



# MONTGOMERY HIGH SCHOOL

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PAUL J. POPADIUK  
PRINCIPAL

February 22, 2012

Dear Parent/Guardian:

With the conclusion of midterms and the mild winter days passing, I would like to take this opportunity to relay some important information and exciting events that are happening here at Montgomery High School. I have enjoyed the many conversations with students, parents and community members, and would like to thank all of you for your support of the new schedule and unit lunch.

Teachers at MHS have been continuing their work, four days a week, in Collaborative Learning Teams. They have been developing common assessments, writing and rewriting lessons and units conducive to the 84 minute period, sharing best practices and having rich professional conversations around the students they teach. This past Friday, they used the professional development day to examine actual teacher-taped lessons, share ways of using technology in the classroom and listen to feedback from a panel of our students. MHS is also continuing its work on the Social & Emotional development of our students. Teachers, coaches and advisors are working to identify best practices and programs that develop students' non-cognitive skills, both in and out of the classroom.

I have received a lot of positive feedback from parents, students and staff regarding the HS Social & Emotional Learning initiative. I am confident that this will continue to be a beneficial program that increases the focus on the non-cognitive skills necessary in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Please take a moment to review the important HSPA information, news and events that follow this letter. Thank you, and enjoy the last of these somewhat wintery days!

Respectfully,

Paul J. Popadiuk  
Principal

## HSPA Testing

The junior class will be participating in state mandated testing on March 6, 7, and 8. The HSPA (High School Proficiency Assessment) will be administered according to state protocols during the morning hours. The test includes Mathematics on the first day and Language Arts Literacy on the second and third day. **Individual and school results will be reported for both content areas.**

Please note that passing all sections of the HSPA is a requirement for graduation in New Jersey. I ask that you remind your child to get a good night's sleep on the evenings prior to testing and to eat a good breakfast. There will be a **delayed opening** on the above mentioned days for grades 9, 10 and 12 in order to administer the HSPA to the grade 11 students and to Grade 12 students who must retake the test.

All students in grades 9, 10, and 12 who are not involved in testing will begin their school day at approximately 10:07 A.M. and should report, upon arrival, to the MPAC. **Students should be at their bus stop 2-hours and 45 minutes later than normal.\*** Students who are being tested should arrive at their normal time. At the conclusion of the test, classes will resume on an abbreviated schedule for all students.

\* Please note that seniors leaving on the Senior Class Trip should arrive at school on Tuesday, March 6, at 8:30 A.M. for luggage check in the Auxiliary Gymnasium.

In the event that school is closed or there is a 2-hour delayed opening due to **inclement weather**, the HSPA scheduled for that day will be postponed. Upon returning to school, we will administer the test originally scheduled for the day of return. We will reschedule the postponed test for Friday, March 9<sup>th</sup>. Friday would then be a delayed opening (10:07 start) for students not taking the HSPA.

Example: If Tuesday's Mathematics Test is postponed due to inclement weather, the make-up day will be Friday starting at 7:20 A.M. All 11<sup>th</sup>-grade students would take the originally scheduled Language Arts Exam on Wednesday.

## Montgomery/Rocky Hill's Night Off

Montgomery High School is supporting the Montgomery Rocky Hill Municipal Alliance's Night Off initiative. This initiative is meant to relieve stress and promote quality family time. All meetings, classes, practices (with the exceptions of teams involved in the NJSIAA State Tournament, and school play practice), rehearsals and homework will be cancelled for one memorable night on Thursday, March 1, 2012. Enjoy the evening.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

All school events can be located on our website. Please go to [www.mtsd.k12.nj.us](http://www.mtsd.k12.nj.us) then select Montgomery High School. The calendar is available under "Upcoming Events" on the left hand side of the screen. The calendar is updated weekly.