



Week of 09/29-10/05/2024

Poolesville Students, Staff, and Families,

"Be brave. Take risks. Nothing can substitute experience." -- Paulo Coelho

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I want to begin this week by thanking Ms. Sibrian and the Hispanic Heritage Association (HHA) for the music, dance party, and overall celebration of Hispanic Heritage month this past week. It is always special when a celebration is able to bring students of all demographics together and reinforce our positive, inclusive, and welcoming student community.

This is an abbreviated week at Poolesville High School. Students and staff do not have classes on Thursday, October 3; all MCPS offices will be open. As a result of the abbreviated week, we will not have Falcon Time or Advisory this week and will operate on a standard bell schedule for all four instructional days. In addition, beginning Monday, September 30, we begin our next phase of enforcement of ensuring all students are visibly wearing their IDs during the school day; please see details below.

This Week's Schedule

- **Monday**, September 30 - Standard Bell Schedule
- **Tuesday**, October 1 - Standard Bell Schedule
- **Wednesday**, October 2 - Standard Bell Schedule - No Advisory or Falcon Time due to the abbreviated week.
- **Thursday**, October 3 - Non-Instructional Day - No school for staff or students; Offices open.
- **Friday**, October 4 - 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

_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:

- Zachy Abbasi
- Ms. Adah
- Sevval Aydin
- Lauren Briggs
- Mr. Carothers
- Drew Consolla
- Ayanna D'Souza
- Leela Desai
- Mr. Dobbs
- Mr. Estep
- Mr. Fitzgerald
- Amelie Garrison
- Mr. Garrison
- Ms. Gomer
- Mr. Hand
- Claire Hartings
- Thandiwe Hobbs
- Mr. Kanach
- Brent Korzeniewski
- Natalie Martin
- Hitansh Mathur
- Vir Mattu
- Kayla McCloskey
- Jaden Mekede
- Carter Ortiz
- Shalini Pandey
- Mr. Petke
- Sriradha Regula
- Liam Slattery
- Ms. Smedberg
- Brenda Torres
- Genevie Trinh
- Valerie Tsang
- Alex Victory
- Ms. Wilks
- James Woo
- Cynthia Yu

Security Badge/Student ID Updates

_This past week, all students in grades 9-11 received their official student IDs after displaying their temporary IDs through the last couple of weeks. Now that students have received their official IDs and found effective routines to visibly wear their IDs for the last two weeks, PHS administration and security will be escalating their enforcement of **all students having their IDs visible at all times** during the school day. Beginning Monday, September 30, students are **required** to show their ID before entering Poolesville High School. Any student who does not have

their ID on Monday will be required to complete a form to receive a replacement or temporary ID. Any lost ID will require a \$5.00 obligation for the replacement cost. Any refusal to wear/display this identification will result in a disciplinary referral and consequences in alignment with the [MCPS Student Code of Conduct](#). Seniors, you will continue to use your temporary ID until we receive your permanent identification, and you also must adhere to the expectations. Thank you to our students, staff, and parents for reinforcing the importance of keeping our school community safe.

Homecoming Court Self-Nominations

Homecoming Court Self-Nominations are now open to ALL PHS Students at <https://bit.ly/24HOCOnom>. Students are required to use their school gmail account to complete the form. **Nominations close 10/2/24 @ 11:59pm.**

A good Poolesville High School Homecoming Court representative embodies qualities that reflect the "One Poolesville" school spirit. Here are key traits that make a great candidate:

- **School Spirit:** Actively support school activities, sports, and events. Genuine love for their school and encourage others to participate.
- **Leadership:** Set a good example for their peers, demonstrating responsibility, respect, and maturity. Engaged in extracurricular activities, clubs, or sports, showing they are committed to the school community.
- **Kindness:** Kind to everyone. Encourage school unity by bringing together different groups of students.
- **Community Engagement:** Participate in or lead community service projects, demonstrating a commitment to both their school and the broader community. Stand up for their peers and are seen as a voice for positive change within the school.
- **Academic Standing:** Maintain good grades and a balance between academics and other responsibilities.
- **Authenticity:** Act with honesty and demonstrate good character in all situations.

A homecoming representative is more than just a title; they are the face of the student body and a symbol of the school's values. If YOU are interested in running for homecoming court, please fill out [the form](#). Please know that you must be available to attend the following events:

- Meeting on 10/9/24 in Room 2020 (the SGA room) @ lunch
- Pep Rally 10/16/24
- Game 10/18/24
- Dance 10/19/24

This form will close on 10/2/24 @ 11:59 pm. Campaigning begins 10/4/24 at 10 am and closes 10/9/24 at 9 am. See Ms. Blair in the Library or Room 2020 or email her at michelle.l.hunsicker-blair@mcpsmd.net with any questions.

Principal's Student Leadership Council

Last year, Mr. Graves and I created the Principal's Student Leadership Council. This council consists of a small group of students that meet with the principal monthly to discuss various topics and issues that impact our school community. If you are interested in serving on this panel of students, please complete this [application form](#) by Saturday, October 5.

MCPS Staff Awards

Each year, MCPS and other local organizations, such as *The Washington Post*, offer opportunities to celebrate our amazing staff members. You can find more information on the [MCPS website](#) or this [linked flyer](#). We hope you will consider nominating a teacher or supporting service staff member to celebrate their contributions to our Falcons' experience at PHS. All nominations are due in December.

Latina Legacy Conferences

The inaugural Latina Legacy Jr. Conference (Middle School Edition) will take place on Tuesday, October 1, 2024 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Montgomery College's Rockville Campus. The theme is *¡Empoderadas!*

Unleashing Our Power! The topics that will be discussed at the conference include: Cultural Identity: Resilience and Overcoming Adversity, Being an Advocate: Making Your Voice Heard, Healthy Relationships and Mentorship, Navigating the High School Experience, Newcomer Resources, and Financial Literacy.

The 3rd Annual Latina Legacy Conference (High School Edition) will take place on Thursday, November 7, 2024 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Montgomery College's Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus. The theme is also ¡Empoderadas: Unleashing Our Power! The topics that will be discussed at the conference include: Wellness and Mental Health, Latina Narratives: Storytelling for Change, Navigating Higher Education & Career Opportunities, Advocacy & Civic Engagement, Newcomer Resources, and Financial Literacy.

Interested students can participate in these conferences by completing the form at this [link](#).

Athletics Updates

The PHS Athletic Department along with MCPS is celebrating our coaches this year. September 30 – October 6 (National Coaches Day) is Coach Appreciation Week. We will recognize our coaches on our social media (Twitter, Instagram, & Facebook) accounts. Please feel free to share your own posts about our terrific coaches. 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

Save-the-Date for the National Hispanic College Fair on October 4 from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Universities at Shady Grove. Please see the [linked flyer](#) for more details.

College and career visits this week include Stony Brook University and Washington College. 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 follow the link for current [SSL Opportunities](#) and 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:

- Complete Demolition
- Continue Foundations in Courtyards
- Painting Ceiling in Auditorium
- Roofing at Locker Rooms
- Ceramic Tile Install in Auditorium Bathrooms
- MEP Rough-in & Install Hangers in Locker Rooms
- Pour Curb & Gutter in South Parking Lot
- Mechanical Unit service in Auxiliary Gym on Thursday, 10/3

In addition, please see the [linked community letter](#) sent by MCPS on Wednesday, September 25. Any updated, current test results can be found on the [project website](#) under the files tab; results from this past weekend's abatement were posted on the website on Monday, September 23. **Students can report any safety concerns using the [reporting form](#) that was developed by PHS administration.**

PTSA Updates

Calling all students who want to share their creativity! The PHS PTSA is sponsoring the National PTA Reflections arts program competition at PHS again! This year's theme is "Accepting Imperfection." All students are eligible to participate by creating original artwork interpreting this year's theme in one of six categories. For the past two years,

PHS student artwork has received county, state, and even national award recognition! Entries are due no later than Sunday, December 1, 2024. [Click here](#) to learn more.

Sign up for the PTSA by October 31 and you may be the lucky recipient of a Family Flix or Falcon Fever gift basket!!!

Please [join the Parent Teacher Student Association \(PTSA\)](#) this year to support the programs and events we bring to PHS!

Holiday Giving

Requests for Holiday Giving opens on Friday, September 20th. The last day to submit a request for Thanksgiving is Friday, October 25th. Please reach out to your child's counselor for the necessary paperwork.

MCPS Updates

Thursday Things to Know - [September 26](#)

Updated Guidance for Student Speech and Expression - [September 27 Community Message](#)

Board of Education Update - [September 27](#)

Required Pesticide Notification

Maryland Law requires that school-based staff, parents/guardians of middle or high school students who wish to be notified prior to pesticide applications in the building or on the grounds must request that they be placed on the school's pesticide notification list found at this link [Annual IPM Notification](#) and on the school website.

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.

- National Hispanic College Fair - October 4
- Open House - Monday, October 14 - Details will be communicated in the coming weeks.
- PSAT Day - Wednesday, October 16
- Homecoming Game - Friday, October 18
- Homecoming Dance - Saturday, October 19
- Senior Portrait Make-Ups - October 29 and 30
- Underclassmen Pictures Make-Up - November 14
- Parent-Teacher Conferences - November 25-26 - Details forthcoming.
- 2025 Junior/Senior Prom - Friday, May 16 - Details forthcoming.

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