Good evening John Poole Middle School families,

This is Mr. Green with your weekly updates for September 25 - September 29, 2023.

As we move into fall, we have reached the halfway point of the first marking period.   Interim reports will be available on October 5.  Please make sure you are completing all assignments on time and you are taking advantage of the reassessment opportunities.  You should also be checking StudentVUE/ParentVUE and contacting your teachers with any questions.

Thank you to all students and staff for engaging with our Safety Day on Friday.  We were able to practice several state-mandated safety drills.

Our fall athletics teams begin game action this week.  There have been several changes to our schedule so please make sure you check your team’s Classroom page as well as the coach’s email.  More information is included below in this message.

There is NO SCHOOL on Monday, September 25.

We continue to see an uptick in CoVID-19 cases at John Poole.  If you are feeling symptoms, you are strongly encouraged to test and stay home if you are ill.  We have a limited supply of testing kits if you need one.  Please call the main office.

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MCPS 2024-2025 School Calendar Feedback

MCPS provides a school year calendar that allows for effective use of time for teaching and learning, professional growth opportunities, and planning instructional strategies focused on improving student achievement while maintaining an equity lens for all students, and commitment to community engagement in the MCPS Antiracist System Action Plan. MCPS will consider educational interests, operational needs, mandated school closures by state law, compliance with minimum instructional days and credit hour requirements, contingencies for inclement weather and other emergencies, staff professional days and early release days, and alignment with assessment schedules.

MCPS is seeking input about the 2024–2025 school year calendar! Please take a moment to complete the [MCPS School Calendar 2024-2025 Feedback](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdocs.google.com%2Fforms%2Fd%2Fe%2F1FAIpQLSe4bKbeBGylczLqGatOpFBqIAJzEeM52Rwr8cL3GqZDZN0Y5w%2Fviewform&data=05%7C01%7CJon_Green%40mcpsmd.org%7C89bd8a381771487af52c08dbb5ed4241%7Cddf755e9bcd64a5ea4727c378a78c6c7%7C0%7C0%7C638303802851015579%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=vuuL6qMcpyBmJCNpPRytHMkhWV3yT0S77vQLKPxRtE4%3D&reserved=0). Your input will be used to select the first and last day of school, as well as other important dates for the coming school year.

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Blueprint for Maryland’s Future

The Maryland General Assembly passed the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future (Blueprint) legislation in 2021. The legislation is designed to transform public education in the state into a world-class education system by increasing educational funding, enriching student experiences, accelerating student outcomes, and improving the quality of education for all children in Maryland. One component of this legislation relates to providing individualized career advising services to middle and high school students. With this in mind, Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) will collaborate with [WorkSource Montgomery](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fworksourcemontgomery.com%2F&data=05%7C01%7CJon_Green%40mcpsmd.org%7C57cc3be0ca774aea158f08dbba9ff0bb%7Cddf755e9bcd64a5ea4727c378a78c6c7%7C0%7C0%7C638308968324679381%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=cjyXnGdd5%2BEU8NKvX3Nnjxb0oaFdxknS3YkEdv%2BmqOk%3D&reserved=0) (WSM) and [Montgomery College](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.montgomerycollege.edu%2F&data=05%7C01%7CJon_Green%40mcpsmd.org%7C57cc3be0ca774aea158f08dbba9ff0bb%7Cddf755e9bcd64a5ea4727c378a78c6c7%7C0%7C0%7C638308968324679381%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Lq0P1l2QHomx%2FmKvJdDXkjyGbSA0MvfgvtsQMY5CxVg%3D&reserved=0) (MC) to develop and implement an exciting new Montgomery County Career Advising Program (MoCoCAP) beginning this school year.

MoCoCAP will assist us in transforming the way we support career success for our students. The vision for MoCoCAP is to provide career advising services that will enable students to vividly describe their own strengths, interests, and workplace values; identify how they are expanding their skills and knowledge; describe the various opportunities ahead of them; and describe their goals for their future as they develop lifelong career management skills. During the 2023-2024 school year MoCoCAP will support Grade 6 and Grade 9 students and expand the rollout of MoCoCAP to all secondary students by the 2025-2026 school year.  To learn more about MoCoCAP and our partners in this work, visit the MoCoCAP [website.](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fmococap.com%2F&data=05%7C01%7CJon_Green%40mcpsmd.org%7C57cc3be0ca774aea158f08dbba9ff0bb%7Cddf755e9bcd64a5ea4727c378a78c6c7%7C0%7C0%7C638308968324835620%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=RDwiEUhTB9sG%2F5o8wYFIy5Ompbr4Hu9YXd%2BlwKv92sU%3D&reserved=0)  Please complete the Career Advising Stakeholder Questions and Input form if there are questions regarding MoCoCAP.

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**Intramural Yoga**

Do you like to do Yoga or would you like to try it?  Ms. Gibbs will be offering Intramural Yoga after school starting on Thursday, Oct. 5, and will continue to be held on Oct. 10, 17, 24, Nov. 7 & 14. This activity is open to ALL JPMS students.   Permission slips can be found in the girls' and boys' locker rooms.

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**JPMS Athletics**

We have changes to the JPMS fall athletics schedule.  Next week's schedule will be the following:

Tuesday, Sept. 26-Cross Country AWAY at MLK at 3:30

                 Boys and Girls Softball will have practice.

Wednesday,  Sept 27-Girls Softball Home vs. Ridgeview at 3:15

                            Boys' Softball and Cross Country will have practice.

Thursday, Sept 28-Practice for Cross Country, Girls and Boys Softball

Emails were sent out on Thursday and the athletic classroom page schedule has been updated.

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**October 4th is Walk, Bike, and Roll to School Day!**

Choosing to walk, bike, or roll (scooters & skateboards) to school provides an opportunity to improve our own health, our community, and the environment.

How does Walk, Bike, and Roll (WBR) help us?

* WBR reduces our carbon footprint. Fewer cars on the roads help improve the air we breathe by reducing chemical emissions. It also lessens our dependency on fossil fuels, whether you fuel up at a gas station or use electric energy created at a power plant.
* WBR is a healthy habit that promotes physical activity and is a great way to get outside, get exercise, and build community with our neighbors and school families.

We encourage you to participate in Walk, Ride & Roll to School Day on October 4th if you are safely able to do so. First, you must consider your access to sidewalks, safe road crossings, weather, and other distractions in planning your route. Walk with family or friends (choose a buddy), wear a helmet (biking or rolling), put away your phone, and remove your earbuds. Plan ahead to enjoy the great outdoors and some good friends & family time!

Fun Fact: Mrs. Kavanagh and Mrs. Lightcap walk to school every day!

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Maryland State’s Attorney’s Office of Montgomery County is hosting a contest that challenges teens to create an original video to promote awareness of the dangers of opioid abuse or overdose and fentanyl among teens. It is open to all 6th through 12th-grade students.  The top prize is $1,000, second place is $750, and third place and fan favorite winners will receive $500 all donated by Magnolia Plumbing in honor of two young Montgomery County residents who lost their lives to illicit fentanyl; Michael Pisarra and Matthew Loudoun.

 Students can enter the contest on their own or as a group; however, students may only participate in ONE entry. Students must submit their video by November 17th.

MCPS has created a [webpage](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org%2Fdepartments%2Fstudent-leadership%2Fspeakup-savealife&data=05%7C01%7CJon_Green%40mcpsmd.org%7Cd2e186c6b76e4e5aae9008dbbb6cc593%7Cddf755e9bcd64a5ea4727c378a78c6c7%7C0%7C0%7C638309848183403921%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=S%2FH6cIO0xr8%2BMXFGwaGJPNJS3AF%2BTdXtaVyGxyxtp08%3D&reserved=0) with more information on the Speak Up, Save a Life video requirements and a calendar of due dates.

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Media Center Memo:

In an effort to help students have worry-free school days, the media center has some tips for keeping students' Chromebooks ready and in working order:

* Students should be transporting their Chromebooks in something like a padded case, cover, or binder.  The Chromebook screens are made of glass and are likely to break if dropped.  The media center has padded carrying cases for students if they would like one.
* Chromebooks should be plugged in EACH NIGHT so that they are fully charged and ready to go in the morning.  One idea to help form this habit is to plug in the Chromebook in the same place your student charges their phone overnight or where they keep their backpack.

Parents and caregivers, thank you for helping your students with these tasks!

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**YEARBOOK NEWS:**

We are currently collecting photographs from families for the very popular yearbook spread: "First Day of School". If you have a first-day-of-school photo of your student that you would like us to include, please email it to [karen\_c\_kavanagh@mcpsmd.org](mailto:karen_c_kavanagh@mcpsmd.org)

Also, there is still time to purchase the 2023-2024 yearbook! Go to [jostens.com](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fjostens.com%2F&data=05%7C01%7CJon_Green%40mcpsmd.org%7C7ad89096ea8540fcc91308dbb2e01852%7Cddf755e9bcd64a5ea4727c378a78c6c7%7C0%7C0%7C638300447773918582%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=PTLni%2FgahovMi0UT1a64Q9FQomvi2Ty3dqej3g6mk1M%3D&reserved=0) today to get the best pricing for the school year.

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Hearing/Vision Screening

In accordance with Maryland State Law students in Montgomery County Public Schools are screened for possible vision and hearing problems.  Trained hearing and vision screeners will be screening students new to MCPS, students in Grade 8, and students referred by teachers because of possible signs of hearing or vision problems.  The screeners will be at John Poole Middle School on September 29, 2023, and October 2, 2023.

Children who do not see clearly or are unable to hear what their teacher and classmates are saying have a more challenging time learning at school.

You will receive a referral form, via US mail, to take to your child’s doctor if your child fails the screening.  If your child is already under care for a hearing or vision problem, or you do not wish your child to be screened at school because of conflicts with your religious beliefs, please notify the school nurse in writing.

If your child wears glasses or contacts, they should wear them every day and bring them to the screening.

School-based vision screenings may not detect every vision problem.  To learn more about possible vision problems and symptoms or health conditions that may require additional evaluation go to Montgomery County Government’s website at this link: [https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS-Program/PHS/SchoolHealth/HearingVision.html](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.montgomerycountymd.gov%2FHHS-Program%2FPHS%2FSchoolHealth%2FHearingVision.html&data=05%7C01%7CJon_Green%40mcpsmd.org%7C57c9f1fa527d474c1b8808dbb52a7961%7Cddf755e9bcd64a5ea4727c378a78c6c7%7C0%7C0%7C638302966242382067%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=MV7t1eLWhaPjqun7Lep63E0VjjStUuFQydkyVpQAPko%3D&reserved=0)

Contact our health room if you have questions about your child’s screening.

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Family Portraits - October 6

Our photography company, Freed Photography, is providing a family portrait opportunity to our families.  Family portraits will take place on Friday, October 6th from 4:00-6:30 p.m. at John Poole Middle School.  Family portraits will take place outside, weather permitting.

Families must sign up online. [CLICK HERE](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2F0fdn5tjzm1.timetap.com%2F%23%2F&data=05%7C01%7CJon_Green%40mcpsmd.org%7C4e4c20d81d0f42c7753008dba972cf7b%7Cddf755e9bcd64a5ea4727c378a78c6c7%7C0%7C0%7C638290082792328004%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=p8FasErLvinnGEn7NheIAJGdMxAEuGwwS3Tk0shNedw%3D&reserved=0) or visit [https://schedule.freedphoto.com/johnpoolems](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fschedule.freedphoto.com%2Fjohnpoolems&data=05%7C01%7CJon_Green%40mcpsmd.org%7C4e4c20d81d0f42c7753008dba972cf7b%7Cddf755e9bcd64a5ea4727c378a78c6c7%7C0%7C0%7C638290082792328004%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=7S0om9i84q8Ds1CoK1wlFFF0pwYyByKNuPmJqIUOsdA%3D&reserved=0) and follow the prompts to make an appointment at your preferred time.

All ordering will be entirely ONLINE! You will be able to choose from many wonderful photos. Parents will receive an e-mail alert with a link to the gallery when it becomes available. If you have any questions, please contact the main office.

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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%7Cb11a1f82e39244b65e2c08dbbd4ea017%7Cddf755e9bcd64a5ea4727c378a78c6c7%7C0%7C0%7C638311917641719989%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=ZitC2lYiJq4WTdtQ5dQpxiBXfLijpplCSQy%2BNNrVbUo%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%7Cb11a1f82e39244b65e2c08dbbd4ea017%7Cddf755e9bcd64a5ea4727c378a78c6c7%7C0%7C0%7C638311917641719989%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=0UUwCxsDNqqrLF8ax44XUR8UQj5D%2Bc9IFAJi3far0nE%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:

Monday, September 25: NO SCHOOL for staff and students.

Friday, September 29: Hearing and Vision screening for 8th-grade students.

Monday, October 2: Hearing and Vision screening continued.

Thursday, October 5: Interim reports are available.

Monday, October 9: Professional Day for staff.  NO SCHOOL for students.

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

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Have a great night and a wonderful week!

Mr. Green