



THE TIGER TIMES

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL
MS. KALEISHA WRIGHT



PRINCIPAL
MRS. KIERA D. BUTLER



ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL
MRS. JAMIE LEE-OYEDELE

IMPORTANT DATES



Fri, March 6
2:45pm Manna Food Bag Distribution



Tue, March 10
7pm PTSA Meeting on Zoom



Tue, Mar 10 – Fri, Mar 13
MCAP MISA Testing (8th Grade)



Fri, March 13
2:45pm Manna Food Bag Distribution



Thu, March 19
2:45pm Manna Food Bag Distribution



Fri, March 20
Professional Development Day For Staff; No School For Students



Sat, March 21
MD Survey



Mon, Mar 23 – Wed, Mar 25
WL Testing



Mon, Mar 30 – Mon, April 6
Spring Break



Above: 6th graders that participated in Outdoor Education got an up close and personal look at a an albino Burmese python.

Message from Principal Butler



The third quarter is here, along with the promise of spring. I am excited to see the snow melt away and make room for new possibilities. In many ways, this season reflects the journey unfolding in our classrooms and throughout our community.

Over the past month, our students have immersed themselves in meaningful, real-world learning experiences. They have asked thoughtful questions, explored new ideas, and engaged deeply with the world around them. Learning has extended beyond textbooks. It has been active, authentic, and alive.

As we move forward, we remain committed to celebrating culture, strengthening community, and honoring the progress we continue to make together. I am incredibly proud of

how we have united to support one another, lift each other up, and strive to be the change we wish to see in Newport and beyond. When we come together with a shared purpose, our impact reaches far beyond our walls.

Spring reminds us that growth is not always immediate, but it is always possible. Thank you for being part of a community that believes in possibility, embraces progress, and moves forward together.

Warmly,

Principal Butler



Above: 6th graders, Max Kander and Mason Smolar, accept a check for \$1000 for their "Holes Cannot Be Filled" PSA.

Congratulations to Newport Mill 6th graders, **Max Kander and Mason Smolar**, for earning third place for their powerful public service announcement (PSA), "**Holes Cannot Be Filled.**" Their outstanding work stood out among competitors and earned them a **\$1,000 prize**, presented by State's Attorney John McCarthy. We are so proud of their creativity, message, and achievement. Way to represent, Tigers!

Tiger Duo Spotlight
Bestie Edition

Meet two pairs of 8th grade students, nominated by their peers, who bring fun, friendship, and positive energy to Newport Mill.

How did you become friends?

We met in elementary school.

Favorite class:

Advisory with Mr. Skill because it is fun.

Favorite snack:

Carmen: Pan dulce

Rosalinda: Chocolate chip cookies

Favorite song:

"Shut It Down" by Drake

One awesome thing about your best friend:

Rosalinda: "Her siblings are basically like my siblings."

Carmen: "She makes me laugh so hard that my stomach hurts."

Goal this year:

To hang out more.

Advice to other Tigers:

"Always try your hardest and be nice to people."



CARMEN ALVAREZ
& **ROSALINDA DIAZ**



Friends



DAFNE COSTA DOS SANTOS
&
JADA MIN ORTEGA

How did you become friends?

We became friends in middle school at Newport Mill.

Favorite class:

Advisory because we get to spend time together.

Favorite snack:

Dafne: Peanut butter and jelly sandwich

Jada: Popcorn

Favorite artist:

The Weeknd



One awesome thing about your best friend:

Jada: "She always makes me laugh and is always down for everything."

Dafne: "I can tell her anything, and she always gives me good advice."

Goal this year:

To stay friends after high school.

Advice to other Tigers:

"Try not to involve yourself in unnecessary drama."



Student Spotlight Corner
Daniel Halpern, 7th Grade

Daniel Halpern, was **nominated by Mr. Dockett** for his **growth, humor, and positive attitude** at Newport Mill.



Favorite Class

Gym, because I get to exercise and move around.

Favorite Snack



Goldfish. You can scoop them up and get as many as you want.

Favorite Song or Artist

"Favorite Country Song" by HARDY.



A little about you...

I was born and raised here. My dad is from Texas, and my mom is from upstate New York, where I visit my grandparents each summer.



One thing you are proud of this year:

I am proud that I brought my math grade from an E to a B.

One fun fact about you:

I have had some very unique experiences that have helped me learn and grow.

Advice to other Tigers

Do your best, learn from your mistakes, and make safe choices.

Favorite Memory at Newport Mill

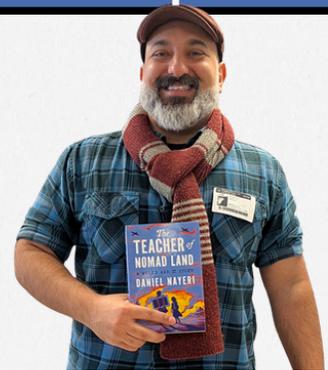
The winter dance was a great time. I loved dancing with friends, being part of the dance circles, and just having fun together. I also really enjoyed Outdoor Education, especially the overnight stay, campfires, s'mores, and fun activities.

Looking ahead

Daniel plans to attend Albert Einstein High School.

Author Visit Spotlight
Daniel Nayeri at Newport Mill

On February 3, 2026, Newport Mill had the honor of welcoming **Daniel Nayeri, a multiple award-winning author**, for a special student author visit sponsored by **An Open Book Foundation**.



During his visit, Mr. Nayeri met with students in the library for two engaging presentations and a small-group lunch discussion. He shared insights into the writing process, including the importance of research, building strong characters, developing meaningful conflict, and shaping powerful stories. Students also learned about his latest book, *The Teacher of Nomad Land*, and his journey as a storyteller.

Thanks to the support of An Open Book Foundation, students received signed copies of his newest book, making this experience even more memorable. Mr. Nayeri's visit inspired our Tigers to think creatively, reflect on their own stories, and explore the power of reading and writing.

To learn more about Daniel Nayeri and his work, visit:

<https://www.danielnayeri.com>



We are grateful to An Open Book Foundation and our partners for making this incredible opportunity possible for our students.



Staff Shout Out

A Big Thank You to Our Building Service Team

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our incredible Building Service Team for their hard work clearing snow and ice from our sidewalks and school grounds after the recent winter storm. Thanks to their dedication and early mornings, our campus was made safer and ready for students and staff to return. We truly appreciate everything you do to keep our community safe and supported. Thank you for your hard work and Tiger pride.

thank you



AEHS
TITAN PANTRY

Newport Mill continues to partner with the Titan Pantry to support families with fresh produce and nonperishable items. **Distribution takes place on the third Monday of each month.** Families may complete the **interest form** ahead of time for quicker pickup or fill it out on site during distribution.

School Spirit Highlights

Love and Kindness Week

We celebrated Love & Kindness Week from February 9–13, led by Ms. Campos Flores, Wellness Trainer.

Students and staff participated in themed spirit days that highlighted teamwork, unity, and individuality, while promoting a positive and inclusive school environment. Throughout the week, our Tigers showed appreciation, shared kind words, and celebrated what makes each person unique. Thank you to everyone who helped make the week meaningful. Let's keep the kindness going all year long.



Thank You Corner

Community Partnerships

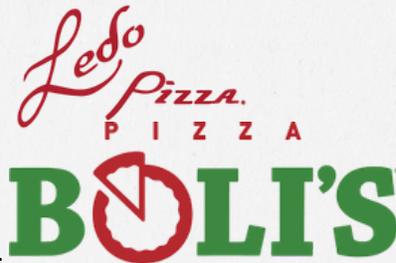


We are proud to recognize and thank our Community Schools partners who support Newport Mill Middle School and help create meaningful opportunities for our students and families.



Thank you to **Interfaith Works**, a Community Schools partner, for once again donating coats to support our students and families during the winter season. Your generosity helps ensure our community stays warm and supported.

Thank you to **Ledo Pizza** and **Pizza Boli's** for generously donating pizza for our Community Schools Advisory Pizza Challenge. Your support created excitement, motivation, and school spirit for our students.



Thank you to **Tickets for Kids**, a new Community Schools partner, for partnering with Newport Mill Middle School to provide students with access to tickets for enriching experiences and opportunities. We are excited to build this partnership and expand opportunities for our Tigers.

Thank you to **Game Stop** for donating gift cards to support student incentives and celebrations. Your contribution helps us recognize and encourage our Tigers.



Thank you to **Einstein Bros. Bagels** for generously providing bagels for students and families. Your support helped create a welcoming and positive experience for our school community.

We are grateful for our partners and their commitment to supporting students, families, and our school community.

Advisory Challenge Champions!

Congratulations to our winning advisory classes: **Mr. Baldassano and Mr. Jones, Ms. Eyler and Mrs. Maddox, Mrs. Handel, Mr. Skill and Mrs. White!**

These classes earned top spots through outstanding student and family participation and celebrated their achievement with a pizza party on February 20. Way to go, Tigers!

Round 2 begins in March, and we can't wait to see which advisory classes rise to the top next!



PTSA Hosts Love & Kindness Friday Treat for Staff



On February 13, our PTSA celebrated Love & Kindness Friday by treating staff to a special spread in the lounge featuring hot drinks, desserts, and other goodies. The thoughtful gesture provided a warm and cheerful start to the day and highlighted the strong spirit of appreciation within our school community.

We extend our sincere thanks to the PTSA for their continued support and for helping make our staff feel valued.



Mental Health Support

Newport Mill partners with **Thrive Behavioral Health** to offer school-based mental health services. If you believe your child may benefit from counseling, **please contact Darius_L_Boris@mcpsmd.org**



Student Activities & Highlights

6th Graders' Tie-Dye Event

On February 5, **Mrs. Solano-McGriff**, our **Spanish teacher and 6th grade team leader**, led a fun and colorful tie-dye activity with our 6th graders **in preparation for Outdoor Education**. The activity encouraged creativity, teamwork, and unity as students worked together and supported one another. It was a great way to build confidence and school spirit!



6th Graders Explore Learning Through Outdoor Education

This year our sixth grade students and staff participated in Outdoor Education from February 9–13. Students explored nature, built teamwork skills, and created lasting memories through hands on environmental learning and outdoor activities. Hazel shared it was **“a lot of fun activities,”** while Maggie said it was **“really enjoyable to hang out with friends outside of school.”** Students especially enjoyed team building challenges, trust circles, rope activities, and even holding a snake. Holly added that she loved being able to **“enjoy nature,”** and Summer noted it was **“fun to connect with people that you don’t see often in school.”**



Black History Month Door Showcase

Our hallways came alive with creativity from February 10–13 as advisory classes decorated their doors in celebration of Black History Month. Each display highlighted powerful messages, influential figures, and vibrant designs that honored Black history and culture. Students collaborated, showed their artistic talents, and filled the building with pride and learning. Congratulations to our winning advisory classes!



Staff Spotlight Where Stories Take Flight

At Newport Mill Middle School, the Media Center is more than a place to check out books. It is a space where stories come alive, creativity grows, and students are always welcomed with a smile.

Behind it all are Mrs. Jessica Snyder, our Media Specialist of 10 years, and Mrs. Carlyn Rayburn, our Media Assistant of five years and proud Newport Mill parent. Together, they keep the Media Center buzzing with energy, ideas, and opportunity.

For Mrs. Snyder, working in the library means being connected to every part of school life. A former ELD and social studies teacher, she loves that she still gets to teach in a different way.

"I get to be involved in all aspects of the school," she shared. "I can teach, work with teachers and staff, promote literacy, and connect with students in meaningful ways. I feel like I get to do so many things." She also shared how much she enjoys working alongside Mrs. Rayburn each day. "We have fun," she said. Mrs. Rayburn quickly added, "It's totally fun."



Left to right: Mrs. Rayburn, Katelyn – HS intern and former NMMS student, and Mrs. Snyder



Because Newport Mill is a close knit community, they make it a priority to know every student. "If we see a new face, we make sure we get to know them," they explained.

When asked what resource she recommends right now, Mrs. Snyder suggested Common Sense Media for parents and families. She explained that it can be difficult to keep up with movies, games, shows, apps, and books that students are consuming. The website provides reviews and guidance to help families stay informed and make thoughtful choices about media.

This month, students also had the opportunity to meet award winning author Daniel Nayeri through their partnership with An Open Book Foundation. During his visit, he discussed his latest book, *The Teacher of Nomad Land: A World War II Story*, and shared how research, conflict, and character development shape meaningful storytelling.

Mrs. Snyder emphasized how powerful that partnership is. Through An Open Book Foundation, students not only learn something new, they receive a free signed book and experience literature in a new way.

"Being a partner with them allows students to see a different side of books," she shared.

We are grateful for Mrs. Snyder and Mrs. Rayburn and the countless ways they support our students, staff, and school community. From author visits to daily multitasking behind the scenes, they help make Newport Mill a place where stories truly take flight. **Story continues on page 09**

Here is a fun fact students might not know. Before coming to Newport Mill, Mrs. Snyder taught in a juvenile detention center in Illinois, just outside of Chicago in Kane County. She advocated for providing culturally relevant and age appropriate books for students, including works by Walter Dean Myers and Sharon Draper. She has always believed that students deserve access to meaningful literature that reflects their experiences. And yes, she wore stilettos every day.

When asked what they enjoy most about working with Newport Mill students, their answer was simple and heartfelt. "They are really nice. They are such kind kids."

If they could describe the Media Center in three words, they chose welcoming, cozy, and evolving.

"There's always something new," they said. "Displays change. Books move. There is never a dull day."



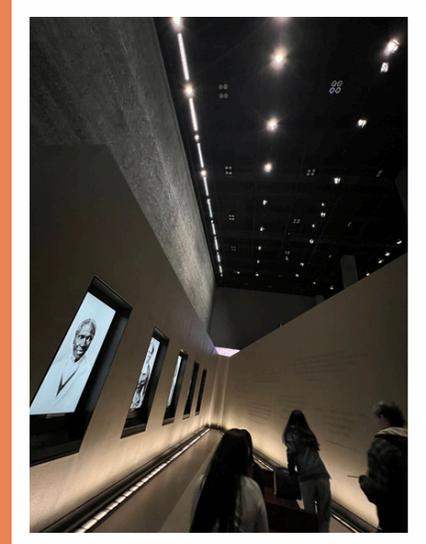
 FOLLOW MRS. RAYBURN & MRS. SNYDER IN THE MEDIA CENTER FOR FUN UPDATES
@NMMS_MEDIA_CTR @NMMSLIBRARIAN

Student Activities & Highlights

History Comes to Life for 8th Grade Tigers

On February 18, our 8th graders visited the African American History Museum for a powerful and engaging learning experience. Catherine shared it was "cool to see all the different points of view," while Monica and Natasha said the trip was "fun and educational" and a great way to learn history outside the classroom.

Students explored exhibits that sparked reflection and curiosity. Natalie loved "all the paintings, history, and getting to go in the train," and Allison noted it was "tragic to see the separation," showing how the exhibits helped students connect with the past in meaningful ways.



Community School Liaison Corner Message from Kalecia



Our Tigers continue to shine in the classroom and throughout our school community. Thank you for supporting our school events and helping make Newport Mill Middle School such a welcoming and engaging place to learn and grow. If you have ideas, resources, or feedback for a future edition of Tiger Times, please email me at Kalecia_M_Baity@mcpsmd.org. I would love to hear from you.



Newsletter Contributions



Nominate Someone



PTSA Announcements

Get Ready to ROAR, Newport!



ANNUAL TIGER RUN
• APRIL 17, 2026 •

Save THE Date

Friday, April 17, 2026

Mark your calendars! This is your chance to come out and cheer on your child as they take on the 1-Mile Run during PE class. In the coming weeks, you'll also hear more from the PTSA about how your child can participate in our Tiger Run fundraiser. Every dollar raised goes right back to our school through Tiger Grants, supporting valuable programs and resources for our students. Plus, our top student fundraisers will earn exciting prizes! We can't wait to see you there and appreciate your support in making this event a success.

What are Tiger Grants and how do they help our school?

When Principal Butler is looking for ways to bridge budget gaps, Tiger Grants are there to help. Thanks to the generosity of our school community, these grants provide critical funding that supports programs, resources, and opportunities that might not otherwise be possible.

Historically, Tiger Grants have helped fund the following at our school, just to name a few:

- After school activities
- Field Trips
- 8th Grade Promotion
- Hispanic Heritage Night
- Teacher Appreciation
- School Dances
- Middle Years Programme (MYP)
- Art Department Supplies
- PE Equipment

**INVENTORY
UPDATED**

Visit our [online store](#) for the latest spirit wear - hoodies, long/short sleeve tees and more!



Access every NMMS PTSA Zoom Meeting [here](#) or scan QR to the right.



Scan the QR code (left) or [click here](#) to learn more and become a member!



YOUR VOICE MATTERS!

Parents and guardians are invited to complete the Newport Mill Middle School Needs Assessment Survey. Your feedback helps guide school programs, supports, and family engagement efforts.

As a thank you, **student advisory classes** with the highest number of completed family surveys will earn a pizza party.



Please scan the QR code below to complete the survey in your preferred language: English, Spanish, or Amharic.

 <p>ENGLISH Survey</p>	 <p>SPANISH Survey</p>	 <p>AMHARIC Survey</p>
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IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, OR CONCERNS, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT OUR COMMUNITY SCHOOL LIAISON

MS. BAITY
COMMUNITY SCHOOL LIAISON
NEWPORT MILL MIDDLE SCHOOL



EMAIL: [KALECIA_M_BAITY@MCPSMD.ORG](mailto:kalecia_m_baity@mcpsmd.org)

FREE Academic Support & Tutoring Resources



Free Online Tutoring with Brainfuse (MCPL)

Montgomery County Public Libraries offers Brainfuse, a free online tutoring resource available to all students with a library card. **Students can receive live homework help, test prep, and writing support daily from 2:00 PM–11:00 PM.**

Tutoring is available for K–12 students in core subjects including **math, science, and English language arts**. Students may also submit writing for feedback through the Writing Lab or join virtual study rooms. Spanish-language support is available for most subjects.



🔗 Log in: Brainfuse – [HelpNow \(MCPL\)](#)

🔗 Need a library card? Click [here](#)



Free Tutoring for K–12 Students (Stepping Stone)

Stepping Stone, **an MCPS student-run program**, provides free online tutoring for K–12 students in all major subjects.

🔗 Check out the high school students from our county participating as tutors and register [here](#).



Community Resources Saturday School



The George B. Thomas Learning Academy (GBTLA) offers Saturday School, providing academic support in reading, language arts, and math for MCPS students. Our cluster site is Sligo Middle School. Sessions run from September through May, and families can view the 2025–2026 Saturday School Calendar (English and Spanish) on the program [website](#).

Camp Erin Grief Support Camp

CaringMatters is offering Camp Erin Montgomery County, a free overnight camp (April 24–26, 2026) for youth ages 6–17 who are grieving the loss of someone close to them. Activities include peer connection, creative expression, and recreation. Transportation is provided.

Apply by April 3, 2026.

Learn more or apply:

<https://www.caringmatters.org/camp-erin>

Contact: evac@carimgmatters.org | 301-869-4673 ext. 111



Parent Resources

PARENT ACADEMY TO GO



Families are encouraged to join upcoming Parent Academy TO GO workshops designed to inform and empower parents as partners in their children's education.

Can't attend live? Recorded sessions are available on the [MCPS YouTube channel](#). Learn more [here](#).






Weekend Bag Program

Manna Weekend Bags are distributed every Friday at Newport Mill Middle School
 Distribution dates may shift during holidays or school closures
 This support will be available through June 2026
 Need Additional Food or Support?
 Families who need additional food beyond the Friday weekend bags should contact Manna Food Center directly:
 Call Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
 Phone: (301) 424-1130
 Calls must be received by 12:00 p.m. the day before pickup so food orders can be prepared

For additional information, contact Kalecia Baity at Kalecia_M_Baity@mcpsmd.org or call **227-271-3737**.

Community Resources Page

MCPS Community Resource Guide




Newport Mill Middle School families are encouraged to explore the **MCPS Community Resource Guide**, which includes information on **food support, housing assistance, health and mental health services, technology access, and other community resources** available to students and families. Scan the QR code above or use the link [here](#).
 If you need help finding resources, please contact the school's Community Schools team.





Volunteer & Community Engagement Corner

Student Service Learning

Did you know you need 75 Student Service Learning (SSL) hours to graduate in the state of Maryland? Newport Mill students seeking SSL opportunities can contact Mrs. Claudia Urbina for guidance and current options.
 Students and families can also view the [March 2026 Ongoing SSL Opportunities – Unity Through Community](#) document for a list of virtual and in-person service activities available throughout the Winter – Scan QR

Contact: Mrs. Claudia Urbina, Math teacher at Newport Mill Middle School at claudia_urbina@mcpsmd.org



Thank you for bringing in your clean plastic bags!
We already have over 50 lbs! Only 950 to go for a bench! We'll collect all year – so drop them off in the Main Office or Media Center!

Cafeteria & Lunch Information




[Daily Menu](#)



[Pay for Meals with My School Bucks](#)



[Apply for Free and Reduced-Price Meals](#)

Questions? Shirkeja_M_Snowden@mcpsmd.org



For families in need of food support or information about local food resources, the **Montgomery County Office of Food Systems Resilience** provides a comprehensive listing of food distribution events, meal programs, SNAP application information, and other supports for residents. Families can visit the Food Resources page [here](#).



Parent Resources Corner

Kennedy Cluster Project

Stay connected with programs, events, and resources in our Kennedy Cluster schools! Check out the weekly newsletter by scanning the QR code or clicking the link.



Newsletter