Good evening John Poole Middle School families,

This is Mr. Green with your weekly updates for October 2 - October 6, 2023.

Welcome to October!  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.

Student ID cards were distributed last week.  As a reminder, school picture retake day will take place on November 2nd.

John Poole MS student portraits are now online for viewing and ordering! You should have received an email from Freed Photography with your child’s private gallery information.  If you have not received this (check your spam too), please contact them at support@freedphoto.com or call 301-652-5452.

RecXtra clubs begin this week, 10/3.  These clubs are 100% free but spots are on a first come first serve basis.  Clubs meet from 2:45 - 4:15. Activity buses are provided, or students can be picked up.  More information and a link to the signup sheet can be found on the John Poole website, [here](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org%2Fschools%2Fpoolems%2Fclubs%2Factivities%2F&data=05%7C01%7CJon_Green%40mcpsmd.org%7C41125095e4854d64380b08dbbec55885%7Cddf755e9bcd64a5ea4727c378a78c6c7%7C0%7C0%7C638313527019607236%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Wwxmf%2BHGfSCc%2Bpu4koSxy25d9PWs3M7o9UPglV%2BVqqc%3D&reserved=0).

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**

JPMS fall athletics schedule for this week:

Tuesday, October 3 - Cross Country at Ridgeview

            Boys Softball vs. Ridgeway

                      Girls Softball at Ridgeview

Students and families are strongly encouraged to check the athletic classroom page for the most updated information.

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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, 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

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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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%7Cddc2141e871747bf4c9408dbc2cec455%7Cddf755e9bcd64a5ea4727c378a78c6c7%7C0%7C0%7C638317965557537243%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=hkCGs2Jv2DsWJzIEenHJPm4GCNxxO2rsjJwRKlvb4CM%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%7Cddc2141e871747bf4c9408dbc2cec455%7Cddf755e9bcd64a5ea4727c378a78c6c7%7C0%7C0%7C638317965557537243%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=DXoRSDXtWpNttGPXBxjqDgKea3otBB0Grxwfg%2FklNUk%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, 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!