Good evening John Poole Middle School families,

This is Mr. Green with your weekly updates for January 8 - January 12, 2024.

This week we have Winter MAP Testing on Wednesday and Thursday.  There is also a PTSA meeting on Tuesday evening.

Attention all parents of students who are bus riders.  There will be a special meeting following the PTSA meeting on Tuesday night at 7:30 p.m.  The Zoom information will be shared in a separate email on Monday.  We are piloting a self-service bus app that allows parents/guardians to track their child’s assigned bus routes, complete with planned pickup and drop off locations and times.  Parents/guardians can track the bus in real time during hours of transportation and configure notifications to send an alert when the bus is nearing pickup or drop off.

* Real-time bus location and information for assigned routes
* Planned location and time for assigned bus stops
* Customizable notifications and alerts
* Available on a mobile device
* Secure and reliable for parents/guardians

As an MCPS parent myself, I have had the opportunity to preview this app and it appears to be very beneficial.  Please consider attending this meeting.  We will record the meeting and the presentation will be shared following the meeting, in case you are unable to attend.

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**Winter MAP Testing**

Fall MAP testing for all grade levels will occur on Wednesday, January 10th (MAP-R) and Thursday, January 11th (MAP-M).  Students will follow this [modified bell schedule](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdocs.google.com%2Fdocument%2Fd%2F1HIzGjykZZOvjb7OKwY8kzXogTqP_6pVOM5-xeQhxeQ8%2Fedit%3Fusp%3Dsharing&data=05%7C02%7Calison_m_d%27aiutolo%40mcpsmd.org%7Cac74eb1157d54f103f9a08dc0fd91bc6%7Cddf755e9bcd64a5ea4727c378a78c6c7%7C0%7C0%7C638402672349368834%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=WcPAk2MRqM%2B0zf9IDX8vo%2B8sZ2wGU6yHdZ04gt2JsCA%3D&reserved=0) on both days.  Prior to the first day of testing, student testing groups will be posted by the main building entrance and at the end of each hallway.  Data collected from Winter MAP testing will be used to determine students’ current performance levels in the areas of literacy and math and to inform instruction.  Please contact [Jacqueline\_L\_Orrence@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Jacqueline_L_Orrence@mcpsmd.org) with any questions.

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During the December 5, 2023, Board of Education (Board) business meeting, the Board adopted the 2024–2025 School Year calendar. The calendar is responsive to community input, offers limited instructional disruptions, and maintains 182 days of instruction. Mark your calendar for the first day of school next year. Please use the links provided to access the 2024–2025 School Year calendars.

* [2024-2025 Traditional School Year Calendar](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fww2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org%2FuploadedFiles%2Fcalendar%2FFY2024%2FTraditional_Calendar_BoardAdopted_Months.pdf&data=05%7C02%7CJon_Green%40mcpsmd.org%7C2afbd7a968e64b641af208dbfccc649d%7Cddf755e9bcd64a5ea4727c378a78c6c7%7C0%7C0%7C638381727008101526%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=1K68t26%2BV7DZpN4Z9soX3x2HP%2FiZps6HGZ7YcX%2F4tA8%3D&reserved=0)
* [2024-2025 Innovative School Year Calendar](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fww2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org%2FuploadedFiles%2Fcalendar%2FFY2024%2FInnovative_Calendar_BoardAdopted_Months.pdf&data=05%7C02%7CJon_Green%40mcpsmd.org%7C2afbd7a968e64b641af208dbfccc649d%7Cddf755e9bcd64a5ea4727c378a78c6c7%7C0%7C0%7C638381727008101526%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=KMBzB8mv2%2FlRlwM0N089pvtQ8rDqoVmQBR0OEQagBOo%3D&reserved=0)

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PHS Student Tutors/Mentors

On Wednesday, January 10, we will have PHS students coming to JPMS to support our students.  High School students will be ready to help students with their homework and will assist students with whatever help they may need.  Please consider joining us after school on Wednesday.  Please listen to the announcements this week for more information.

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**Drama Production Update**

We have had to change the dates for our drama productions.  The plays will no longer take place in December.  The new dates are now Friday, January 19 and Friday, January 26, 2024.  The shows will begin at 6:30 p.m. We hope to see you then!

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**PHS PTA Store for current 8th grade (future PHS class of 2028) families**

The Poolesville High School PTSA has decided to try something fun for the incoming freshman. They switched their swag shop from just serving their current families to having 2028 gear for families of JPMS.  The store will open on Monday, December 18.  Please use the following link:

[**https://phsclass2028.itemorder.com/shop/home/**](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fphsclass2028.itemorder.com%2Fshop%2Fhome%2F&data=05%7C02%7CJon_Green%40mcpsmd.org%7C66aae646bb58431f433c08dbfcd2051e%7Cddf755e9bcd64a5ea4727c378a78c6c7%7C0%7C0%7C638381751198155448%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=iIraAIzkKsmn5QhiI247ua1zcn7OIBQC8Rx9J0PdRTM%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%7C02%7Calison_m_d%27aiutolo%40mcpsmd.org%7Cac74eb1157d54f103f9a08dc0fd91bc6%7Cddf755e9bcd64a5ea4727c378a78c6c7%7C0%7C0%7C638402672349378869%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=4T9ahtFv0Ml88lijR%2FU3LVFB6BD7GLnjnGfBmTujEe0%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%7C02%7Calison_m_d%27aiutolo%40mcpsmd.org%7Cac74eb1157d54f103f9a08dc0fd91bc6%7Cddf755e9bcd64a5ea4727c378a78c6c7%7C0%7C0%7C638402672349386095%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=AZ%2FVSgFryVzdNilZZ2BLPSfDe9E9dMtnHsdV3%2Br0hCU%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:

Wednesday, January 10 - MAP-R Testing

Wednesday, January 10 - Basketball vs. King MS.  Girls are home, Boys are at King MS.

Thursday, January 11 - MAP-M Testing

Monday, January 15 - NO SCHOOL

Wednesday, January 17 - Basketball vs. Ridgeview.  Boys are home, Girls are at Ridgeview MS

Tuesday, January 23 - Basketball vs. Kingsview.  Girls are home, Boys are at Kingsview MS

Friday, January 26 - End of 2nd Marking Period

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Have a great night and a wonderful week!

Mr. Green