



Principal's Bulletin

From the Principal's Desk From the Principal's Desk

It is with great excitement and anticipation that I welcome you to the 2007-2008 school year. The beginning of a new year presents a time for many great opportunities and challenges for our students. The staff worked hard this summer and continues to work hard to maintain a rigorous academic program, a strong extracurricular activities program and a safe school for our students. I am confident that with your support of your children and your trust in the staff at Rosa Parks Middle School this year will be a great year for all of us.

The students have been most cooperative. The sixth graders adjusted easily to their new surroundings and the schedule changes, and they are a friendly addition to our school. They truly enjoyed the sixth grade dance. A special thank you to the sixth grade team. The seventh graders are enjoying the fact that they are no longer the youngest in the school. We are extremely pleased with the way our eighth graders have adjusted to the transition, and accepted the responsibilities that are expected of eighth grade students.

At Back-to-School night you met your child's teachers, several of which are new to MCPS or to Rosa Parks Middle School. We are extremely pleased that we were able to attract these excellent teachers to our school.

We are enthusiastic about the promise this school year holds, and are every mindful of maintaining a safe and secure school for our community and our school.

We have 922 students enrolled.

Attendance is another very important factor in your child's academic success. The staff at Rosa Parks is responsible for teaching your child. However, schools cannot do their job if your child is absent. Learning builds day by day. A child who misses a day of school, misses a day of learning. Research shows that children

who are in school most of the time do better academically and on county and state tests. Being late for school hurts the child's learning also. A student who is 10 minutes late every day will miss 30 hours of instruction every year. Children can copy notes or make up assignments but they can never get back what is most important; the discussion, the questions, the explanations by the teacher and the thinking that makes learning come alive. Your child's success in school depends on having a solid educational background, one that can only be attained by regular school attendance. Remember, we only have your child for three years or 540 days.

In each newsletter I will list ten ways you can help our school succeed academically. The ten for October are:

- Provide a consistent, comfortable place for your child to do his/her homework.
- Review your child's homework.
- Visit your child's classes.
- Attend PTA meetings.
- Volunteer to work in the school (library, classroom, office, etc.)
- Assist with a school activity (field trip, drama, talent show, Outdoor Ed, etc.)
- Read with your child everyday.
- Praise your child's efforts.
- Teach your child to follow rules
- Chair or work on a committee in the PTA.

Please continue to work with your child and the school to make our three key messages a reality for all students. Thank you for your support as we work together this school year to provide the best educational and extracurricular activities programs for our children.

Edline Info – This program allows you to view your child’s grades from the internet. Teachers use Edline to post HW assignments and due dates. Parents should have received their activation codes in the mail during the 1st week of school. Please activate your accounts ASAP. www.edline.com

If you need to activate a new account and do not have your activation letter, please contact David K. Hamrick by email. He will send you step by step directions by email. He can be reached at: David_K_Hamrick@mcpsmd.org

We have 101 6th grade parent accounts that have not been activated.

We have 123 7th grade parent accounts that have not been activated.

We have 127 8th grade parent accounts that have not been activated.

Please remember, teachers update their grade books **weekly not daily**. As a result, you may not see every grade each time you access Edline. It will be better for you and your household if you check Edline once a week, the same day each week.

Not Child Left Behind

Rosa Parks is a great school. We excel in academics, athletics, artistic talents and achievements. I shared with you at Back-to-School night that Rosa Parks Middle School has the hardest working teachers I have ever seen. They work hard to provide a challenging curricular for your children. As you know, under the *No Child Left Behind Act*, students are required to take the Maryland School Assessment, MSA. Rosa Parks Middle School met standards, again, last year, 2006-2007 for all sub groups in our school; The school has met state standards every year since it opened in 1992. AYP standards must be met by all eight subgroups of students, and we did it! The sub group includes: African American, American, Indian, Asian/Pacific Islander, Hispanic, White, Limited English Proficient, Free and Reduced-Price Means, and Special Education. You child’s MSA scores will be mailed to you this fall. If a child did not score in the proficient or advanced category, we have intervention and have support programs in place to assist these students.

Kids College

Montgomery College offers after school and Saturday enrichment opportunities for all students, grades 4 – 12. Courses, which begin in early October, range from chemistry and geometry to keyboarding and cartooning. You may download a copy of the brochure and registration form by going to the website www.montgomerycollege.edu/youth. Courses fill quickly, so register as soon as possible.

Johns Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth (CTY)

What is it?

- A program that offers gifted students the opportunity to learn about summer programs and distance education programs
- Assesses a student’s academic talents
- An opportunity for qualified gifted students to be recognized by Johns Hopkins University for their academic talent
- Offers gifted students the opportunity to take either the SCAT (School and College Ability Test - 6th graders) or the SAT or ACT (7th and 8th graders).

Eligibility

- Students who scored at or above the 95th percentile on a nationally-normed test; or
- Students who scored in the advanced level in either math or reading on a State test; or
- Students who don’t have available scores but whose parents wish to nominate them for the program

Procedure - Pick up the application materials from the guidance office visit the website, www.cty.jhu.edu

