

Poolesville Students, Staff, and Families,

"The beautiful thing about learning is that no one can take it away from you." — B.B. King

I want to begin this week by thanking all of our staff and students who contributed to a successful 2025 prom event this weekend. Our Falcons looked incredible, and I loved watching all the fun and smiles on the dance floor. Thank you, also, to our incredible PTSA for hosting such a fun, as well as safe, Post Prom event. There was an amazing selection of door prizes and lots of activities for attending students. Truly a memorable night for our entire school community.

This week is a bittersweet week at Poolesville High School, as it is the seniors' final week of their high school career. The last day for seniors is Friday, May 23. Seniors received information regarding senior clearance at their recent senior meeting. We look forward to celebrating our seniors' contributions to PHS and their individual and collective success at Senior Awards Night on May 21 and the Class of 2025 graduation on June 5. Seniors, as you complete your final week, please be sure to continue to demonstrate your excellence and strive toward your goals each and every day.

This week is a full, five-day week at Poolesville High School. There are no schedule adjustments. Please note: ***there is no Period 8 on Friday, May 23.*** As a result, there will not be any 4:30 buses, and all students will be expected to take their 2:30 bus routes home at dismissal. Please see our [2024-25 Student Support Contacts](#) link if you need support.

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This Week's Schedule

- **Monday**, May 19 - Standard Bell Schedule
- **Tuesday**, May 20 - Standard Bell Schedule
- **Wednesday**, May 21 - Advisory Schedule
- **Thursday**, May 22 - Standard Bell Schedule
- **Friday**, May 23 - Standard Bell Schedule - No 8th Period or 4:30 transportation

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 [Nathaly Lemus Diaz](#) for her [recognition](#) as a Distinguished Hispanic Scholar at the Hispanic Alliance for Education 29th Annual [celebration](#).

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:

- Zachy Abbasi
- Hanna Ariannejad
- Arav Assija
- Gabe Chacon
- Mr. Dobbs
- Noah Graham-Marsh
- Utkrisht Gupta
- Kaitlyn Hartings
- Ms. Heaton
- Charles Hu
- Alex Kijewski
- Rishab Kumar
- Ms. Marshall
- Natalie Martin
- Kayla McCloskey
- Mr. Rice
- Ella Wei

Yearbook Distribution

Yearbook Distribution will begin **May 19th** for **Seniors** and will run through **Friday, May 23rd**. Seniors who ordered a yearbook should report to room **1324** during **lunch** where a member of the Yearbook team will distribute their copy.

Distribution for **underclassmen** (9th-11th graders) will begin **Monday, May 26th** and will run through **Friday, June 13th**.

Interested in purchasing a yearbook? Copies are still available for purchase at [this link](#)! The 2025 Poolesville Echo will include a **Spring Supplement** in place of a Spring section. By offering a Spring Supplement, we were able to gather material later in the Spring to dedicate more time to working on the Spring pages, creating a more accurate chronicle of events later in the year. The Supplement is included at no extra cost and is distributed with the yearbook upon pickup!

PTSA Meeting - This Tuesday!

[Join us on Tuesday, May 20 @ 7PM](#) for the last virtual PTSA meeting of the school year. Get updates on senior activities and the revised construction timeline. We'll also hold PTSA elections AND we'll welcome the return of Amy Smith of Power Hour Editing!

Special guest Amy Smith of Power Hour Editing will join our PTSA meeting on Tuesday to provide loads of awesome advice for parents and students! Learn how to find and communicate your WOW Factor in your college essay writing. You don't want to miss this! Click [HERE](#) to receive a free essay planner and to register to receive additional materials from Amy after the event. Thank you for your support!

Additional Boundary Study Engagement Sessions Soon

In case you missed it, MCPS will be hosting additional boundary study engagement sessions. We invite you to participate in the upcoming engagement sessions focused on the reopening of Charles W. Woodward High School, the opening of Crown High School and the expansion of Damascus High School. These sessions will cover the initial options for each study and share how potential changes may affect families with middle and high school students beginning in the 2027 school year.

There are multiple dates and ways to engage in these sessions. For more information, dates and locations, visit the boundary study website at mcpsmd.info/BoundaryStudy. Project staff will share the process and the data that explain the formulation of these initial options. **Note:** Elementary school assignments do not change as part of this study. ***Sessions will include maps with initial boundary options and a tool to use your home address to discover any changes to school assignments.***

Academic Programs Analysis - Survey Extended

Your Input is Needed! Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) is conducting a study to ensure that high school students have equitable access to high-quality academic programs that reflect the needs of our student community, enabling them to thrive in their futures and meet the

demands of tomorrow's workplace and industries. The changes made as part of this analysis will create a lasting foundation for many years, so we want to hear from all families, including those whose children are not yet in high school. Your feedback is very important to ensure that the needs of all students are considered. As part of this effort, we invite all families to complete this short [survey](#). The survey will take no more than 5 minutes.

Mindfulness, Meditation, and Pizza - Monday, May 19

Please join the PHS Counseling Services department for Mindfulness, Meditation and Pizza on Monday, May 19th at lunch. Please see the [Flyer](#) for details.

Teen Mental Health First-Aid

JSSA is offering a **Teen Mental Health First Aid** training designed to empower young people with the skills to support their peers and themselves. This engaging, evidence-based course helps teens recognize the signs of mental health or substance use challenges and how to seek help from a trusted adult. ***Participants who complete all sessions will receive a \$100 gift card.*** Please see below for the ***training details:***

- **Dates:** May 27, May 29, and June 3
- **Time:** 4:30–6:00 PM (attendance at all three sessions is required)
- **Location:** JSSA – 200 Wood Hill Rd., Rockville, MD 20850 (3rd floor Board Room)
- **Registration Link:** <https://jssa.jotform.com/242384857493066>

Athletics Updates

We had a terrific week in Regional competitions for tennis and track and field this past week. The teams will be competing in the MD State Championship this coming week.

- Tennis -2A West REGIONAL CHAMPIONS 🏆
- Tennis - Individual Champions
 - Ruhika Bhat - 1st Singles
 - Andy Wu - 1st Singles
 - William Chen & Akshaj Mareddy - Doubles
 - Pranitha Kanuparthi & Kyra McGlinchey - Doubles
- Track and Field - Great showing and many qualified for State Championship.
 - Teegan Bandholz - Shot Put
 - Roma Diak & Anna McCrae - 3200m
 - Keegan Slonski - 300m IH & High Jump
 - Eric Hoeger - 800m
 - Isaiah Valmonte - Discus
 - Boys & Girls 4x800m
 - And many more!

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

All SSL forms for the 2024-2025 school year are *due by May 30*.

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 & installing storm & sanitary lines in East side.

Media Center Area:

- Continue wall & parapet framing.
- Continue installing hangers & utilities.
- Continue applying intumescent fireproofing @ exposed columns.
- Continue fireproofing onsite.
- Continue roofing.
- Continue air barrier & Blueskin along with masonry veneer facade.

Main Gym Area:

- Continue installing hangers & utilities.
- Continue misc. metals install in locker rooms.
- Continue painting
- Continue wall panel installation
- Continue installing lockers in locker room areas.
- Start installing gym equipment in gym.
- Continue installing door/storefront framing in gym.
- Continue duct installation in gym

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 [MCPS Community Message](#) concerning a current, Dangerous TikTok Challenge circulating among our students.

Please see the Thursday Things to Know for [May 15](#) and the Board of Education (BOE) update on [May 9](#) 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.

- No School for Staff and Students - Memorial Day - Monday, May 26
- All SSL Forms due - Friday, May 30
- Class of 2025 Commencement Ceremony - Thursday, June 5 at 10:00 a.m.
- Professional Day for Teachers - No School for Students - Friday, June 6
- 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

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[Instagram](#)