

John Poole's

BACK POCKET

November 8, 2013

A Thought for Today: Mighty is geometry; joined with art, resistless.

Euripides

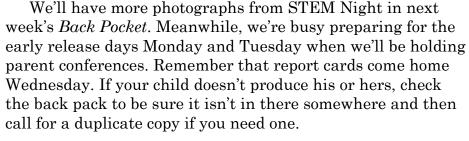
STEM Night Was a Great Success!

We had robots on stage, submarines in 120 gallons of water, sailboats powered by giant fans, bananas frozen hard enough to hammer in nails, houses on stilts, penny hockey contests, and math games of all kinds – including a killer Sudoku I had to take home to complete. (But I finally got it!) STEM Night (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) was a whole lot of fun!

I especially enjoy this kind of event because it works for all ages. Students from Poolesville High School brought the basketball-playing robot they had built, and elementary school kids had a great time making it move and throw the ball. Moms and Dads loved Dr. Dewey's liquid Nitrogen demonstration as much as their kids did. JPMS kids explained KenKen puzzles to adults (including me) and to their little brothers and sisters – who caught on MUCH faster than the grown-ups did.

The Common Core emphasizes STEM skills as necessary for life in the modern era, but it's also true that creativity and practical problem-solving have always been part of America's can-do

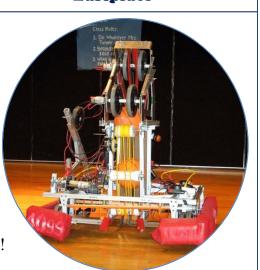
approach. That's why we have been traditional leaders in innovation across so many fields.



On Monday, we'll be remembering the Veterans of the armed forces who have served our country so unselfishly over the years. Our thanks to every Veteran and every Veteran's family. Your commitment has made our kids' bright futures possible.

- Charlotte Boucher





Hallway Heroes

Hallway Heroes are students we honor for demonstrating exemplary **PRIDE** behaviors as they move from class to class, helping to keep our hallways safe and comfortable for everyone.

The students recognized below consistently demonstrate

Purpose, Respect, Integrity, Dedication and Effort

everywhere they go at JPMS. They are Hallway Heroes

and we are proud to celebrate their high expectations and their Timberwolf PRIDE!

Damion Ainsworth Diana Arias Meghan Cox Jimmy Dutton Matthew Grubb Matthew Hill

Brianna Hobbs Lukas Lightcap Saloni Maskey

Student Leaders of the Pack

At JPMS, we focus every day on helping our students to be as successful as possible, both academically and personally. Part of that focus is instilling the core values of **Timberwolf PRIDE**: Purpose, Respect, Integrity, Dedication and Effort, because we believe these qualities will support all students being the successful learners they want to be today and becoming the positive, contributing members of our community they can be all their lives.

Each month, the staff recognizes five students in each grade who are leaders and role models because they routinely demonstrate the components of Timberwolf PRIDE. We celebrate them at a ceremony on the first Friday of each month where they receive a certificate and are served a breakfast treat. Their pictures are proudly posted on a bulletin board in the front hall during the month in which they are being honored.

Congratulations to October's Leaders of the Pack!

6th Grade

Purpose - Leo Guillette
Respect - Oriol Guitart
Integrity - Michael Ballew
Dedication - Juan Barron
Effort - Shirley Chin

7th Grade

Purpose - Mina Prasada-Rao

Respect - Bryce Davis
Integrity - Gwen Boe

Dedication - Nathaly Portillo-Rivas

Effort - Aidan Auel

8th Grade

Purpose - Maddison Magaha
Respect - Renee Quaranta
Integrity - Morgan Bliss
Dedication - Jackson Krasche
Effort - Christian Andrade



Check Out the Great Student Art Work in the Principal's Office This Month!



It's always exciting to see what our talented students are creating in their art classes, and I'm delighted to have a rotating display of their projects on my office wall. Here are the latest creations brightening my day. Drop in the next time you're at school and see them up close – I know you'll enjoy it! Thanks to Mr. Gemmell and these talented students for sharing their work!

Ali Haddaway, Noel Kirkpatrick, and Sammie Thomas - Stella Sport Sculpture
Stefan Fessenden, Ty Morningstar, and Dillon Trent - Environmental Art
Harrison Johnson, Patrick Ramazon, and Cade Seely - Environmental Art
Elise Evans - Pop Art Painting
Hannah Helfert - Cubism Chair Painting

Rachel Tievy - Perspective Room



YEARBOOK

By Steven Fendrich

The JPMS Phantom Players are hard at work preparing another great show for November 22 and 23.

Be sure to mark your calendar for a performance you won't want to miss!

Report cards come out this Wednesday, November 13.

A new marking term is a great time to renew your Edline skills. When your Edline account (not your child's account – your parent account) is active, you can receive class updates from teachers and interim reports by email. You can follow your child's progress and make sure all his or her work is handed in.

One particularly helpful Edline report is the "Current Assignments Report." At JPMS, the teachers use standardized codes to give you more information about each assignment. The chart below explains what these codes mean. If you are starting to use Edline or just getting back in the habit of using it, you might want to print this page to keep by your computer as a handy reference.

If you need help getting your Edline account up and running, just give us a call. Ms. McIntyre is our Edline specialist for parent support, and she will be glad to help.

What Do These Codes Mean?

Interpreting Codes on Edline Current Assignment Reports

This page explains each shorthand notation you may find on the Current Assignments Report. Please contact your child's teacher with any further questions.

R-Reassessable: the student may earn a score to replace the original for this assignment.

NR- Not Reassessable: The student may not reassess this assignment.

<u>F-</u> Formative: This assignment is part of the "Formative Assessments" grading category, which counts for 50% of a student's quarter grade.

<u>S-</u> Summative: This assignment is part of the "Summative Assessments" grading category, which counts for 40% of a student's quarter grade.

<u>H-</u> Homework: This assignment is part of the "Homework for Practice/Preparation" grading category, which counts for 10% of a student's quarter grade.

by [date]- by a certain deadline: This is the deadline by which a student must reassess a given assignment to replace the original grade.

<u>X-</u> Excused: The student is excused from this assignment, so the assignment has no effect whatsoever on the quarter grade.

<u>Z-</u> Zero: The student did not turn in the assignment on the due date, but the deadline has not passed, so the student may still submit the assignment for credit.

<u>0-</u> Numerical Zero: The student did not turn in the assignment before the deadline & may no longer submit it.

What's the difference between a due date and a deadline?

The due date is the date the student should turn in an assignment for full credit. The deadline is the last day the teacher will accept the assignment for credit.

<u>Formative assessments</u> are assignments during the progress of a unit, when a student is still mastering objectives. They indicate a student's learning in progress.

<u>Summative assessments</u> are assignments at the conclusion of a unit that indicate whether a student has mastered assessed indicators. They conclude that particular unit of study.

<u>Homework for practice/preparation</u> is homework or in-class assignments that may have been checked for effort or participation or were minor assignments in the class.

John Poole Middle School



- Jennifer Kasten President
- Neile Whitney Vice President
- Hisaho Blair Secretary
- Michelle Hobbs Treasurer
- Wendy Gotlewski Membership & Volunteers



Spotlight on...

PTSA Fundraiser

November 4 - 19
Proceeds to support bringing
WeatherBug to JPMS

Questions? Ideas? Opinions?

Getting in touch with your PTSA is as easy as sending an email message!

JPMSPTSA@gmail.com

Membership and volunteer forms are available at the JPMS website:

http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/uploadedFiles/schools/poolems/parents/4.%20PTSA%20Membership%20Form.pdf

It is not too late to join the JPMS PTSA. Membership provides a great way to get involved and to keep in touch.

Directories will be distributed soon. You haven't missed your chance to claim one.

It is very easy to join. All the information is found on the JPMS homepage under the parents tab. If you have any questions, please email Wendy Gotlewski, membership coordinator, at gotlewski@msn.com.

Glow Scented Candles Fundraiser

Glow Scented Candles are highly scented candles.



Holidays are just around the corner and all of these Products would make wonderful GIFTS for your family and friends.

100z Candles ... \$13.00

160z "TINS" ... \$20.00

"Boxed Melts" 3 packs per box......\$16.00 Warmers available at various prices Make checks payable to JPMS PTSA.

Help us bring a WeatherBug weather station to JPMS!



Call to Action for Poolesville Community: Poolesville High School Modernization from PTSA President, Jennifer Kasten

HISTORY:

As many of you know, Poolesville High School remains on a list of schools in Montgomery County to be modernized. Because of budget constraints and the growing need for additional classroom space, modernization projects continue to be delayed. Poolesville High School is now set for modernization in 2025. This delay is disheartening for many – especially students who are themselves concerned about building issues (click here to view a student video highlighting the structural inadequacies of PHS proving our need for a new building.)

CURRENT SITUATION:

From 2000-2012, Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) grew by 14,599 students (see

http://www6.montgomerycountymd.gov/apps/News/press/PR_details.asp?PrID=13088). On October 28, 2013, Superintendent Starr released his recommended Fiscal year 2015-2020 Capital Improvements Program budget that includes \$1.55 billion over the next six years for 14 new classroom addition projects, construction of five new schools and maintaining a schedule for some revitalization/expansion projects. This amount, however, is far less than the actual district need estimated at \$2.2 billion. MCPS routinely receives less than its fair share of state funding, relative to the size of the district's enrollment. For FY2014, MCPS requested 149.3 million in state aid for school construction and received \$35.1 million.

STATE SUPPORT NEEDED:

On October 31, 2013, Montgomery County Executive, Isiah Leggett, joined County, school and State officials in urging the Governor and the Maryland General Assembly to support legislation that would benefit Montgomery County Public Schools similar to the bill passed last year for the Baltimore City Public Schools. The Baltimore City Public Schools Construction and Revitalization Act of 2013 was funded by \$20 million in annual state lottery proceeds and \$40 million in Baltimore City and Baltimore County City Board of School Commissioners revenues. Similar legislation for Montgomery County would allow the county to address projects such as Poolesville High School's modernization sooner than currently scheduled.

WHAT CAN YOU DO:

We need you to **reach out to your local and county representatives** in support of State legislation to aid MCPS. We also need you to **support the Poolesville Cluster as they testify to the Board of Education on the Capital Improvement Budget**. Testimony is scheduled for Monday, November 11, 2013 starting at 7:00pm. The testimony will be at Carver Educational Services Center,850 Hungerford Drive, Room 123 Rockville, Maryland 20850 (click her for detailed directions including where to park and what bldg. entrance).

JOIN FRIENDS:

A group of Poolesvillians will be gathered at <u>Cheeburger Cheeburger</u> in Shady Grove prior to the testimony. Cheeburger will be donating 20% of the all proceeds to PES PTA for all Poolesville customers from 5:00 pm to 9:00 PM on Monday, November 11th 2013.



Registration for the Fall 2013 Parent Academy is now available.

Registration form and schedule of classes(English) (PDF)



Be a Part of the 2013-2014 Neighbor to Neighbor Campaign

MCPS would like your input on two very important topics—the MCPS operating budget and the proposed changes to school start and end times, known as bell times. One way to participate is through a Neighbor to Neighbor conversation.

Neighbor to Neighbor provides you with all the resources you need to host or participate in a self-guided small-group discussion on important topics in MCPS. These discussions may be held at a PTA or other parent meeting, in a community member's home, or as part of a civic or community organization meeting. The Neighbor to Neighbor website includes an online toolkit that serves as a step-by-step guide and includes videos and handouts that provide an overview of each of the topics. You can choose to host or participate in a discussion on one of the topics, or if you want, both topics. The toolkits can be accessed at: www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org, search "Neighbor."

Student Service Learning (SSL) Notes

Give a Little Time...Make a Big Difference

- Keep Track of the SSL graduation requirement: See the number of SSL hours required, the number of hours completed, and the number of hours remaining on each report card.
- Holidays and early release days are great SSL times to Give a Little Time and Make a Big Difference. Plan ahead!
- Remember: All service must occur in a public place... not a private residence. There is a maximum of 8 SSL hours that can be earned in a 24-hour period.
- All service for which SSL hours are desired must be supervised by an adult representing an official, approved, nonprofit, tax exempt organization not a parent or relative.
- The SSL graduation requirement does not take the place of what students do to support their neighbors, family members, and members of their faith-based organizations. SSL addresses a need in the greater community through secular service.

VOLUNTEER IN MONTGOMERY PARKS FALL 2013

Natural Surface Trail Workdays

Build new trail, repair erosion, stabilize muddy tread surfaces, and help with bridge construction. Connect with new people and learn about trail building and maintenance techniques while getting exercise. The minimum age to volunteer is 16, but sometimes youth 12-15 years old can volunteer if accompanied by an adult. **SSL approved.** Go to **www.parksvolunteers.org** to apply.

Other "Long Term" Volunteer Opportunities available:

Nature Center Host/Hostess; Oakley Cabin Docent; Volunteer Naturalist; Historic Interpretation Docents; Gardeners and Groundskeepers; Trail Rangers, and many more opportunities with all the details are on our website at www.ParksVolunteers.org.



Brookside Gardens has fall and winter volunteer opportunities to broaden your skills or just for fun. Apply at http://www.parksvolunteers.org or contact the volunteer coordinator at 302-962-1429 or MCP-GardenVolunteer@MontgomeryParks,org



Basketball Tryouts

Basketball tryouts are coming soon! Attention all 7th and 8th grade boys or girls who would like to try out for the JPMS school basketball team. Tryouts for the boys' team will begin on November 13th. The start for the girls' team is TBD.

All paperwork must be completed and turned in before you can practice. See Mr. Willett or Mrs. Gerrie for further information and the forms you need to participate.

Running Club Is Here!

Does your child like to get outside this time of year, but doesn't know what to do? Mr. Gemmell has just the right club to offer. He is sponsoring the **Running Club** after school on Wednesdays. He is leading students on some fun runs throughout the neighborhood and around JPMS, and he has lots of other fun activities planned, too.

Parent Permission Slips must be turned in before a student can attend. Permission slips can be picked up from Mr. Gemmell or from the locker rooms. Be sure students bring their running shoes and dress appropriately for the outdoor runs.

There is still time for JPMS runners to join in!! If you have any further questions, please contact Mrs. Gerrie or Mr. Gemmell.

MCPS Community Forums on Bell Times

Superintendent Joshua Starr is recommending that MCPS consider changing school starting and ending times, also known as bell times. Dr. Starr is recommending that high schools start 50 minutes later, middle schools start 10 minutes earlier, and that the elementary school day be extended by 30 minutes. MCPS would like to hear from you on this proposal. The district will provide various opportunities for members of the community to give input, including community forums, focus groups, surveys, Neighbor-to-Neighbor discussions, and email (belltimes@mcpsmd.org). Upcoming forums are as follows:

- -Monday, December 16: Richard Montgomery High School, 250 Richard Montgomery Drive, Rockville
- -Monday, January 6: Seneca Valley High School, 19401 Crystal Rock Drive, Germantown
- -Monday, February 10: Montgomery Blair High School, 51 University Blvd., East, Silver Spring

Free child care (ages 4 and older) and interpretation services will be provided. For more information about the bell times proposal and ways you can provide input, visit www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org, search "bell times."

Foros Comunitarios de MCPS para Discutir Cambios en el Horario de Timbres

El Superintendente Joshua Starr está recomendando que MCPS considere cambiar el horario inicio y salida de la escuela, también conocidos como Horario de Timbres. El Dr. Starr está recomendando que las escuelas secundarias comiencen 50 minutos más tarde, las escuelas de enseñanza media comiencen 10 minutos antes, y que la jornada escolar de la escuela elemental se extienda 30 minutos. A MCPS le gustaría saber su opinión acerca de esta propuesta. El distrito proporcionará diversas oportunidades para que los miembros de la comunidad proporcionen sus comentarios, incluidos los foros comunitarios, grupos de enfoque, encuestas, discusiones de Neighbor to Neighbor y correo

electrónico (belltimes@mcpsmd.org) . Los próximos foros están programados para :

- Lunes, 16 de diciembre : Richard Montgomery High School, 250 Richard Montgomery Drive, Rockville
- Lunes, 06 de enero: Seneca Valley High School, 19401 Crystal Rock Drive, Germantown
- Lunes, 10 de febrero: Montgomery Blair High School, 51 University Blvd., East, Silver Spring

Se ofrecerán servicios gratuitos de cuidado de niños (mayores de 4 años) e interpretación. Para obtener más información acerca de propuesta de Horario de Timbres y maneras de proporcionar su opinión, visite www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org y busque "Horarios de Timbres"

Teaching Digital Responsibility

At JPMS, the theme of "Kindness Counts" will be part of our programming all year. The particular aspect of our theme featured throughout November is digital responsibility.

We all recognize that Cyber bullying is a problem, but it may not always be clear what to look for or what to do about it. Here are some web resources you might find helpful in working with us to keep your children safe and teach them positive ways to use their electronic resources.

http://www.commonsensemedia.org/educators/educate-families/tip-sheets

http://www.commonsensemedia.org/digitalcitizenshipweek?utm_source=2013_10_Newsletter_1&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=weekly

http://www.commonsensemedia.org/blog/parents-top-10-cyberbullying-questions?utm_source=100713_Parent+Default&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=weekly

Sign Up for the 2013 Flu Vaccine Clinics

All MCPS elementary schools will host a flu clinic on either Monday, November 11, or Tuesday, November 12, 2013, following early dismissal of students on those days.

Monocacy Elementary School's clinic is scheduled for November 11; Poolesville Elementary's clinic will be November 12.

All clinics are free, but registration is required due to limited vaccine supplies.

Both the injectable seasonal flu vaccine and nasal spray flu vaccine will be available, at no charge, at other DHHS flu clinics at various locations in the county, October through December. Visit http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/flu or call 311 for county locations.

Magnet Dates

Event	Date	Time	Location
Application Deadline	November 8		
Testing for Magnet Program	December 7 (Snow Date December 14)	8:00 - 11:00 AM	See application for details
Special Needs Testing for Magnet Program	December 8 (Snow Date December 15)	8:00 - 11:00 AM	Richard Montgomery High School
Notification of Magnet Selection Results	By mid February, 2014		

November 6, 2013



Dear Parents/Guardians:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of an opportunity to purchase a piano or keyboard for your family. Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) has an agreement with Schaeffer's Piano Company, Inc., to provide MCPS with new grand and upright pianos to be used in schools. Schaeffer's Piano Co., Inc., located in Rockville, Maryland, is the area's oldest piano store. This agreement also provides MCPS families and staff an opportunity to purchase these and other pianos for considerably reduced prices at an annual piano sales event.

This year's liquidation sales event will take place on November 15, 16, and 17, 2013, at Schaeffer's Piano Company, Inc., 105 North Stonestreet Avenue, Rockville, Maryland, 20850. Friday and Saturday, November 15 and 16, 2013, are by appointment only to provide an opportunity for you to purchase these pianos before they are offered for sale to the public on Sunday, November 17, 2013. All pianos will carry a 15-year transferable warranty. Each piano will come with a bench and one free in-house tuning.

For additional information, you may visit the Schaeffer's Piano Company, Inc., website at www.schaefferspiano.com. To make an appointment for November 15 or 16, call the Schaeffer's Piano Company appointment desk at 301-424-1147. No appointment is required for Sunday, November 17, when the sale will be open to the general public from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Friday, November 15, 2013 Call 301-424-1147 to schedule an appointment Saturday, November 16, 2013 Call 301-424-1147 to schedule an appointment Sunday, November 17, 2013 Open to the General Public, 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

We are grateful to be working with Schaeffer's Piano Company, Inc., to support our school music programs and help MCPS keep new and well-maintained instruments in our schools each year. If you have any questions, please contact Schaeffer's Piano Company, Inc., at 301-424-1144.

Sincerely,

Larry A. Bowers

Chief Operating Officer

LAB:pjm

Save the Date!



Important events you won't want to miss!

November 11 Veterans' Day

Dr. Starr's State of the Schools Address

Parent Conferences

Early Release for Students

November 12 Early Release for Students

November 13 First Quarter Report Cards Distributed

Basketball Tryouts Begin

November 15 Grade 8 Newseum Field Trip

November 18 Blue Ribbon Monday (Wear Blue)

November 22 & 23 JPMS Drama Club fall play: Yearbook

November 27 Early Release

November 28 & 29 Holiday - Thanksgiving

MCPS State of the Schools Event Set for November 11

Superintendent Joshua P. Starr will deliver his second State of the Schools address on Monday, November 11, at the Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane in Bethesda. MCPS parents and community members are invited to join Dr. Starr as he shares his vision for preparing all students for success and we celebrate the outstanding students of Montgomery County Public Schools. This free event will take place from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. and will feature artwork and performances by MCPS students. Visit the State of the Schools website at www.mcpsstateoftheschools.org for more information and to RSVP.

El Evento "Estado de las Escuelas de MCPS" Está Programado Para el 11 de Noviembre

El Superintendente Joshua P. Starr pronunciara su segundo discurso sobre el Estado de las Escuelas el lunes, 11 de noviembre en el Centro de Música en Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane en Bethesda. Los padres de MCPS y los miembros de la comunidad están invitados a acompañar al Dr. Starr cuando él presente su visión para preparar a todos los estudiantes para el éxito y a celebrar a los estudiantes destacados de las Escuelas Públicas del Condado de Montgomery. Este evento gratuito se llevará a cabo de 7:30 a 9:30 a.m. y contará con la presentación de obras de arte y actuaciones de los estudiantes de MCPS. Visite la página de internet del Estado de las Escuelas en www.mcpsstateoftheschools.org para obtener más información y para registrarse al evento.

PHS NEWS

Go Falcons!



Boys Varsity Football:

11/8/13 6:30 PM (A) PHS vs. Rockville

Congratulations to **Vincent Hsiao** and **Vinay K. Sriram** who were named state semifinalists in the Siemens Competition in Mathematics, Science and Technology.

The annual research competition is sponsored by the Siemens Foundation and administered by the College Board. A total of 2,440 students registered for the 2013-14 competition, representing 1,599 projects submitted. The students are vying for college scholarships ranging from \$1,000 to \$100,000 in individual and team categories.

Nationally, 331 students were named semifinalists. In the state of Maryland, only Fifteen MCPS students and one from Harford County were honored with this prestigious recognition.

The Siemens Foundation is a charitable arm of Siemens, a German technology company involved in engineering, transportation, energy, medicine and other fields. The foundation supports educational initiatives in the sciences, technology, engineering and mathematics for teachers and students in the U.S. More information can be found at siemens-foundation.org.

Nicholas Nickleby

The PHS Midnight Players' next production will be *Nicholas Nickleby*, based on the novel of the same name by the world famous English writer, Charles Dickens. He also wrote *David Copperfield*, *Great Expectations, Oliver, A Christmas Carol*, and many others. Prizewinning playwright, Tim Kelly, a lifelong Dickens buff, has created a superb dramatization of this entertaining classic.

The play will be presented November 21 at 7:00 p.m., November 22 at 7:30 p.m., and November 23 at 2:00 and 7:30 p.m. Tickets for both adults and students are \$7 for General Admission and \$11 for seats in the Reserved Section. They may be purchased from the PHS website. Beginning November 12, tickets may also be purchased in person at the school box office on school days from 11:00 - 11:30 a.m. and 2:15 - 2:45 p.m. Tickets will also be sold at the door beginning 45 minutes before each show.

In the past, patrons have been able to choose any seat they wanted in any part of the theatre. This year, specific seats may be chosen only in the Reserved Section which is the front half of the auditorium. Patrons holding General Admission tickets may choose any empty seat in the back half of the auditorium when they arrive for a show. We no longer have different prices for students and adults. Patrons sitting in the Reserved Section will pay \$11; Patrons sitting in the General Admission Section will pay \$7.

Call John Poole!

Main Office 301-972-7979 Counseling 301-972-7980 Cafeteria 301-407-1037

Health Room 301-407-1029



And Ask for...

Principal - Mrs. Boucher Assistant Principal - Ms. Lemon
Technology & Arts IRT & Grade Level Coordinator
English IRT - Mrs. Lindsay

Social Studies IRT - Ms. Nachlas

Math IRT - Mr. McKay
Science IRT - Mrs. Callaghan

Special Education IRT - Ms. Turnbull

Counseling - (Ms. Kitts, Secretary) Mrs. Arnold - Mrs. Eisenberg

JPMS Timberwolves live with Purpose Respect Integrity Dedication Effort



Our Vision:

The Timberwolf community experiences joy in learning, celebrates excellence, and values positive relationships.

Our Mission:

At John Poole Middle School, our mission is to:

- promote joy in learning through motivation and engagement
- celebrate excellence by acknowledging achievement
- foster a shared responsibility for academic and social success
- value positive relationships, thereby promoting a respectful and supportive learning environment