

Poolesville Students, Staff, and Families,

"There are two kinds of gratitude: The sudden kind we feel for what we take; the larger kind we feel for what we give." — Edwin Arlington Robinson

I want to begin this week by congratulating our 2025 graduates on their graduation this past Thursday. I also want to publicly thank Ms. Grubb, Ms. Van Yuga, Ms. Williams, Ms. Hillard, Ms. Fedders, Mr. Foster, and everyone who volunteered their time and energy in ensuring the Commencement Ceremony was a truly special moment for our graduates and our guests.

This is the final full week of the 2024-2025 school year. Monday, June 9, is the ***final day of 8th period***. As a result, ***all students will be expected to take their 2:30 bus routes home, beginning Tuesday, June 10***; there will not be any 4:30 bus routes for the remainder of the year. We will have our final Falcon Time on Wednesday, June 11; students are encouraged to use this time wisely to complete any missing assignments for the fourth marking period. Finally, Friday, June 13, is an early release day for students; all Falcons will be expected to leave on their 2:30 routes at the 12:00 dismissal time. Please see our [2024-25 Student Support Contacts](#) link if you need support.

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This Week's Schedule

- **Monday**, June 9 - Standard Bell Schedule - ***Final Day for 8th Period and 4:30 Bus Routes***
- **Tuesday**, June 10 - Standard Bell Schedule
- **Wednesday**, June 11 - Falcon Time Schedule - Use the time wisely!
- **Thursday**, June 12 - Standard Bell Schedule
- **Friday**, June 13 - Early Release Schedule

You can find a complete schedule for the week in the [Parent Weekly Calendar](#). You can find the period-by-period schedule at [this link](#).

Falcon Congratulations!

Congratulations to William Park for his Gold Medal victory in the senior division of the American Computer Science League (ACSL) and his third place finish at the Informatics Tournament hosted by Montgomery Blair HS.

PHS utilizes a Within Our Walls (W.O.W.) celebration form to recognize those who make Poolsville a special place. If you would like to share a note of congratulations, admiration, or encouragement with a student or staff member, please take a moment to complete the [W.O.W. form](#). The following Falcon received shout-outs this past week:

- Natan Alemu
- Arav Assija
- Jasmine Baltazar
- Diya Bhavasar
- Jayaditya Buddan Ramesh
- Ayanna D'Souza
- Ms. Fisher
- Mr. Fitzgerald
- Ms. Grubb
- Utkrisht Gupta
- Ms. Herbert
- David Jiang
- Waruch Jiratanakoon
- Ryan Li
- Maxence Mabilia
- Ms. Marshall
- Sahasra Namburu
- Mohit Patil
- Amaan Patnaik
- Mr. Rogoza
- Zoe Seah
- Ayan Shukla
- Mr. Stanton
- Allison Tang
- Ms. Wilder
- Ms. Williams

PHS Community Surveys

PHS families, we need your help! Each year, MCPS asks its families to complete a brief survey in order to identify strengths and areas of growth for schools and provide any necessary support. This short survey gives you the opportunity to share your experiences and opinions about our school and the broader school district. Your honest input will help us understand what's working well and where we can improve. The survey is easy to complete, takes only a few minutes, and your responses are completely confidential. The results will be used to guide our efforts in strengthening programs, services, and supports for students and families. ***Please click [this link](#) to complete the MCPS survey by June 9.*** You can also review this [linked flyer](#) for more information. Students were provided an opportunity to complete their MCPS surveys during a recent Advisory period.

In addition, PHS administration has created an in-house **community voice survey**, where you can give feedback on school communication, parent engagement, and the support you have received from various offices and departments within PHS. This data will be reviewed and analyzed by our Instructional Leadership Team (ILT) over the summer in order to inform our decisions for the next school year (2025-2026). Your feedback is valuable, and we want to hear as many perspectives as possible. Please consider taking some time to let us know what we are doing well and areas where we can grow. Your [voice](#) matters!

PHS Summer Assignments

After careful consideration, Poolesville High School has decided to forgo summer assignments for students this year so that students' summer activities can be driven by their own (and their families') interests, needs, and goals rather than required coursework. It is our expectation that as a result of this "gift of time," students will return in the fall truly refreshed and ready to embrace the rigorous instruction that awaits them. We encourage students to continue learning over the summer by accessing great ideas through books and museums (digital options abound!), and by engaging in activities that elevate the body, the spirit, and the mind. August will be here soon, and having solid habits for stress relief and well-being are critical to your academic success. Any suggested enrichment activities or House-specific activities will be communicated in next week's message.

Summer Math: We strongly discourage taking an MCPS math class for original credit over the summer with the goal of accessing more advanced math courses in high school. In the brief weeks of summer school, students do not experience the depth of learning needed to succeed at the next level of advanced coursework. Any student who would like to have extra math practice can consider completing the ***optional*** [Summer Math Opportunities](#) offered through the MCPS math department.

Radon Testing Communication

Radon testing has been completed as part of the enhanced radon prevention program which began in 2016. The test results indicated that radon levels continue to be below the action level of 4.0 picocuries per liter of air (pCi/L), which is recommended by the U.S. Environmental protection Agency (EPA). **No mitigation is required at this time.** To access the radon testing results and additional radon information in 8 languages, please visit our website: [Radon Testing Results Page](#) and [Radon Information \(8 Languages\)](#). You can also see the linked [Radon Testing Letter](#) for PHS for more information.

Athletics Updates

Registration which can include conditioning and specific sport camps is open through parentvue on synergy. Click on 2025-2026 and all sport conditioning. **You will receive an email from MCPS letting you know that the registration went through successfully.** All students who are interested in participating in the summer activities MUST be registered, have an updated physical using the [MCPS SR8](#) form on file or uploaded and **be approved by PHS Athletic Specialist** before beginning. This is voluntary and not all teams will be participating. You will need to reach out to the coach for more information. Below are the teams who will be offering opportunities for the students that will begin around May 27th. Use the emails below to email the coach for days, times and locations. These opportunities are open to all students. If a specific team is not offering this option, students are welcome to join another team's session.

- Boys' Basketball - Clinic and Conditioning - James_A_DeBuchananne@mcpsmd.org
- Girls' Basketball - Clinic - Kelsey_Carnahan@mcpsmd.org
- Girls' Volleyball - Clinic - Steven_G_Lostoski@mcpsmd.org
- Wrestling - Clinic - Christopher_N_Tao@mcpsmd.org
- Football - Clinic and Conditioning - Brian_L_Tupa@mcpsmd.org
- Poms - Clinic - Mayra_L_Mejia-Hayes@mcpsmd.org
- Cheer - Clinic - Sophia_M_Stubbings@mcpsmd.org
- Girls' Soccer - Clinic - George_Penn@mcpsmd.org
- Softball - Michael_S_Davis@mcpsmd.org

Make sure you follow us on our social media accounts for athletic updates and check the [schedule](#) so you can come support our Falcons. All students must have their ID to get into the events. Please follow the link for complete [Athletics Updates](#) for the week. You can contact Ms. Grubb (Regina_R_Grubb@mcpsmd.org) with any questions.

College and Career Center Updates

Students are encouraged to review the [MCPS Scholarships Database](#) for applicable opportunities.

There will not be any college or career visits at PHS this week. Please follow the link for directions, a complete schedule, scholarship opportunities, and any additional updated [College](#)

[and Career Center Updates](#). You can contact Ms. DeOto (Rosalie_A_DeOto@mcpsmd.org) with any questions.

SSL Updates

Please see [SSL Opportunities](#) for additional information. Please contact Ms. Martin (Barbara_J_Martin@mcpsmd.org) with any questions.

Construction Updates

The construction work for the upcoming week includes continuing the following:

Sitework:

- Continue grading in the East side.
- Continue installing storm & sanitary lines.

Media Center Area:

- Complete wall & parapet framing.
- Continue installing hangers & utilities.
- Continue fireproofing onsite.
- Complete roofing.
- Continue installing ductwork in TV Studio & Media Center.
- Continue air barrier & Blueskin.
- Complete rough-in for motorized shades.
- Complete installation of roof blocking.

Main Gym Area:

- Complete installing ductwork, plumbing piping, light fixtures, etc.
- Continue painting
- Complete installing basketball hoops & divider curtain in gym.
- Start installing Scoreboards in Gym.
- Deliver wood flooring in Gym.
- Continue installing door/storefront framing in gym.
- Continue installing ceiling grid in corridor between Gym & Locker Rooms.
- Complete ceiling tile lay-in in locker room areas.

Any updated, current test results can be found on the [project website](#) under the files tab.

Students can report any safety concerns using the [reporting form](#) that was developed by PHS administration.

MCPS Updates

Protecting Kids Against Digital Exploitation - Join this important webinar presented jointly by MCPS, the Montgomery County Police Department, the United States Department of Justice, the United States Department of Homeland Security, and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children on ***Tuesday, June 10, from 6:00-7:30 p.m.*** Please see the [linked flyer](#) for complete details.

Boundary Study - Tell Us What You Think - Please see the [MCPS Community Message](#) for complete details on how you can provide feedback on the Boundary Study.

Please see the Thursday Things to Know for [June 5](#) and the Board of Education (BOE) update on [May 23](#) for updates from MCPS.

Save-the-Dates

As the year progresses, I will keep you informed of upcoming dates and school wide events. Please make sure you have saved the following dates in your calendars; more details will follow as we get closer to the events.

- Final Day for Period 8 - Monday, June 9
- Early Release for Students - June 13, 16, and 17
- Final Day for Staff and Students - June 17
- Homecoming Weekend, 2025: October 3 (Game) and October 4 (Dance)

Please see the [MCPS calendar](#) for all holidays, professional days, and early release days. In addition, please find previous weekly messages at [this link](#). You can find our communicated policies at [this link](#).

Falcons Fly High!

Sincerely,

Mark A. Carothers

Principal

240-740-2400

Mark_A_Carothers@mcpsmd.org

[Instagram](#)