

CLARKSBURG CLUSTER

Clarksburg High School
Rocky Hill Middle School (split articulated)
Neelsville Middle School (split articulated)

Clarksburg Elementary School
Fox Chapel Elementary School
Little Bennett Elementary School
Capt. James Daly E. Elementary School
Cedar Grove Elementary School (split articulated)

Thank you Council President Andrews and colleagues for providing us this opportunity to speak on the Superintendent's recommended Operating Budget on behalf of the Clarksburg Cluster.

With much celebration, Maryland schools are ranked first in the US and we do not want to lose that National recognition if class sizes become too large, loss of quality teachers, or maintenance issues. We respectfully ask you to **Hold the Line.**

Thus far, Dr. Weast's recommendations for all-day kindergarten, reduced class size have proven to be beneficial for our students. MCPS's focus on reducing class size throughout all schools is a powerful testament toward Fox Chapel Elementary seeing a difference in academic success. In addition, Daly elementary school sees reduced class sizes as aiding them in differentiated instruction to meet student needs as well as assisting with the needed support for MSA.

MCPS initiatives require we keep qualified, knowledgeable teachers that connect with students inside the classroom. We are concerned for funding and staffing Clarksburg High School's signature programs; Capstone and APPS Programs. Projects such as these foster problem solving and critical thinking in a real word environment. They reward collaboration, initiative, and entrepreneurship and have helped many of our students define the field of study they want to pursue in their career. Clarksburg HS community is very proud of the national recognition our InvenTeam received this year. **As a 2008-2009 Lemelson-MIT InvenTeams grant winner**, the Clarksburg High School InvenTeam is developing a pressure-sensitive illuminated computer cable. Presentations of their inventions include the Smithsonian Museum of American History, March Madness for the Mind event and in June at EurekaFest, the culminating event will be held at MIT. The Capstone project gives our students, along with 60 additional student projects, the avenue to excel. ***We respectfully plead to support funding and staffing for our unique and successful signature program.***

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In addition to the need for teachers and staffing, safety is at the forefront of our advocacy effort and we request you provide adequate funding for Educational Facility Officers, Crossing Guards (Clarksburg Elem. #8), and Health room personnel. Our cluster truly appreciates the tireless efforts of our EFO and the care and compassion he has brought to our community.

As noted in the Operating Budget FY10, we support the Dept. of Facility Management goal of maintaining ventilation rates to meet acceptable indoor air quality standards which will require that the department collaborate with other units, school staff, and communities to ensure building equipment is properly maintained and operated. This initiative is necessary to create classroom environments that promote successful learning, both inside school facilities and portables.

Thank you for giving us this opportunity. We will support you and will use our strong partnership with our elected officials, which we have developed over the last four years. We will continue to work with our Legislators in Annapolis and continue to strengthen our advocacy for safe, secure, well-maintained, and healthy school facilities for all children of Montgomery County Schools.

Being mindful of what administrators, teachers, and staff require to meet the rigorous requirements for 21st Century education, our Rocky Hill Middle School Principal Steve Whiting put it best, "If we maintain what we have, we'll be able to continue to give our kids an excellent program. If we're cut, then we lose pieces that help us give every student what they need. I'm aware of the economic climate and so I wouldn't ask for anything more."

Respectfully submitted-
Jaimie Jacobson, Donna Pfeiffer and Sonya Leaman
MCCPTA Clarksburg Cluster Coordinators

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