

Poolesville Students, Staff, and Families,

"The most courageous act is still to think for yourself. Aloud." — Coco Chanel

Welcome to the fourth and final marking period of the year, Falcons! Teachers will be finalizing marking period 3 grades and preparing for a strong finish to the year on Monday, March 31, so there will be no school for students. Students will return to PHS on Tuesday, April 1; there will be no Falcon Time or Advisory on Wednesday, and we will follow our standard bell schedule Tuesday through Friday. I also want to encourage everyone to join our school community on Thursday, Friday, and/or Saturday for *Little Shop of Horrors*, our spring musical. In addition, please note the **deadline** to turn in forms to earn the Certificate of Meritorious Service, 240 or more SSL hours, is **this Friday, April 4, 2025**. As we begin the fourth quarter, please see our [2024-25 Student Support Contacts](#) link if you need support.

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This Week's Schedule

- **Monday**, March 31 - No School for Students
- **Tuesday**, April 1 - Standard Bell Schedule - First Day of Marking Period 4
- **Wednesday**, April 2 - Standard Bell Schedule - No Falcon Time or Advisory this week
- **Thursday**, April 3 - Standard Bell Schedule
- **Friday**, April 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 Falcon received shout-outs this past week:

- Shivum Arora
- Alexander Bond
- Ramya Chokkalingam
- Raaga Daliparti
- Mr. Dethlefsen
- Ms. Draisen
- Abhijeet Ghodgaonkar
- Jordan Go
- Claire Huang
- Mr. Kanach
- Megan Lo
- Ryan Lo
- Joseph Mathew
- Ms. O'Donnell
- Mr. Rai
- Leela Ramanathan
- Ms. Robichaud
- Addison Rohde
- Owen Shu
- Zach Sutton
- Santiago Torres Espina
- Mr. Turner
- Ms. Van Yuga
- Mr. Villalobos Orellana
- Kayal Vinoth

Little Shop of Horrors - Presented by the PHS Midnight Players

The PHS Midnight Players' spring musical is this week! We hope you will join us in our **brand-new auditorium** for *Little Shop of Horrors*. You can purchase tickets on SchoolCash Online (SCO) or using the links below. The show will be presented at the following dates and times:

- Thursday, April 3 at 7:00 p.m. - [Tickets](#)
- Friday, April 4 at 7:00 p.m. - [Tickets](#)
- Saturday, April 5 at 2:00 p.m. - [Tickets](#)
- Saturday, April 5 at 7:00 p.m. - [Tickets](#)

Athletics Updates

The PHS Athletic Department is looking for students who are interested in announcing, running the game clock, and keeping statistics at our spring lacrosse home games. This a great opportunity for those that

may be interested in sports casting. Students will get into the events and earn SSL hours. Email Ms. Grubb if you are interested.

Come out and support the spring teams. 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

College ROTC Meeting - Join PHS alumni, Rachel Bupp, on April 2nd at 10:00 a.m. to learn about Army ROTC. She will cover what ROTC in college is, how to earn a scholarship, and different careers in the military. If you are interested, please stop by the Counseling Office to get a pass.

This week there will be an ROTC Information Session from a PHS Alumni (see above), ASVAB Testing, and a visit from the U.S. Army. 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

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

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 piping install & bio-pond built-up at main entrance of South Parking lot.
- Continue installing storm lines @ South of Area-E.

Auditorium Area:

- Continue working on punchlist items.

Media Center Area:

- Form & pour curbs for storefront.
- Install shear CMU walls.
- Continue framing at Media Center/TV studio location.
- Continue utility rough-in above ceiling.
- Continue applying intumescent fireproofing @ exposed columns.
- Continue fireproofing onsite.
- Continue Structural steel & deck detailing.
- Continue roofing.
- Continue installing roof drains & rain leaders.

Main Gym Area:

- Continue applying Blueskin & Air barrier at openings and joints.

- Continue installing panels at Aux Gym walls on roof.
- Continue detailing at Gym deck.
- Continue installing hangers for utilities.
- Continue misc. metals install in locker rooms.
- Continue wash down of brick façade @ East elevation of Gym.
- Complete installing Durock/Exterior Gyp sheathing @ Area-E Parapet walls.
- Continue installing roof drains & rain leaders.

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

Boundary Studies Public Information Meetings - Please see the [linked flyer](#) and the [Save-the-Date notice](#) from MCPS.

On March 11, Dr. Taylor, superintendent, approved for revision [Regulation IOE-RB](#), Home and Hospital Teaching. You can find the most current versions of MCBOE policies and MCPS regulations, visit the Board Policies & MCPS Regulations [web page](#) and read about a full [Summary of Changes to Board Policies and MCPS Regulations](#) by using the appropriate links.

Please see the Thursday Things to Know for [March 27](#) and the Board of Education (BOE) update on [March 19](#) for updates from MCPS.

AP Proctors Needed!

If you or an adult family member are interested in AP proctoring at PHS May 6 - May 16, we could use your help. Please complete [this form](#) to let us know your availability. You can volunteer your time or be paid \$20 an hour. Also, if you have any alumni home from college or adult children available from May 6 - 16 that would be interested, they can help too! In the google form, there are ***forms to be completed by April 1st. If the forms are not received by April 1st, we will not be able to use you as a proctor.*** If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Brooks, our AP Coordinator.

PHS Photography - Glen Echo Exhibit

Please join PHS Photography on Saturday April 5th from 4-6pm for the opening reception of "Ready for it," a curated photo exhibit of select students from five area schools taking place at PhotoWorks on the grounds of historic Glen Echo. The show will run until May 11th, so be sure to stop by before the close of the exhibit if you cannot attend the opening. There will be a zoom artist talk on Thursday, April 24th from 7-8pm, where students will have a chance to talk about their work. This is open to the public. PHS students in AP Photography are in the final year of completing their advanced certification in visual arts - Photography. Images were selected based on the students' individual interpretation and perspective on the theme: Ready for it.

RespectFEST 2025 – 3 SSL Hour Opportunity - Events all Week

Choose Respect Montgomery hosts a student/community event called [RespectFest](#). RespectFest is an in-person festival aimed at raising awareness to reduce the rates of teen dating violence and provide education on healthy relationships and consent. There will be performances, the announcement of the

PSA contest winners, lots of learning stations, and a resource fair. There will be a number of resource tables, learning experiences, as well as highlighting student talent through performances and the awards for the Top 5 Choose Respect PSA winners. Please come join us as this is also a service learning experience! Please see the linked flyers ([English/Spanish](#)) for complete details.

PTSA Updates

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

Boundary Study Virtual Session: Monday, April 7, 2025 | 6:00 – 8:00 PM ([Meeting Link](#) – session will also be recorded and made available to the public.). Why should you care? The boundaries of eleven high schools and seventeen middle schools (click [here](#) for the map) will be determined. In addition, MCPS will conduct a Programs Study to evaluate the special programs in each school to determine if changes need to be made to ensure equitable geographic access.

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 April PTSA meeting on Tuesday, 4/8 @ 7PM. We're switching it up because of spring break. Topic to be announced.

Want to help our school community? Consider joining the PTSA Board, organizing cultural arts assemblies, helping to put together fun staff appreciation events. Email us at ptsapoolesvillehs@gmail.com to learn more about the opportunities for the 2025-2026 school year.

Seniors - Class Panoramic Picture

Any Class of 2025 seniors or their families can purchase the PHS Class of 2025 senior Panoramic photo at [this link](#).

Once Upon a Prom - Saturday, April 12

Once Upon A Prom (OUAP) is a B-CC club dedicated to providing free prom attire to students of all genders whose economic or personal circumstances create hardships in their lives. OUAP will be hosting a prom dress/attire giveaway in collaboration with *A Wider Circle* on Saturday, April 12, 2025, from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm at *A Wider Circle*. All prom dresses are brand new or gently worn, and there are over 5,000 dresses, in all sizes and styles, to choose from. All students of all genders are welcome to attend, and no student ID is required for entry. Please see the [linked flyer](#) for complete details.

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.

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.

Booster Club Spring Fundraiser

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.

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!

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
- No School for Students - Monday, March 31
- *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

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[Instagram](#)