

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) NAACP Parents Council Newsletter

Parent Representative Orientation and School Year Updates

Orientation Session

The NAACP Parents Council recently held an orientation for new and returning parent representatives across MCPS. More than 200 parents participated in the meeting. The session was led by Byron, Chair of the Parents Council and Education Committee, and included remarks from Linda Plummer, President of the NAACP Montgomery County Branch. The orientation emphasized maintaining respectful collaboration, advancing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), and strengthening family engagement throughout the school year.

Role of the NAACP Parents Council

- Monthly informational and advocacy meetings
- College fairs and scholarship opportunities
- Legal advocacy on behalf of families
- Enrichment opportunities such as museum field trips

School Year Highlights from MCPS Leadership

- Transition Days for kindergarten, 6th, and 9th grade students to support smooth school entry
- Enhanced safety measures including a new standard response protocol for emergencies
- Grading and reporting updates to ensure greater consistency across schools
- A continued focus on equity, staffing, and instructional support for students

Current Challenges

- Facilities and Infrastructure: Many schools are experiencing HVAC failures and construction delays. Parents are encouraged to advocate for improvements with county officials.
- Staffing and Diversity: While the MCPS workforce is diverse overall, teaching staff remain disproportionately white. Efforts are underway to recruit and retain more diverse educators and leaders.
- Student Achievement: MCAP data continues to reflect gaps in literacy and mathematics performance, particularly for Black/African American students. Expanded tutoring and intervention programs remain a priority.

Resources for Families

- Explore available tutoring programs and online resources (e.g., IXL tutorials)
- Engage principals regarding enrichment opportunities, including the National Museum of African American History and Culture trip
- Connect with the Council through the communication platforms provided (survey results show a preference for WhatsApp).

Conclusion

The Parents Council will continue to partner with families, MCPS, and community leaders to ensure equitable opportunities and academic success for all students. Parents are strongly encouraged to remain engaged, informed, and active in advocacy efforts throughout the year.