Business Office. For further information, refer to the [parking application](#) and the [Student Parking Schedule](#), both of which linked here and are also available on the [DHS Website](#). If you have any questions regarding the application process, please email DHSParking@mcpsmd.org. For any concerns regarding obligations, please reach out to [Ms. Weston](#).

Students with a parking pass will be permitted to leave the building in case of a school evacuation, during which parents can pick up their students. If you do not want your student to leave the building and would like to pick them up yourself, [click here](#). If you have another student who rides with the permit holder, and you give them permission to leave the building with the driver, [click here](#).

Pictures

Underclass pictures (Grades 9-11) will take place through English classes on September 4 and 5. Picture order forms will be distributed via English classes. All students will have a picture taken even if they are not making a purchase. This picture will be used for the student ID card and yearbook.

Senior portrait summer sessions at DHS have concluded. If your senior still needs a portrait appointment with our photographer, Victor O'Neill Studios (VOS), please plan on signing up for the final make-up session to be held at DHS on October 8 (after school). The letter with the appointment link will be shared soon. VOS should photograph all students for their student IDs and yearbook pictures. There is no sitting fee for the yearbook only pose. Please note that a portion of all picture sales helps support DHS. If you have any questions about senior portraits, contact VOS via seniors@vosphoto.com.

Social Media

Effective beginning Thursday, August 1, 2024, high school students will be unable to access Twitter (X), Facebook, and Instagram while connected to the Montgomery County Public School (MCPS) network.

Graduation

We plan to hold graduation for the Class of 2025 on our stadium field. We will publish the date as soon as MCPS finalizes its graduation schedule. If inclement weather occurs, we will move the ceremony indoors. Our graduation ceremony will be live streamed for those who are unable to attend.

Yearbook

Plan to order your yearbook early and save money! For families of seniors, consider ordering a Senior advertisement (ad). The yearbook staff creates senior ads to leave a lasting message for your seniors. Please get in touch with Ms. Karen Zappone at Karen_R_Zappone@mcpsmd.org for more information.

Get Involved!

DHS offers a variety of clubs and activities. Joining one or more school clubs is a great way to get involved and to meet new friends. Near the beginning of each semester, there will be a Club Fair during which you can sign up to participate in activities that match your interests.

Health Room

The health room will be open the week before school reopens. Please call ahead at 240-207-2401 to confirm a good time to come in. Please be aware that parents must drop off medications for students who take them at school. Also, be aware that the new law in Maryland allows adults age 21 and older to possess marijuana. Students are not allowed to possess tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs on school property. [Click here](#) for more information.

08.02.24

Mensaje en español

Dear DHS Community,

I hope this message finds you well. I want to thank everyone who attended the recent meet and greet event at the Damascus library last Friday. It was a pleasure to connect with families and to discuss our shared goals and aspirations for Damascus High School. Your insights, questions, and feedback are invaluable as we continue to work together to create a supportive and enriching environment for our students. I am grateful for your active participation and enthusiasm.

For those who could not attend, please know that your voices are still crucial to us. Your participation is highly valued, and we look forward to hearing from you. Below are a couple of additional events.

Upcoming Events

- Today, 08/02, 1:00–2:00 p.m. at Cedar Grove ES, joined by the principals of Cedar Grove ES, Hallie Wells MS, and Damascus HS
- Tuesday, 08/13, 2:00–4:00 p.m. at Montgomery County Agricultural Fair - Damascus Lions Club Ice Cream Barn

We are committed to fostering an open and inclusive dialogue within our community. Thank you again for your support and engagement, and I look forward to many more opportunities to connect with you.

On another note, our stadium track is almost finished. The new rubber has been installed, and we are waiting for the lines to be painted, which will depend on the weather.

Next week's community message, which will include the Welcome Back message and a lot of information to prepare us for returning to school, is something we are eagerly looking forward to sharing with you.

I also want to apologize to those families who did not receive my Remind communication last Friday. MCPS updated our current enrollment information in Remind earlier this week.

Additional Information:

New Student Orientation 08/22

New Student Orientation will be held on Thursday, August 22, from 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. at Damascus High School. Get a head start on the school year by learning about DHS, meeting teachers, and making new friends. Transportation will be provided following the normal morning pick-up schedule. Don't miss this opportunity to start your high school journey on the right foot!

Back to School Night- Damascus Hive Night 09/05

Save the date for our Damascus Hive Night (6:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m.) and Back to School Night (7:00 p.m.—8:30 p.m.) on September 5! *A change from the past is that the New Parent Orientation (NPO) will be on BTSN and incorporated into the 9th-grade parent meeting.* Our Damascus Hive Night will feature building tours, drop-in opportunities to learn about DHS resources, and 9th and 12th-grade parent meetings (6:30 p.m.). We look forward to seeing you there!

Student Parking

Now available for eligible juniors and seniors through this [link](#) and are due by Tuesday, August 13, by 3 p.m. Visit the [Student Parking Schedule 24-25](#) for further information.

Senior Portraits- Class of 2025!

Click [here](#) for more information on **senior portraits** and how to sign up for an appointment (8/5-8/7). Seniors will receive their student IDs during their session. This is the last opportunity to have a session this summer. A final session will be offered in the fall.

College Essay Writing Workshop- Class of 2025!

Join DHS and CHS for an in-person [College Essay Writing Workshop: Cracking the College Essay](#) with [Jordan Kanarek](#) of CollegeWise and Kanarek Consulting. The workshop will occur on August 12 from 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Register [here](#). Get started on your college essay, or get feedback on what you've written so your applications are ready to go when school starts! You don't want to miss this. You can also attend many other summer workshops [here](#), so check out the Class of 2025 Senior Checklist [here](#). For more information, please get in touch with Mrs. Bethany Lee, College and Career Information Coordinator.

Thank you,

B. Rohner

Bradley Rohner

Principal

Damascus High School

07.26.24

Mensaje en español

Dear DHS Community,

I hope this letter finds you well and all of you are enjoying the summer season. As we prepare to welcome our students and staff back for another exciting school year, I want to recognize and celebrate the incredible efforts of our building service team. Over the past couple of months, our dedicated building service team has worked tirelessly to ensure our school building is clean, safe, and welcoming. From early mornings to late evenings, our team ensures that every classroom, hallway, and common area is in top condition. Their hard work and meticulous attention to detail have not gone unnoticed, and I am incredibly grateful for their unwavering dedication. Please join me in extending a heartfelt thank you to each member of our building service team. Their contributions are vital to the success of our school, and their hard work sets the stage for a positive and productive school year ahead.

I also want to take this opportunity to once again congratulate our Damascus Best Buddies. At the national conference in Indiana, they were awarded Outstanding Chapter of the Year, which is given to only 10 chapters in the county!

For students who took the 2024 ACCESS for ELLs (Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State to State for English Language Learners) assessments administered in January/February, student Individual Score Report(s) have been delivered to the post office and should be sent home to you soon. In addition to the score reports, you will receive a guide to help you understand your student's score on this assessment. Please get in touch with the school office if you have any questions about your student's ACCESS for ELLs scores.

Upcoming Events

- **Today (07/24)**, 1:00-2:00 PM at Damascus Library with principals from Cedar Grove ES, Clearspring ES, Damascus ES, Rockwell ES, Woodfield ES, Baker MS, Damascus HS
- **Friday, 08/02**, 1:00-2:00 PM at Cedar Grove ES, joined by the principals of Hallie Wells MS and Damascus HS

Future Events

- **New Student Orientation 08/22**
New Student Orientation on Thursday, August 22 from 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM at Damascus High School. Get a head start on the school year by learning about DHS, meeting teachers, and making new friends. Transportation will be provided, following the normal morning pick-up schedule. Don't miss this opportunity to start your high school journey on the right foot!
- **Damascus Hive Night and Back to School Night 09/05**

Save the date for our Damascus Hive Night (6:00 PM - 7:00 PM) and Back to School Night (7:00 PM - 8:30 PM) on September 5th! Our Damascus Hive Night will feature building tours, drop-in opportunities to learn about DHS resources, and 9th and 12th grade parent meetings (6:30 PM). We look forward to seeing you there!

Student Volunteers Needed

Calling all current DHS students! Want to help welcome our students and families to our school? Volunteer as a student ambassador and earn SSL hours for our New Student Orientation on August 22 (7:00 AM - 12:00 PM) and Back to School Night (5:15 PM - 8:30 PM)! Share your DHS experience, answer questions, serve as a guide for the school, and help our new students and families feel at home. Interested? Fill out the Google Form (linked [here](#)) today!

Thank you for your continued support of Damascus High School. I look forward to seeing everyone soon and sharing the excitement of the new school year.

Thank you,

B. Rohner

Bradley Rohner

Principal

Damascus High School

07.19.24

Mensaje en español

Dear DHS Community,

I hope this message finds you well. I'm excited to share that last Saturday, I had the pleasure of attending Celebrate Damascus 2024 with my kids. It was a vibrant event where I could meet and converse with community members, students, caregivers, and staff. The energy and enthusiasm were terrific, and it was a wonderful experience that truly showcased the strength of our community.

This week was also crucial because this was school leadership week, which is a time that the instructional leaders of the school came together to discuss last year and start to update our School Improvement Plan. This process requires us to review various forms of data to pinpoint the specific areas of growth needed. Our primary focuses are math, literacy, culture/climate, and wellness, and how enhancing our practices and mindsets will improve each student's learning experiences. We thank those who attended as part of the family engagement in the School Improvement process. Your participation and voice are essential for us to gauge how we are doing and identify areas we need to improve.

I would also like to acknowledge last week's email and the lack of inclusion of some of our other feeder schools in the meet-and-greets. I am still working on making sure that all members of the Damascus Cluster feel included and welcomed. Below are two upcoming meet and greets.

Events Schedule:

- Friday, 07/26, 1:00-2:00 PM at Damascus Library with principals from Cedar Grove ES, Clearspring ES, Damascus ES, Rockwell ES, Woodfield ES, Baker MS, Damascus HS
- Friday, 08/02, 1:00-2:00 PM at Cedar Grove ES, joined by the principals of Hallie Wells MS and Damascus HS.

Thank you for your unwavering support of Damascus High School. I truly appreciate all that you do, and I look forward to continuing to work together to make our school the best it can be.

Please mark your calendars, and I look forward to seeing you at one or more of these events.

Thank you,

B. Rohner

Bradley Rohner

Principal

Damascus High School

07.12.24

Mensaje en español

Dear DHS Community,

I hope this message finds you well. As the new principal of Damascus High School, I am thrilled to announce a series of meet-and-greet events over the next few weeks. These gatherings are about sharing ideas, building a stronger school community, and allowing you to meet me and share your thoughts for the upcoming school year.

Events Schedule:

- Wednesday, 07/17, 7:00-8:00 PM at Jimmy Cone, joined by Mr. Sam Levine, Principal of Baker MS
- Friday, 07/26, 1:00-2:30 PM at Damascus Library with all of the cluster principals: Clearspring ES, Damascus ES, Rockwell ES, Woodfield ES, Baker MS, Damascus HS - [Flyer](#)

As students, caregivers, staff, and community members, your participation will allow you to meet me, ask questions, and share your thoughts for the upcoming school year.

In addition, as part of our family engagement with our School Improvement Plan, we are also asking students and caregivers to visit our Leadership Team on Tuesday, 07/16, from 7:30 to 9:45 AM. You will participate in a team builder and then hear presentations about belongingness and student-centered learning to provide feedback. [Here](#) is the link we are asking those who can attend this specific event on Tuesday, 07/16, from 7:30 to 9:45 AM to complete. We recognize this is a last-minute request and will be more timely with our requests in the future.

Your involvement and feedback are not just appreciated, but they are essential as we strive to create an enriching educational experience for all our students. Thank you for your continued support of Damascus High School. Your dedication and commitment are what make our school community so special.

Incidentally, I visited the Damascus Heritage Museum this week. As a former social studies teacher, I need to learn the history of Damascus. I was especially impressed with the history of Damascus High School and the building's evolution.

Please mark your calendars, and I look forward to seeing you at one or more of these events.

And I hope the weather cooperates with us for this weekend's annual Celebration Damascus 2024!

Thank you,

B. Rohner

Bradley Rohner

Principal

Damascus High School

07/01/24

Mensaje en español

Dear DHS Community,

With great excitement, I am contacting all of you for the first time as your principal. I want to acknowledge Mr. Yates for allowing me to transition effectively into this position. The school welcomed me to their classrooms in May as I walked around the building with Mr. Yates. I witnessed a typical day from the bus drop-off to lunch and dismissal. I also connected with individual students, student organizations, various staff members, school leadership, caregivers, and community members in those last few weeks of school. I was given a fantastic yearbook, attended the Music Banquet, participated in the Automotive Technology car donation ceremony, and observed a wonderful graduation ceremony that brought back memories of my graduation held in my high school stadium.

Allow me to share a little about myself. I grew up in Medford, New Jersey, and pursued my higher education at Bloomsburg University in Pennsylvania, majoring in secondary education. I furthered my academic journey by completing my master's degree in educational administration at The College of New Jersey. My professional career began as a social studies teacher in New Jersey, and I later joined Montgomery County Public Schools. Over the past nineteen years in MCPS, I have served in various high schools and roles, including social studies resource teacher, assistant school administrator, assistant principal, and principal intern.

As I continue to learn about Damascus High School, I want to ensure I communicate the beliefs that guide my decision-making: to create a safe learning environment, meet the needs of every child every day, and enhance partnerships with the school, caregivers, and community.

My personal beliefs perfectly align with Damascus High School's mission: **"Every member of the Damascus High School community is committed to equity and the success of all students. Our academic and extracurricular**

opportunities empower learners to achieve success through integrity, critical thinking, social-emotional well-being, personal accountability, and respectful relationships." I am wholeheartedly committed to upholding these values and contributing to the school's mission, ensuring that every student's potential is nurtured and celebrated. I look forward to opportunities to build upon the existing culture of student achievement while providing a dynamic, supporting, and healthy learning environment, as written in Damascus's vision statement.

Although we are in the midst of summer, the school is still very active. Our building service team is working hard to clean and prepare the entire school for welcoming back students for the first day on Monday, August 26. We also have different sports conditioning and various camps present. And we are excited to get our track resurfacing soon! In addition, we will be welcoming students in an MCPS Extended Year Program, which will support students receiving Secondary Autism Resource Services.

I am eagerly looking forward to July when I will have the opportunity to meet more of the students, staff, and community members. I will share details about these opportunities in the coming weeks, and I am excited to connect with all of you and participate in all of the events that take place in the coming school year.

Thank you,

B. Rohner

Bradley Rohner

Principal

Damascus High School