



Week of 11/10-11/16/2024

Poolesville Students, Staff, and Families,

"The legacy of heroes is the memory of a great name and the inheritance of a great example." -- Benjamin Disraeli

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I want to begin this week's message with a statement of gratitude. As you know, tomorrow is Veterans' Day. I want to take this opportunity to thank the veterans in our community and on our staff. I am grateful for your service to our country, and the personal sacrifices you have made in that service. Thank you.

This is a five-day week at Poolesville High School with no adjusted schedules. We will have an Advisory on Wednesday, November 13. During this Advisory, students will receive their report cards from the first marking period. In addition, they will be required to complete a survey on the Student Experience at PHS; this survey allows students the opportunity to provide feedback to PHS leadership in order to continue to offer a high-level high school experience for all of our Falcons. As a reminder, please see our [2024-25 Student Support Contacts](#) link if you need support.

This Week's Schedule

- **Monday**, November 11 - Standard Bell Schedule
- **Tuesday**, November 12 - Standard Bell Schedule
- **Wednesday**, November 13 - Advisory Schedule - Report Card Distribution and Student Experience Survey
- **Thursday**, November 14 - Standard Bell Schedule
- **Friday**, November 15 - 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 the PHS Model United Nations (UN) Team for their performance at this weekend's Model UN Conference at Mt. Hebron High School. Delegates from Poolesville High School debated in a variety of committees, from geopolitical issues like conflict in the South China Sea, to historical events like WW1, and even a Harry Potter fictional committee. Our Falcons won 11 different awards! Congratulations to Ms. Snavelly, the students below, and all students who participated.

- Neil Panchal - Best Delegate in 2050 UN Space Council
- Saayuj Nair - Outstanding Delegate in Ad Hoc (World War 1)
- Clara Park - Outstanding Delegate in South China Sea General Assembly
- Heewon Seo - Honourable Delegate AND Best Position Paper in South China Sea General Assembly
- Adi Arunkumar - Honourable Delegate in Harry Potter: Ministry of Magic
- Shreyas Sasanakoti - Honourable Delegate in Ad Hoc (World War 1)
- Mohammad Taariq Ashkar Ali - Best Position Paper AND Verbal Commendation in 2050 UN Space Council
- Nuha Razak - Best Position Paper in UN Security Council
- Ravi Iyer - Verbal Commendation in Ad Hoc (World War 1)

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 Falcons received shout-outs this past week:

- Paloma Barron-Pompa
- Ms. Binns
- Conor Brennan
- Ms. Lao
- Charles Zhao

Virtual Financial Aid Night - Updated with Webinar Link!

_The Counseling Services Department would like to invite all 12th-grade students and parents/ guardians to join us on Thursday, November 14, at 6:30 PM for Financial Aid Night. The Associate Director of Financial Aid from Hood College will explain how to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and will provide information about the overall financial aid process. Please use this [Webinar link](#) and Passcode 302260 to join us.

PTSA Updates

[JOIN the PTSA](#) by 11/15 for a chance to win Falcon wear! Your membership helps support students and staff throughout the year.

Reflections Competition: You've got talent--so share it! Submit your original work to the Reflections Arts Program competition by December 1, 2024. There are six entrance categories: dance choreography, literature, music composition, photography, visual arts, and film production. This year's theme is "Accepting Imperfection." [Click here](#) to learn more.

It's time for PIE! PTSA is hosting Pie Day for PHS staff on Monday 11/11. If you'd like to contribute, please click [here](#).

Be sure to join us for the [11/19 virtual PTSA meeting](#) @ 7pm. We're coordinating a special facilitated event around civic engagement. Stay tuned for more info.

Are you a junior or senior? The Post Prom committee wants your input to make this year's after-party one to remember. Email PoolesvillePostProm@gmail.com and earn SSL hours for your feedback.

REMINDER - Temporary Traffic Pattern - Begins November 18

_As part of the ongoing construction work, there will be a **temporary** change in access to the south lot. Beginning

Monday, November 18, the entrance to the south lot will be temporarily closed for approximately three weeks. As a result, all members of the school community, including buses, will enter the bus loop. Student, staff, and parent traffic will go right into the south lot, and our MCPS buses will follow the normal traffic pattern in the bus loop. You can review the traffic diagram at [this link](#).

“Meet a Pro” Career Events - Call for Support

Ms. Michaela Clement, the Career Advising Coach, is seeking professionals from various fields to participate in our upcoming "Meet A Pro" career exploration events. These events provide students the opportunity to learn about different career paths directly from experts in their fields. We are currently looking for professionals in the following areas:

- Engineering
- Business
- Medicine (Doctor)
- Law
- Athletics
- Art
- Education

If you are a professional in one of these fields and would be willing to share your insights with interested students, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Ms. Clement at michaela_m_clement@mcpsmd.org for more details or to express your interest. Thank you for considering this opportunity to inspire and guide the next generation of professionals!

Federal Impact Aid Survey

In connection with Title VII of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (Impact Aid), the United States Department of Education funds school districts that have many students with parents or guardians connected to the federal government and live on certain federal housing properties. The purpose of the funds is to reimburse school districts for the loss of property taxes from tax-exempt federal properties. The amount of funds received is based on the number of completed surveys received from parents or guardians who are on active duty with the uniformed services, employed on federal property, reside in federal or public housing, and/or are a foreign government military officer. The [completed form](#) is due December 6, 2024.

Honor Your Hero on Veterans' Day

The National Honor Society at PHS wants to Honor your Hero this Veterans Day. Honor your Hero with an American Flag On Veteran's Day! Honor Veterans, Active-Duty Military, Police, Firefighters, First Responders, Teachers, or a person YOU consider to be YOUR hero. Your flag will be placed at Poolesville High School on Monday, November 11th until Friday November 22nd. Each flag will display a tag recording the Hero's name and the Sponsor's name. The cost to sponsor a flag is \$5. All proceeds from this service project will be used to aid active-duty military members. PHS National Honor Society students will assemble care packages and send them overseas for the holidays. If you know an active-duty service member, please include their name and current location. We would LOVE to send them a package! See [linked flyer](#) for details, including how to submit your information and pay for the flag(s).

Poolesville Community Veterans' Day Ceremony

The Poolesville American Legion Post's 247 will be conducting a Veteran's Day Ceremony at Whalen Commons on Monday, 11 November beginning at 10:50AM. All are welcome to attend to honor past and present Poolesville area residents, as well as all of our country's men and women, who have served in one of the armed forces of the United States of America during peacetime and wartime.

Athletics Updates

_CONGRATULATIONS to the Boys Cross Country team, the 2A Maryland State Finalist. They ran an outstanding race with two runners finishing in the Top 10: Connor Kohne (6th) and Garrett Simons (9th)

Registration for Winter Athletics is OPEN! Registration is open through ParentVue on Synergy and closes on **Monday, November 11, at 5:00 p.m.**

The 2024 Fall season has officially ended. Congratulations to all the PHS Teams, athletes and coaches. We are so proud to have you representing our athletic department in an outstanding fashion. Thank you to the dedicated parents/guardians, families, students, friends, and community members who have supported our student-athletes throughout the season. Your positive support helps to make Poolesville a great place to be. We are looking forward to you showing off your Falcon Spirit as we head into the winter season. 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

_Seniors, please see the College and Career Center Updates (linked below) for **TWO On-Site Admission Events** on November 13 and December 3. You can also use [this link](#) to register.

College and career visits this week include Marymount University and Maryland Institute College of Art. 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 installation of underground piping & storm structures.
- Complete all work at North section of South parking lot.

Auditorium Area:

- Painting in Auditorium Wing.
- Auditorium Mechanical Unit startup.
- Wood paneling backup installation in Auditorium
- Continue swinging new metal doors in Auditorium Wing.
- Drop sprinkler heads
- Continue installation of Wall Panel System above Auditorium Roof.

CTE Rooms:

- Install framing above ceiling for cord reels in rooms 1602, 1620, 1622.
- Install all Owner supplied equipment & dust collector system in room 1622.

Media Center Area:

- Continue grading for building pad.
- Start excavation for footing.
- MEP Rough-in & Install Hangers

- Continue framing in restroom areas.

Main Gym Area:

- Demo duct openings, Install new ductwork.
- MEP Rough-in & Install Hangers
- Pour Concrete slab in Area-E (Weather Dependent).

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

MCPS is hosting a series of listening sessions to discuss the Fiscal Year 2026 Operating Budget. Join MCPS leadership to share your insights on what should be prioritized in the operating budget for next year. Your voice is important and we encourage you to ask questions and engage in the conversation. RSVP to the forums:

- Monday, Nov. 11, 6:30–8 p.m., James Hubert Blake High School, 300 Norwood Road Silver Spring. [RSVP](#)
- Monday, Nov. 18, 6:30–7:30 p.m., Spanish session through Facebook Live on [MCPS en Español Facebook](#)
- Thursday, Nov. 21, 6:30–8 p.m., Clarksburg High School, 22500 Wims Road Clarksburg. [RSVP](#)

Spanish interpretation and American Sign Language (ASL) services will be provided. Can't attend an in-person engagement session? You can leave your feedback [on this form](#).

Thursday Things to Know - [November 7](#)

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.

- Underclassmen Pictures Make-Up - November 14
- Virtual Financial Aid Night - November 14
- Temporary [Traffic Pattern](#) - November 18-December 13
- *Puffs* - Fall Play Production by the Midnight Players - November 21-23
- Parent-Teacher Conferences - November 25 - Details in next week's message!
- FINAL Senior Picture [Make-ups](#) - December 5 & 6
- Final Day to order Senior [Yearbook Ads](#) - Friday, January 31 2025
- Junior/Senior Prom - Friday, May 16 - Details forthcoming
- 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

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[Instagram](#)