

# NEWSLETTER

2ND VP REPORT - VOL. 3



# CONTINUING

*Written by Various Members of the AIMS Committee*



## What Has MS Been Up To?

by **Siya Jain**

Middle school student leaders have been up to quite a bit in the last few months! With 232 middle school leaders in attendance at Convention and 103 at Spring Leadership Conference, we've sure been busy! Make sure to check out the links bar to see all of the work the Action In Middle School (AIMS) Committee and I have been up to.

## Spring Leadership Conference

by **Siya Jain**

At the Spring Leadership Conference, which took place on April 13th at South Hagerstown High School, delegates participated in interactive workshops, heard from officers and regions for reports, and actively participated in a roundtable discussion where new ideas were shared. Additionally, delegates took part in a Hall of Ideas section where they learned more about events and activities done across Maryland!

LINKS YOU SHOULD CHECK OUT:

[\*\*REGISTER FOR THE AIMS KICKOFF!\*\*](#)

[\*\*MIDDLE SCHOOL FOCUS PAGE\*\*](#)

[\*\*MLW INFORMATION\*\*](#)

[\*\*REGISTER FOR MAY EXECUTIVE BOARD!\*\*](#)

[\*\*CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES\*\*](#)

[\*\*MASC MERCHANDISE\*\*](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS:

**May Executive Board Meeting**

**AIMS Kickoff**



MASC 2nd-VP Elect Derrell Gross at Convention

## Student-Led Environmental Advocacy

by **Sudenaz Duran**

Students are becoming more outspoken supporters of environmental sustainability and preservation at a time when the effects of climate change are becoming clearer. We can advocate for legislation that prioritizes environmental justice, sustainable practices, and renewable energy by organizing student voices. There is a strong history of major changes in society being sparked by youth-led environmental efforts. From the 1960s grassroots movement to the most recent worldwide strikes over climate change, students have been at the forefront of pushing on governments, businesses, and communities to take action. Students are raising awareness and demanding practical solutions to environmental issues through protests, internet campaigns, and rallies.

As students, we work to inform ourselves and others on the complex nature of environmental challenges in addition to advocating for change. Through the inclusion of sustainability into courses of study, the encouragement of environmentally friendly school initiatives, and the promotion of collaborative discussions, educational establishments may encourage students to become knowledgeable about protecting the environment. In addition, student-led projects are encouraging inclusivity and cooperation in the environmental movement. Students are working toward solutions to deal with injustices in society because they recognize an intersection of environmental challenges with social justice, racial inequalities, and economic gaps.



## Middle School Recap

by **Langston Thomas**

The 2024 Middle School Rising Leaders Webinar hosted by regional 2nd-VPs and MASC 2nd-VP Siya was a first-time event that turned out to be very successful! Students from around Maryland had the opportunity to meet others from the state and listen to or showcase short, 15-minute presentations in breakout rooms, meant to bring awareness to various topics and help students continue to be successful. Thirteen presenters gathered to present slideshows related to many engaging subjects. The webinar included three breakout rounds with 3 rooms per round to maximize the options available. In many breakout rooms, students participated in games to help retain the knowledge and wisdom they were given in a short period. In addition, there was a Q&A/round-table discussion to conclude the meeting. Students could ask questions about the presentations and get to know the presenters better. All in all, the event was very informative and we hope to have it again next year! If you're thinking about getting more involved in MASC, be sure to check the MASC website and discuss it with your student council advisor about it!



## AIMS KICKOFF By Siya Jain

Interested in learning more about the AIMS Committee, what we do, and how you can be involved next year? If so, join us for the Action In Middle School Committee (AIMS) Kickoff event! More information about the event can be found on Page 3, along with a link to the signup form on Page 1. See you there!

# Upcoming Events: Lookout!

by **Kayla Benjamin & Mikayla Torres**

The AIMS Kickoff is an upcoming event that takes place yearly in May to promote the committee to 6th and 7th graders to join and contribute to the goal of increasing middle schoolers involvement within MASC on the AIMS Committee. The event will be held virtually to be accessible for any middle schoolers interested to attend.

The upcoming Executive Board Meeting on May 18, 2024, at Richard Montgomery High School aims to close off this year in MASC. This event focuses on closing this MASC Year, so make sure to join in! Students can register themselves for this event from May 1st to May 15th, and join via livestream if unable to attend in person. While all students are welcome, only executive board members can vote on any topic. All upcoming events' registration links may be found on page one with all the details.



## Mental Health in Schools

by **Lena Silwinski**

School environments influence students' learning abilities as well as mental health. Although, understandably, educators don't always realize that there are multiple problems that students face daily, as adults and students see the world differently. Therefore, students are in a difficult position when they want to speak up, without a safe space to voice concerns nothing will change. This has been a problem for a long time. There are many ways to help students feel comfortable in a school setting. Students should have opportunities to express themselves and be able to find someone who makes them feel safe. Students should be reminded that there will be no punishment for speaking up. We are all different and have unique ways of expressing concerns, so getting to know each other is important. This is equally problematic for both educators and students. If a teacher isn't comfortable in their environment they can't help a student feel better in theirs either. To conclude, this is a complex problem, with no single solution that can only be addressed by working together.



## REGIONAL HIGHLIGHT: CRASC

By  
**Sukena  
Kirmani**

Recently, CRASC had an advocacy day at the Maryland State House. Members of CRASC and other student leaders went to the state house, met with Senator Dawn Gile, & advocated to spread awareness about the organization. Additionally, CRASC has been going through their Student Member on the Board of Education (SMOB) election process, their election being held on April 18th. Students all around the county are looking forward to this exciting event, with Officer Elections soon!

The MASC AIMS committee not only releases the quarterly newsletter but also documents to guide and educate MASC's leaders. This year's topics were Public Speaking, Spreading Awareness About SGA, and Representation and Diversity. The Public Speaking document discusses the recipe for presenting. It goes over the aspects of good public speaking by using measurements to compare public speaking to a baking recipe. The Spreading Awareness about SGA document describes the structure of SGA and how each member can use their position and ideas to expand SGA and educate others. The representation and diversity document is an article-style document that goes over many ideas. These ideas cover hosting inclusive events, mentorship, and promoting multiracial SGA involvement. All three of the AIMS documents can help guide you in all aspects of SGA no matter the event. Like, leading a webinar, talking to your general assembly, etc. You will be found better prepared and have an amazing resource to direct others to when they ask for guidance. These documents will be located on the MASC website on the Middle School Focus page so that everyone has easy access, for which the link can be found on page 1 through the Middle School Focus page link.

# AIMS' DOCUMENTS & GUIDES By *Ella Tedeschi*

## Student Opinion Article

by *Saron Jamere*

Statistics show 77% of public schools reported at least one incident of crime, totaling 1.4 million incidents. We all know about the issue that continues to prevail, school safety yet laws aren't changing but procedures are. MCPS has implemented "lockdown with options" where you have 3 options in case of a threat, avoid, deny, and defend. But what's more disheartening is we have to resort to this.

Walt Whitman High School has recently had an encounter with these issues. If we don't change these laws nothing will change. And for a student school safety can make or break an education. School safety is an essential aspect of the educational experience, ensuring students, teachers, and staff feel secure and supported in their learning and working environments.

School security is tied to all aspects of education like academic success where only an optimal and safe supportive environment can cultivate strong and engaged students. Another aspect that relates to school safety is mental health, it's incredibly hard to stay focused and especially productive when school safety is not as uncommon as it used to be. School safety has a direct impact on students' mental health, ensuring that they feel secure and protected.

With that said the students will soon become the teachers and it is crucial that we take charge of our education. Ways we can do that is simply by talking about our feelings and enforcing real rules. Then and only then when we prioritize student safety will we see a change.



## New Opportunities: Get Involved!

by *Siya Jain*

Are you a student looking to learn more about what it means to be a leader? If so, consider attending the Maryland Leadership Workshops (MLW) this summer! This one-week program at Washington College is the perfect opportunity for students to enhance their leadership skills while creating unforgettable memories, making lifelong friends, and new experiences. The program is open to all grade, having 2 different weeks for 2 groups, grades 6-8 and grades 9-12. More information about this exciting opportunity can be found in the Links tab on the first page!

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Have questions? Email the MASC 2nd-Vice President,  
Siya, at [siya.jain@mdstudentcouncils.org](mailto:siya.jain@mdstudentcouncils.org)!

# THANKS FOR READING!

We hope to see you at upcoming events, and  
enjoy the wonderful spring season!