



MCDONOGH PARENTS ASSOCIATION

Upper School Parents Association Meeting Minutes September 9, 2025 at 8:30 a.m.

Mullan Board Room or Zoom

- I. **Welcome:** Yelena Kholodenko, Chair
Kara DeOliveira, Vice Chair
Grace Jackson, Past president
Neda Freyha, VP MPA
Leslie McGuire, Parent Liaison
Enaye Englenton, Director of Equity and Inclusion
- II. **Topic 1:** Jeff Parsons, Athletic Director
- Fall teams off to a great start
 - Getting to know parents/students
 - Meeting with team captains
- III. **Topic 2:** Merritt Livermore, Head of Upper School

Update on Upper School (slide show presentation)

DEVICE ROLL OUT

- Phone lockers have been implemented for student use
- Students not complaining, seem to be embracing process
- “No screen environment” at dining room
- Students are permitted to take phones when off campus when communicated with staff
- Faculty/Staff looking to replace screens with fun events i.e. pop-up events, performances, etc
- Faculty/Staff will have phones all day, on them but not using during instructional time unless for school related issue;
- Every classroom has a hard-wired phone system w/ speaker/intercom

- School intends to do a poll in October to see how things are going; will revisit later part of the year as well
- School installed analog clocks in every classroom; will also install clocks in dining and server areas (digital)
- Permission Medical waivers are considered for students that need devices for medical reasons
- Lunch lines have been longer since students are no longer able to order Door Dash

COMMUNICATIONS IN EVENT OF EMERGENCY

- School will attend to emergency first/foremost
- For individual student with emergency, staff will reach out
- Students still have access to computers for necessary communication
- Parents can always call main office
- School encourages parents to reach out if there is an immediate concern
- There is a text system in place to alert families of any sense of emergency
- Timely communication is a priority to the school

GLOBAL OPPORTUNITIES

- French Exchange 10/24 – 11/05
 - French students will stay with McDonogh families
 - Looking for twelve (12) families to host
 - McDonogh students will go to France over Spring Break;
 - Hoping to send 15 students over Spring Break
- Vietnam trip next spring in collaboration with Greatest Good and other organizations
- Puerto Rico will be a Senior trip in collaboration with Greatest Good

SPIRIT GAMES

- Trying to revive spirit “vibe”
- Jeff working with Captains to identify games they need strong student section
- Buying a drum for games
- Jeff working with team and school leaders to identify themes for games;

CLUB AND SERVICE FAIRS

- Club fair in early October
- Following week will be a service fair sponsored by Greatest Good

EFFORT SYSTEM

- More targeted info on strength and growth areas
- Six domains for teacher comment:
 1. Collaboration
 2. Classroom engagement
 3. Inquisitiveness
 4. Preparedness
 5. Resilience
 6. Self-advocacy
- More personalized system that is aligned with self-ready competencies
- Shared at mid-semester update
- Areas of growth identified as “try” statements
- Will be topic for 10 minute conference in November; students to be a participant in conference; will be week before Thanksgiving
- System will be rolled out to students in next few weeks at class meetings; letter to be sent to parents as well
- First year doing this system; will be open to feedback to “tweek” for Spring
- Hoping system will result in more information than previous system

Upcoming Events:

PARENT NEWS IS YOUR ‘GO TO GUIDE’! Please remember to scroll down to the MPA section for events and ALSO REMEMBER TO CLICK ON EACH DIVISION LINK FOR DIVISION INFORMATION!

Tuesday, September 16/Friday, September 19: Upper School Picture Day, special dress.

Thursday, September 18: Upper School Back-to-School night/Used Uniform Sale.

Monday, September 22: Faculty Professional Day. No classes for students.

Tuesday, September 23: School is closed in observance of Rosh Hashanah.

Thursday, October 2: School is closed in observance of Yom Kippur.

Friday, October 10: Upper School Parent Social. 7-9PM at True Chesapeake in Clipper Mill; RSVP link on Facebook page and in Newsletter

Monday, October 20: Diwali. Faculty Professional Day. No classes for students.

Friday, October 24: Eagle Fest

Friday, October 25: Homecoming.

Next USPA Meeting

Tuesday, November 11, 2025 at 8:30 a.m. Mullan Board Room & Zoom

USED UNIFORM SALES first Monday and Tuesday of each month
3-5pm on Monday
12-2 on Tuesday

Lost and found in RL; will post pictures in facebook group

UNIFORM ENFORCEMENT is responsibility of grade level deans; leslie will pass question along to merritt

SELF DEFENSE CLASS 10/22 during the day with Coach Courtney 12-2PM
Will post waiver and RSVP

NOVEMBER looking to MAJHONG EVENT at Roots Farm TBD

BALTIMORE HUNGER 12/03 packing session

PARENT EDUCATION EVENT 10/14 hybrid parent ed event Dr. Lisa Demour (sp) via webinar; lunch event
Pragmatic approach to tech and devices for kids of all ages; live peacefully and keep them healthy online