

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 E. Daly Elementary School
 William B. Gibbs, Jr. Elementary School
 Cedar Grove Elementary School (split articulated)

Good evening, President Ervin and Members of the County Council, my name is Marcia Tivoli and I represent the Clarksburg cluster schools this evening. The Clarksburg Cluster fully supports the MCCPTA testimony given by President Kristin Triple, and we urge this Council to fund the budget proposed by Dr. Weast and the Board of Education. The principals and PTA groups of the Clarksburg Cluster understand the difficult fiscal environment we are currently experiencing and express our gratitude and support to all members of the County Council for their hard work. We must do our part as parents and citizens of Montgomery County and insist on one main thing... that is to maintain the significant educational gains our county and cluster have achieved.

Montgomery County, and specifically Clarksburg, continues to show an increase in population. It is because of this continued growth that we urge you to keep the planned schools on schedule which are currently adopted in the FY 2011- 2016 CIP to help relieve the overcrowding already present in our schools.

School	Current Utilization Rate	Projected Enrollment
Clarksburg High School	113%	327 over capacity by 2013
<i>Factoid:</i> CHS has 7 portable classrooms split into two separate groups on campus, and requires the monitoring of 3 school entrances throughout the day.		
Rocky Hill Middle School	106%	238 over capacity by 2015
<i>Factoid:</i> RHMS is the most overcrowded middle school in the county, has 8 portables fully utilized for instruction, and still has 3 teachers operating on carts.		
Little Bennett Elementary School	124%	300 over capacity by 2013
<i>Factoid:</i> LBES' site is only 4.8 acres, meaning there are only 7 elementary schools in the county with less land, and with the existing 6 portables, there is no ability for more without occupying more instructional space.		

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Quality learning environments must be maintained for our children to receive a quality education, and a plan to renew core building systems, such as HVAC, electrical, plumbing, roofs, etc. must be put in place and funded. Such a plan will extend the useful life of buildings and lessen the need for a full-scale modernization (especially the "tear down and rebuild" style being employed now). Additionally, now is the time to take advantage of the down construction market and invest now when costs are low.

In conclusion, we recognize that short term economic difficulties place great pressures on this budget and on you. As you confront the difficult task of setting priorities, we again urge you not to compromise on our goal – **every child in the system deserves a safe, secure, and modern classroom that enables him or her to achieve the high standards that we set.** We are pleased to be a part of Montgomery County's top notch education system and know this Council will help us keep up with the educational infrastructural needs of Clarksburg as we continue to grow. Our legacy in Montgomery County is our children – please help us equip them with facilities worthy of a Montgomery County education.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Clarksburg Cluster Coordinators

Todd Powell, Janet Sanchez & Marcia Tivoli