Good evening John Poole Middle School families,

This is Mr. Green with your weekly updates for October 23 - October 27, 2023.

As a final reminder, this is the last full week of the first marking period. The end of the first marking period is Tuesday, October 31.  Students should be checking their grades and assignments in StudentVUE.  Please make sure you have all of your assignments completed on time and that you are taking advantage of the re-assessment opportunities by the due date and deadline.  You should speak with your teacher if you have any questions.  Let’s finish strong!

There is NO SCHOOL for students on Wednesday, November 1.  November 1 is a professional day for staff.

Next week (10/30 - 11/3) 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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SGA Fundraiser

Attention Timberwolves, the SGA is hosting a sweet fundraiser you’ll want to participate in. The fundraiser is Halloween candy grams! Buy $1 lollipops that look like ghosts with a special note to your friends. This fundraiser will take place this week, October 23 to October 27. They will be sold during lunch and before school. Come buy a lollipop to support the SGA and celebrate Halloween with your friends.

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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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Game Changer’s Conference

Unity Christian Fellowship, Inc. will host its semiannual Game Changer's conference on Saturday, October 28, 2023, from 8:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. at Seneca Valley High School, 19401 Crystal Rock Drive Germantown, Maryland 20874. The conference theme is "The World is Shifting! Focus Forward." The goal is to allow students to succeed as a game changer. The target audience is Black/African American and Hispanic/Latino male students in Grades 4–12.  In addition, parent workshops will be held every half hour (beginning at 8:00 a.m. and ending with the last session at 12:30 p.m.).  A continental breakfast and lunch will be provided.

There will be an essay writing competition for students to improve their writing skills and better prepare for school and college. Students are encouraged to write and submit a 300-word essay based on the theme, "The World is Shifting! Focus Forward."

Parents should register by **Wednesday, October 25, 2023**.  Click [here](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdocs.google.com%2Fdocument%2Fd%2F1K1V1v_af_d3Gv3SJESRapFiWz7WcWs5IdsGyjQ-1ZEM%2Fedit&data=05%7C01%7CJon_Green%40mcpsmd.org%7C07a27f7082bd46f5282008dbd17a0f81%7Cddf755e9bcd64a5ea4727c378a78c6c7%7C0%7C0%7C638334094389828891%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=t1Ibb3A%2BaGokbXMJdY4lth03MHS2s2QwYMvuoU2hH4c%3D&reserved=0) for the registration link and for additional information about the conference.

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**MCPS Partnership with Schaeffer’s Piano Company**

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) has a business partnership with Schaeffer’s Piano Company, Inc., where they provide 15 grand, upright, and digital loaner pianos to MCPS at no cost. Schaeffer’s Piano Company, Inc., has a public sale of instruments twice a year.  The first sale is scheduled for November 11–19, 2023. During this time, the public can purchase pianos at reduced prices.  Please see [this letter](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdrive.google.com%2Ffile%2Fd%2F1MIxaBgiZ1Ns9UrhjG8EPXbMgde6wpQ_7%2Fview%3Fusp%3Dsharing&data=05%7C01%7CJon_Green%40mcpsmd.org%7Cc0397f126a2a455f934e08dbd1768fc6%7Cddf755e9bcd64a5ea4727c378a78c6c7%7C0%7C0%7C638334079366189115%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=h%2BSZvaStLpfzXMSIp0kfhFkuGXg53ZVLXIQYlFSZuxM%3D&reserved=0) for more information.

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**JPMS 2nd Annual Timberwolf 5k/Fun Run** is coming up on **Saturday, October 28th**.    
Registration is now open.  [https://runsignup.com/Race/MD/Poolesville/JPMSTimberwolf5kfun](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Frunsignup.com%2FRace%2FMD%2FPoolesville%2FJPMSTimberwolf5kfun&data=05%7C01%7Cjon_green%40mcpsmd.org%7Cd5843c90ee6949e0fbfc08dbc5bac246%7Cddf755e9bcd64a5ea4727c378a78c6c7%7C0%7C0%7C638321178153800103%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=wBP0cRrB3eiEp67NcQ80aSOxmW%2FOEjdjx5wYX59ykSk%3D&reserved=0)Can't run/walk but would like to support? Make a donation to the race or advertise your business by becoming a sponsor -  [https://jpms.memberhub.com/store](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fjpms.memberhub.com%2Fstore&data=05%7C01%7Cjon_green%40mcpsmd.org%7Cd5843c90ee6949e0fbfc08dbc5bac246%7Cddf755e9bcd64a5ea4727c378a78c6c7%7C0%7C0%7C638321178153800103%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=06UFBuOYXX520GcSwE1RQaHRGEPNAFFPKiCMMbcWTyY%3D&reserved=0).    
  
GotSneakers? Help our environment - bring in used athletic shoes throughout the month of October and the weekend of the race. We are partnering with GotSneakers?, a sneaker recycling organization that will donate funds to the PTSA for every pay of athletic shoe we collect.  More information about the types of shoes we can accept can be found here - [https://gotsneakers.com/sneakerguidelines/](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fgotsneakers.com%2Fsneakerguidelines%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cjon_green%40mcpsmd.org%7Cd5843c90ee6949e0fbfc08dbc5bac246%7Cddf755e9bcd64a5ea4727c378a78c6c7%7C0%7C0%7C638321178153800103%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=qLl9trERkD9YdZglUNY1MRHTyFIDbdFvIroGDEYKOwA%3D&reserved=0)Volunteer/earn SSL! We need adult and student volunteers for race day. A signup genius will be coming out in a future newsletter but please consider saving the date to run/walk or volunteer for the race. This event is the largest fundraiser PTSA will hold this year and we would love to see many of you on race day!

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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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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, 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 will likely break if dropped.  The media center has padded carrying cases for students if they would like one.
* Chromebooks should be plugged in EACH NIGHT to be 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:**

There are a limited number of JPMS yearbooks available at the discounted price of $45 using the advertised promo code. When these run out, the remaining yearbooks will be sold at the regular price of $50. Go to [www.jostens.com](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.jostens.com%2F&data=05%7C01%7CAlison_M_D%27Aiutolo%40mcpsmd.org%7Cb6e571097a8547bd622408dbcb301f2b%7Cddf755e9bcd64a5ea4727c378a78c6c7%7C0%7C0%7C638327179794078342%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Ngd8C2RAnnMDozJxfjJejHFhv9w0eJpJnQAMcyM6yVM%3D&reserved=0) to see promo availability and order today.

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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%7Ccf4a649980ea4e44f94808dbd34eda49%7Cddf755e9bcd64a5ea4727c378a78c6c7%7C0%7C0%7C638336107876381796%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=UJi0hRaTHoNItWE0MLVtBbdsyvHVVsThNdBo6aijcsQ%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%7Ccf4a649980ea4e44f94808dbd34eda49%7Cddf755e9bcd64a5ea4727c378a78c6c7%7C0%7C0%7C638336107876381796%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=R1hWfS0MTnM9o6xxEbfPkVlQnEo%2BhutbdrWlZzjzqkI%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