

Poolesville Students, Staff, and Families,

"If your actions create a legacy that inspires others to dream more, learn more, do more, and become more, then, you are an excellent leader." — Dolly Parton

This is a full, five-day week at Poolesville High School. We will have an adjusted schedule on Monday, March 10, so students can participate in an Artist Residency program sponsored by our PTSA and complete the required Maryland School Survey. Information for both can be found in the body of this message. The spring ***Meet the Coach night will be held on March 13th at 6:30, beginning the auditorium.*** We would like at least 1 parent/guardian of the student-athlete to attend to hear the important information. Let's make it a great week, Falcons! Please see our [2024-25 Student Support Contacts](#) link if you need support.

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### **This Week's Schedule**

- **Monday**, March 10 - Adjusted Assembly Schedule - Triple Second Period with Cultural Arts Assembly and the Maryland State Survey (see below)
- **Tuesday**, March 11 - Standard Bell Schedule
- **Wednesday**, March 12 - Advisory Schedule
- **Thursday**, March 13 - Standard Bell Schedule
- **Friday**, March 14 - Standard Bell 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 Mr. Sparrow for winning the MCPS Paraeducator of the Year Award! The [MCPS press release](#) states, “John Sparrow has dedicated nearly all of his 39 years with MCPS to the Global Ecology Program, becoming the ‘heart and soul’ of the program at Poolesville High School. He is deeply involved in every aspect of the program, from driving the bus and planning itineraries to setting up tents, preparing meals and managing equipment. He works closely with multiple agencies to ensure that each field trip connects classroom learning to real-world environmental experiences. Beyond the logistics, he fosters meaningful relationships with the 400 students in the program, supporting their growth by arranging mentors, coaching sports, and seeking out programs and internships to guide students in their next steps.” We are extremely fortunate to have Mr. Sparrow as not only a member of our Falcon Family but also a member of our overall Poolesville Cluster and community.

Congratulations to Mr. Kingman for being the recipient of the 2025 Excellence in Mentoring Award from ScienceMONTGOMERY. Mr. Kingman will be honored with this award at the Montgomery County Science Fair Awards Ceremony on Sunday, April 6.

Congratulations to Agneya Tharun for his designation as a Coca-Cola Scholar-select! After attending Scholars Weekend in Atlanta in April, Agneya will be named an official Coca-Cola Scholar, recognized as a student that exemplifies superior leadership, service, and academics, while also being a change agent that positively affects others in our community. Less than 1% of applicants are selected for this extremely competitive award, which includes a \$20,000 college scholarship. You can read more about Agneya’s achievement at [this link](#).

Congratulations to Mr. Rogoza and the PHS Orchestra! Our Orchestra earned perfect 1 ratings in every single category, which is extremely rare. This achievement is even more impressive considering this is the first year of an orchestra-only class for Mr. Rogoza. Their perfect score earns them a place at the state-level competition. Great job, Falcons!

Congratulations to Jonathan Shan for his 1st place finish in the 2025 Maryland Aviation Art Contest! Jonathan's original artwork, "Women Who Redrew the Sky," has been forwarded to the National Association of State Officials for judging in the national contest.

Congratulations to all Falcons who participated in the Montgomery County National History Day competition. Poolesville High School dominated the Senior Category across the board. All students will be advancing to the Maryland State Competition in a few weeks. Please be sure to congratulate [these students](#) for their outstanding performance.

PHS utilizes a Within Our Walls (W.O.W.) celebration form to recognize those who make Poolesville 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:

- Percy Chadwick
- Mr. Fitzgerald
- Amelie Garrison
- Ms. Gomer
- Mr. Kingman
- Ananya Ramesh
- Isa Rincon-Noble
- Ms. Scott
- Mr. Snow
- Megan Stallard
- Noah Vien

#### **Bell Schedule - Monday, March 10**

- **Period 1** 7:45-8:10
- **Period 2A** 8:15-9:05
- **Period 2B** 9:05-9:55
- **Period 2C** 9:55-10:45
- **Period 3** 10:50-11:20
- **Period 4** 11:25-11:55
- **LUNCH** 11:55-12:45
- **Period 5** 12:50-1:20
- **Period 6** 1:25-1:55
- **Period 7** 2:00-2:30
- **Period 8** 2:37-3:25

#### **Cultural Artist Residency Assembly - Monday, March 10**

This week, Poolesville will welcome the [Shakespeare in the Schools Educational Theatre Company](#) as this year's Cultural Artists in Residence. They will perform a scene from *A Midsummer Night's Dream* during an assembly on Monday, and then teams of educators from the troupe will work with individual English classes over the rest of the week. These Improv Paraphrase workshops will help build a bridge between the classical text and modern meaning, and students will make direct connections to the universal themes of Shakespeare's works through performance. Thanks to our amazing PTSA for making these events possible!

### **Maryland School Survey - Monday, March 10**

State law requires that all public schools in Maryland survey students about school climate. The purpose of the survey is to gain valuable information about the quality and character of each school's learning environment so that schools can promote a climate that supports student learning. PHS students in grades 9-11 will take the Maryland School Survey during 2nd period on March 10. The survey will ask students about topics such as student engagement, interactions with adults and with other students in the school, the school environment, bullying, and safety. The survey will not ask about a student's personal experiences, and students will not be asked to provide any information that might violate their privacy. The survey is confidential and school personnel will not have access to the responses of specific students. The responses your child provides will be combined with the responses from other students in the school, and results will be reported for each school and district. We are eager to receive this very important information about your student's school and about schools across the state.

### **Chromebook Deactivation - Starting Monday, March 10**

Per MCPS memo, starting 3/10, "As part of our ongoing efforts to maintain an accurate inventory of student devices, we will begin deactivating Chromebooks that have been inactive for 90 consecutive days." Students should only be bringing their MCPS devices to school. Students must have their MCPS device for all district, state, and national (such as AP) exams. Students may find their device is deactivated when they sit for these exams if they have been primarily using a personal device. To keep this from happening and a rush of students needing Chromebooks activated on test days, please refrain from allowing students to use personal devices in classes. This is a reminder that personal devices fall under the same [PHS policy](#) as cell phones and should be treated as such.

### **Student Arrival/Dismissal Reminders**

**Parents**, the *only* safe and appropriate location for student drop-off and pick-up is in the South Lot. This area is monitored by PHS Security and Administration. We have received several reports of parents dropping off and picking up their children on Wootton Avenue, which is causing an unsafe situation where children are almost struck by other vehicles. Our school staff is unable to monitor this off-site location, so I have requested a police presence in this area to

discourage these unsafe practices. Please keep your children safe by following school expectations for arrival and dismissal.

***Students***, please remember: due to ongoing construction in our lot, we are implementing a temporary change to the student parking procedure. Effective immediately, all student drivers must pull into parking spaces instead of backing in when arriving in the morning. This adjustment is necessary to prevent traffic congestion caused by the high volume of vehicles entering at the same time, including student drop-offs, staff parking, and student parking. This change will remain in effect until construction is complete. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in helping keep traffic flowing smoothly.

### **Seniors - Graduation Google Form**

Class of 2025, please complete the [linked Google Form](#) to let us know of all your graduation needs, such as *ticket requests, translation needs, special seating, correct pronunciation of your name, etc.* Currently, only 118 seniors have completed this necessary form. Thank you to those 118 graduating Falcons, and I encourage the rest of our seniors to complete the form as soon as possible *with their parent/guardian*.

### **Spring Game Changer Conference**

Unity Christian Fellowship, Inc. will host its semi-annual Game Changer Conference on ***Saturday, April 5, 2025***, from 8:00 a.m.–noon at the Montgomery College—Germantown Campus. The conference theme is "Achievement to Thrive in 2025 is a Game Changer! What are your goals for winning your future?" The goal is to allow students to succeed as a game changer. The target audience is Black or African American and Hispanic male students of color in Grades 4–12. There will be separate sessions for elementary, middle, and high school students. In addition, parent workshops will be held every half hour (beginning at 8:00 a.m. and the last session ending at noon). A continental breakfast will be provided. Although there is no charge for registration, all participants are asked to register in advance [here](#). Transportation will not be provided. There will be an [essay writing competition](#) for students to improve their writing skills and better prepare them for school and college essay writing. Students are encouraged to write and submit a 300-word essay based on the theme, "Achievement to Thrive in 2025 is a Game Changer! What are your goals for winning your future?" Submissions are due by Monday, March 24. Please see the [parent letter](#) for complete details.

### **Prom Dress Give-a-Way**

Clarksburg Closet and other organizations are sponsoring a Prom Dress Give-a-Way on Saturday, March 15, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Cedarbrook Community Church. Every teen girl who attends will be permitted to select one free “like new” dress. Please see the [linked flyer](#) for complete details.

### **MVA Driver's Permit Testing at PHS**

The MVA is coming to PHS! If you are at least 15 years and 9 months of age, and you would like to get your permit, the MVA will be at Poolesville High School on ***April 9 at 2:30 pm*** in the ***College and Career Center***. In order to take the test, you need to pick up a permission slip in the main office, and ***return it no later than Tuesday, April 1. No late forms will be accepted.*** The permission slip must have a "wet signature"; no e-signatures will be accepted. Also, no electronic copies or pictures of the permission slip will be accepted. The max number of people able to be tested is 45. If you require the test to be in another language or you have an extra time accommodation, please indicate that on the form. After you turn in the form, be sure to show up at the College and Career Center promptly to begin the test. Results will be shared at the conclusion of the test. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Mr. Young at [Terry W Young@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Terry_W_Young@mcpsmd.org).

### **Women in Aeronautics and Astronautics (WIAA)**

The Women in Aeronautics and Astronautics (WIAA) organization at the University of Maryland is excited to be hosting a FREE online program where current high school students will have the opportunity to ask questions to current UMD aerospace engineering students that are a part of WIAA. This free event is open to any current high school students who are interested in learning more about aerospace engineering and attending the University of Maryland. ***This meeting will occur on Monday, March 10, from 4pm to 5pm.*** Anyone interested in attending should fill out the [linked form](#), so that we can get into contact with participants regarding meeting details. The Zoom link will be sent out on March 10 before the event.

This year, WIAA will be hosting high school and middle school students, accompanied by a parent, for WIAA Day 2025 on ***Saturday, March 29, from 8:15 am - 4:30 pm***. This event is designed to inspire and empower future female aerospace engineers, although it is open to all genders for registration. WIAA Day provides a great opportunity for young students to learn about aerospace in a relaxed and welcoming environment. This event will include speeches from females in the aerospace industry, aerospace lab demonstrations, and a chance for students to work in teams to complete design competitions and activities. Parents will also participate in these aforementioned activities, with additional presentations from various University departments and representatives. The event is free and participants will be supplied with a T-Shirt and lunch. The link to sign up can be found [here](#). We are asking for ***RSVPs by March 4th***. Please feel free to email [wiaaterps@gmail.com](mailto:wiaaterps@gmail.com) with any questions.

### **Finding Calm in the Chaos: Navigating Anxiety and Stress with Teens - March 11**

The Upcounty Prevention Network (UPN) has partnered with the John Poole Middle School (JPMS) PTSA to host Karen Crist, a clinical social worker, who will talk about how to identify signs of anxiety in teens. Ms. Crist will discuss different responses to stress and how this shows up in thoughts, feelings, and behavior. Ms. Crist will also offer some practical tips for how

parents can support teens and help build resilience, including a time for questions and answers. Please see the [linked flyer](#) for complete information about this special Parents' Night.

### **Signs of Suicide (SOS) Prevention Program - Final Week**

The Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) remains committed to sharing information and resources about mental health topics that could potentially impact students. MCPS is enhancing its suicide prevention curriculum using the Signs of Suicide® (SOS®) Prevention Program. Currently, MCPS uses the Red Flags suicide prevention curriculum to discuss this topic in Health courses. The SOS® Program is a youth suicide prevention program that has demonstrated an improvement in students' knowledge and adaptive attitudes towards suicide risk and depression, as well as a reduction in actual suicide attempts. The SOS® Program will be implemented between February 25th to March 14th. *Please see the linked [SOS Parent letter](#) for more information.*

### **Booster Club Winter and Spring Fundraisers**

The Poolesville High School Booster Club is an organization whose primary mission is to raise money to support and supplement the athletic program at PHS. Our student-athletes have responded by representing their school in an extraordinary manner — with class, sportsmanship, and effort.

This winter Poolesville High School's gymnasium is under construction. There will not be any opportunity to raise funds at athletic events as all games will be held at opponents' schools. To help offset this lost fundraising revenue, the Booster Club will be conducting several fundraisers, including a raffle. Each purchase directly contributes to our efforts in making a meaningful impact for our student athletes. Please visit our [Fundraising website](#) to learn about the fundraiser campaigns and to place your order.

**2025 PHS Mulch Sale ([Flyer](#)):** Order *deadline is March 11*, and delivery date is March 15, with free delivery for any quantities ordered to homes in Poolesville. Free delivery on orders of 10 bags or more to locations in Barnesville, Beallsville, Boyds, Dickerson, and Darnestown. Follow [the link](#) to place an order or order by phone at 240-994-4310 (Mr. Jeff Oyer).

**Buy a Brick ([Flyer](#)):** Here is your chance to leave your legacy at Poolesville High School. Purchase a personalized brick paver that will be installed permanently at the stadium. All families, friends, alumni and local businesses are invited to be a part of this great event! Honor your student, alumni, business, in memory of a loved one, or recognize your favorite teacher or staff member. Orders will be accepted through the end of April so don't delay!



We appreciate your consideration to support the Booster Club in its efforts to enhance the stadium area. Your thoughtful purchase of a brick is a way to become an everlasting part of PHS history. All proceeds will benefit the Booster Club's support of the athletic program.

### **PTSA Update**

**PTSA is sponsoring a Cultural Arts experience** for ALL students this week. Students will see the Shakespearean play, "A Midsummer Night's Dream" in the new auditorium, and will participate in workshops to enrich and enhance their understanding of Shakespeare. Thank you Amanda Graver (PTSA) and Lisa Marshall (PHS) for coordinating the opportunity and the logistics.

Please [support this year's Post Prom](#) party so that our students have a fun and safe place to celebrate together after the prom.

**PHS PTSA Mini Grants Program (MGP) is LIVE and accepting applications!** By providing financial support, the MGP aims to empower students, teachers, and staff to implement creative initiatives that benefit the school community. Students, teachers, and staff are encouraged to apply! Applications are accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis. Find the MGP description, rubric, and application [HERE](#).

[Join](#) our **March PTSA meeting on Tuesday, 3/18 @ 7PM**. The meeting is open to everyone and students who attend can receive SSL hours. Upcoming spring testing will be among the topics discussed. MISA, MCAP ELA 10, MCAP Algebra, MCAP Government, APs, and more are on the horizon. Note that the MCAP Government and the Life Science MISA tests count towards students' final grades.

**Montgomery County Council of PTAs (MCCPTA) voted to approve the [Healthy Sleep for Adolescents resolution](#)** based on feedback from local PTSA members around the county. MCCPTA will forward the resolution to MCPS and the BOE and will advocate for its consideration. Thank you to our PHS PTSA Delegate, SooAnn Roberts, for her support.

### **MoCo CAP - Worlds of Work Event**

MoCo CAP is gearing up to host a Worlds of Work (WoW) event March 17, 18 and 20 at the MC Rockville campus. This innovative career exploration experience will welcome approximately 2,000 MCPS middle school students, providing them with hands-on exposure to diverse career paths and industries as part of the innovative MoCo CAP initiative. By establishing a presence at WoW, you can showcase your industry, network with other employers, get your name in front of over 200,000 Montgomery County parents and connect with potential future employees early on in their career journeys. If you are interested in participating, please email Ms. Michaela Clement [michaela\\_m\\_clement@mcpsmd.org](mailto:michaela_m_clement@mcpsmd.org).



### **Athletics Updates**

***Congratulations*** to all the wrestlers who competed in the MPSSAA 2A/1A MD State Championship. The athletes had a great weekend and represented PHS in a positive fashion. Thank you all for a terrific season. Three wrestlers placed in the top 6 in the state for the 2A/1A:

- 4th Place - Zoya Wexler 175lbs
- 5th Place - Alina Fang 110lbs
- 6th Place - Shimma Wexler 165lbs

***Congratulations*** to our Girls Basketball team on a terrific season. The Falcons ended their season on Monday in the Regional Quarterfinals. Thank you for representing PHS in such a positive way.

The spring pre-season is going well with all the teams preparing for their first contest. Spring contests will begin on March 21st. Come out and support the spring teams. The spring ***Meet the Coach night will be held on March 13th at 6:30 beginning the auditorium. We would like at least 1 parent/guardian of the student-athlete to attend to hear the important information.*** The JV Girls lacrosse team is looking for more players. If you are interested in joining the team, register on parentvue in synergy and have an updated physical. No experience necessary.

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](mailto:Regina_R_Grubb@mcpsmd.org)) with any questions.

### **College and Career Center Updates**

***Class of 2025 The Poolersville Local Scholarships are now available.*** Please see Ms. DeOto in the Career Center, room 2004, for their applications.

Please follow [this link](#) for information concerning the NACAC National College Fair on April 8-9.

***2025 NAACP SCHOLARSHIP*** application is now open. The Montgomery County Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) will award \$1,000 scholarships to students residing in Montgomery County. Please follow the links for the NAACP [Information Checklist and Eligibility Information](#) and the [Application](#). **Eligibility**

#### **Requirements:**

- Must be a graduating high school senior.
- Must have a grade point average or a weighted grade point average of 3.0 or above.

- Must participate in extracurricular activities.
- Must participate in faith-based, religious-based, or volunteer activities. If this is not possible because of paid employment, please explain.
- Completed scholarship application due by ***Friday, March 21, 2025.***

This week hosts a visit from a PHS Alumni giving a presentation on their experiences in the Merchant Marines. 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](mailto:Rosalie_A_DeOto@mcpsmd.org)) with any questions.

### **SSL Updates**

The ***deadline*** to turn in forms to earn the Certificate of Meritorious Service, 240 or more SSL hours, is ***April 4, 2025.***

Please see [SSL Opportunities](#) for additional information. Please contact Ms. Martin ([Barbara\\_J\\_Martin@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Barbara_J_Martin@mcpsmd.org)) with any questions.

### **Construction Updates**

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

#### ***Sitework:***

- Continue piping install & bio-pond built-up at main entrance of South Parking lot.

#### ***Auditorium Area:***

- Continue working on punchlist items.

#### ***Media Center Area:***

- Complete swinging steel in Area-C.
- Start framing at Media Center/TV Studio location.
- Continue utility rough-in above ceiling.

#### ***Main Gym Area:***

- Continue applying Blueskin & Air barrier at openings and joints.
- Install roof on canopy at health room suite.
- Cut slab to pour footing near locker rooms
- Continue installing panels at Aux Gym walls on roof.
- Continue installing Structural steel at Gym.
- Continue misc metals install in locker rooms.
- Continue brick veneer/facade built-up.
- Start wash down of brick façade @ South elevation of Athletic Storage room.

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**

Please see the Thursday Things to Know for [March 6](#) and the Board of Education (BOE) update on [February 21](#) 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.

- Temporary [Traffic Pattern](#) - November 18-TBD
- *Little Shop of Horrors* - PHS Midnight Players' Spring Drama Production - April 3-4 (7:00 p.m.), April 5 (2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.)
- **Deadline** to turn in forms to earn the Certificate of Meritorious Service (240 or more SSL hours) - April 4
- Junior/Senior Prom - Friday, May 16 - *City of Stars* at the Hyatt Regency in Bethesda
- Class of 2025 Commencement Ceremony - Thursday, June 5 at 10:00 a.m.

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

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[Instagram](#)