Good evening John Poole Middle School families,

This is Mr. Green with your weekly updates for October 30 - November 3, 2023.

There is NO SCHOOL for students on Wednesday, November 1.  November 1 is a professional day for staff.  Report cards will be available in Synergy on Thursday, November 9.  Report cards will be distributed to students on 11/9.

Student Picture Make Up Day is Thursday, November 2.  Please contact the main office for more information.

This week is Mental Health Awareness Week.  Please listen to the announcements for special activities the counseling department has planned for you at school.  MCPS has also scheduled various activities across the county.  See more information below.

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**John Poole MS Athletics - 7th and 8th Graders:**  JPMS Girls and Boys Basketball Registration opens up on Monday, Oct. 30.  Before you register you must have completed the doctor's [Pre-participation physical (MCPS Form SR-8)](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fww2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org%2Fdepartments%2Fforms%2Fpdf%2Fsr-8.pdf&data=05%7C01%7CJon_Green%40mcpsmd.org%7C67ec86f412f84d777abf08dbc9ad7787%7Cddf755e9bcd64a5ea4727c378a78c6c7%7C0%7C0%7C638325519098858774%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=IQg%2F6jevcKqHPB6EG1n0Uz2U%2Bf6r3HOcybAPoTzg74I%3D&reserved=0) (within two years) and also have this form ready to upload when you register.  [Click here](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdocs.google.com%2Fpresentation%2Fd%2F1oytMIZIE_pKxkAXr_8RRUjfPMN9aObFCLG-1osNKHIA%2Fedit%3Fusp%3Dsharing&data=05%7C01%7CJon_Green%40mcpsmd.org%7C67ec86f412f84d777abf08dbc9ad7787%7Cddf755e9bcd64a5ea4727c378a78c6c7%7C0%7C0%7C638325519098858774%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=l1RfHO7ffvKVThhpSCUxp3i9f1NDe6G%2Fry3FGNCrov8%3D&reserved=0) to learn more about the JPMS Basketball Season

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INTRAMURALS - Open to ALL JPMS students.

WEIGHT ROOM starts November 8 with Mr. Hartley.  It will be held on Tuesdays/Wednesdays or Thursdays.  Stop by the locker rooms to get more information and pick up the permission slip.

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**Applications Now for High School Regional/Countywide Special Programs**

Grade 8 students will have the opportunity to apply for Regional/Countywide Special Programs using the high school common application found in ParentVUE. Additionally, students in Grades 9-11 may [apply](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdocs.google.com%2Fdocument%2Fd%2F1Ubyax0quGFNQJp7Cdo8Fp5r8QLkSfCCd418aZ7ILdsE%2Fpreview&data=05%7C01%7CJon_Green%40mcpsmd.org%7C7d1a31ae754a42f043ea08dbcbf116c8%7Cddf755e9bcd64a5ea4727c378a78c6c7%7C0%7C0%7C638328008549328767%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=vCIGu1ivxPd9gT%2BiaatQTmi1l%2FgZE8tkswjreYPKnns%3D&reserved=0) for career readiness programs. Information sessions will be available for students and families, and all dates can be found on the [special programs webpage](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org%2Fcurriculum%2Fspecialprograms%2Fhigh%2F&data=05%7C01%7CJon_Green%40mcpsmd.org%7C7d1a31ae754a42f043ea08dbcbf116c8%7Cddf755e9bcd64a5ea4727c378a78c6c7%7C0%7C0%7C638328008549328767%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=73QUKChGZztO3ah8%2FbVfiRFlFGAYcAhy3cVlN04m0cM%3D&reserved=0).

Applications are due by Friday, Nov. 3. [Programs-At-A-Glance](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdocs.google.com%2Fdocument%2Fd%2F1iOZqNQ1ug40Z4HAaaoCIxxL4vx-22PukRl44-XBo5qw%2Fpreview&data=05%7C01%7CJon_Green%40mcpsmd.org%7C7d1a31ae754a42f043ea08dbcbf116c8%7Cddf755e9bcd64a5ea4727c378a78c6c7%7C0%7C0%7C638328008549328767%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=%2F8dZ0SW4YPFoMJMuUOJ%2FvPAQfr3uSGhvYz%2B8UCUxA3c%3D&reserved=0), eligibility, frequently asked questions and October [open house dates](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdocs.google.com%2Fdocument%2Fd%2F1iOZqNQ1ug40Z4HAaaoCIxxL4vx-22PukRl44-XBo5qw%2Fpreview&data=05%7C01%7CJon_Green%40mcpsmd.org%7C7d1a31ae754a42f043ea08dbcbf116c8%7Cddf755e9bcd64a5ea4727c378a78c6c7%7C0%7C0%7C638328008549485004%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=1ODtyy3tE94dfSpRWCDyeW3rDqPoachjFHgGC1JBzjQ%3D&reserved=0) are available on this [website](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org%2Fcurriculum%2Fspecialprograms%2Fhigh%2F&data=05%7C01%7CJon_Green%40mcpsmd.org%7C7d1a31ae754a42f043ea08dbcbf116c8%7Cddf755e9bcd64a5ea4727c378a78c6c7%7C0%7C0%7C638328008549485004%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=homy8bt0Tui5sKvH3v904lfJVHsldKYwsbJAW7zKCwE%3D&reserved=0).

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**Applications Open for Montgomery Virtual Academy**

New this school year, students in Grades 2-12 can apply to the Montgomery Virtual Academy (MVA) during two admission periods in alignment with the MCPS Regional/Countywide School Application Programs. The first round will run from Tuesday, October 10 through Friday, November 3, 2023, and is for entry into the 2024–2025 school year, as well as the waitlist for Semester 2 of the current 2023–2024 school year. The second round, which will run from Friday, January 5 to February 9, 2024, is for the waitlist for the 2024–2025 school year.

The MVA is a full-time online learning environment that uses a blended instructional model that uses both synchronous (live) and asynchronous (independent) instruction

For more information, visit the [MVA webpage](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org%2Fschools%2Fvirtualacademy%2Fnews-index%2F2023-2024-school-year%2F&data=05%7C01%7CJon_Green%40mcpsmd.org%7C7d1a31ae754a42f043ea08dbcbf116c8%7Cddf755e9bcd64a5ea4727c378a78c6c7%7C0%7C0%7C638328008549485004%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=2oWe3OqDo0Lu9fED1DP6NK25D4rlxnLQfTgGUaz9ru0%3D&reserved=0).

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**Drama Production Update**

We have had to move the Saturday, December 16, 2023, afternoon show to Friday, December 8, 2023.  The show will begin at 6:30 p.m.  The second show will continue as originally scheduled for Friday, December 15, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.  We hope to see you at the shows!

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**MCPS Personal Body Safety Lessons**

MCPS implements Personal Body Safety Lessons (PBSLs) with grade-level, age-appropriate content for students in every grade from Pre-K to 12. During the 2023–2024 school year, the lessons were revised for Prekindergarten through Grade 8, ensuring they were more interactive and age-appropriate.

These lessons are designed to empower students to recognize and report suspected cases of abuse without fear of reprisal. In addition, embedded in the MCPS elementary and secondary health curriculum are age-appropriate lessons on safety and injury prevention, family life and human sexuality, cyberbullying and social media, healthy relationships, harassment, and intimidation.

PBSL focuses on:

* Defining abuse and neglect;
* Teaching students skills for self-protection with opportunities to practice reporting to a trusted adult; and
* Promoting positive and appropriate interactions among children, adults, and peers.

JPMS students will receive PBSL through their Health or PE class with support and guidance from a school counselor.  These lessons will be provided to students on November 7 and November 8, 2023.

If you have any questions please contact Kevin Maruskin, counselor, via email at [Kevin\_T\_Maruskin@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Kevin_T_Maruskin@mcpsmd.org).

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Holiday Giving Project of Montgomery County

The Holiday Giving Project of Montgomery County has provided Thanksgiving meals and December holiday assistance to households for over 30 years.  If your family would like to be referred to possibly receive assistance this holiday season, please contact the Counseling Office at John Poole Middle School at 240-740-4210 or send an email to: [Tammy\_P\_Lightcap@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Tammy_P_Lightcap@mcpsmd.org).  While a referral is not a guarantee of assistance, the Project helps as many families as donations allow.  
  
Deadline to apply for Holidays:

November 20, 2023 – December Holiday

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**Mental Health Awareness Week Set for Oct. 30–Nov. 4**

MCPS and the Montgomery County School Psychologists’ Association (MCSPA) will host free events the week of Oct. 30–Nov. 4 to give youth and families the opportunity to hear from mental health experts on a variety of issues. A culminating virtual resource fair and expert panel will be held on Saturday, Nov. 4.

From 6–8 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 1 at Richard Montgomery High School, former professional football player turned mental health expert and advocate, Dr. Jay Barnett, will speak in person to students about the importance of mental health, breaking down stigma and seeking help. [Read more](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org%2Fnews%2Fmcps-news%2F2023%2F10%2Fmental-health-awareness%2F&data=05%7C01%7CJon_Green%40mcpsmd.org%7C7ff3dcde03264518523508dbcbf5e53f%7Cddf755e9bcd64a5ea4727c378a78c6c7%7C0%7C0%7C638328029199991144%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=7C3zS9AJlT0U6z3FjEqapUQtEXv0I9abCxEcJhiK4To%3D&reserved=0).

For additional information visit the [Mental Health Awareness Week website.](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fww2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org%2Fmental-health%2Ffair%2F&data=05%7C01%7CJon_Green%40mcpsmd.org%7C7ff3dcde03264518523508dbcbf5e53f%7Cddf755e9bcd64a5ea4727c378a78c6c7%7C0%7C0%7C638328029199991144%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=of%2Fzvy0joPyphUl3lGpXdvYnKMwR3s7%2FLhbBBATZ1Eo%3D&reserved=0)

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**YEARBOOK NEWS:**

The 2023-2024 John Poole Yearbook is currently available for purchase at Jostens.com. Personalization is available through January 26, 2024.

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Please continue to check the [myMCPS Classroom](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fclassroom.mcpsmd.org%2F&data=05%7C01%7Calison_m_d%27aiutolo%40mcpsmd.org%7C406728ec88454ca7c66e08dbd8cf1557%7Cddf755e9bcd64a5ea4727c378a78c6c7%7C0%7C0%7C638342156173595078%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=zaRNqf5XdVsUjA4fvoBUsuZTCkwklQCYKsrBpRXPVUU%3D&reserved=0) calendar or our [JPMS school webpage](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org%2Fschools%2Fpoolems%2F&data=05%7C01%7Calison_m_d%27aiutolo%40mcpsmd.org%7C406728ec88454ca7c66e08dbd8cf1557%7Cddf755e9bcd64a5ea4727c378a78c6c7%7C0%7C0%7C638342156173595078%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=UQbj6e4Cj0xFnJ73BMl7vl4j7N3swxiLSLCE3RKh5kw%3D&reserved=0) for the most updated information, including upcoming events, bus routes, and other happenings occurring at school.

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Please mark your calendars for these important upcoming events:

Tuesday, October 31: End of the 1st Marking Period

Wednesday, November 1:  NO SCHOOL for students.  Professional Day for staff.

Thursday, November 2:  Student Picture Make-Up Day

Thursday, November 9: Report Card Distribution and Report Cards available in ParentVUE

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Have a great night and a wonderful week!

Mr. Green