August 11, 2023

Dear John Poole Middle School Families,

On behalf of the staff of John Poole Middle School, I would like to welcome you to the 2023-2024 school year. We are so excited to get this school year started and to work with each of your children! As the principal of John Poole Middle School, I am truly looking forward to an amazing year of learning for our students. As we begin a new school year, we know communication is extremely important to the success of our school community. I will send out weekly Timberwolf updates every Sunday night through email.

It was wonderful to see so many of our students participate in our summer school program!  As a reminder, there are optional summer reading and math packets posted on our school website.  Hard copies are also available in the main office from 8:00 a.m.‑3:00 p.m.

I encourage you to continually check our [school website](https://www2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/poolems/) as well as the [Montgomery County Public Schools](https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/) (MCPS) website for the most up-to-date information. Please also view the MCPS [2023-2024 school year calendar](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1WlO4IBDMIxBobK_6135Sb9H70cMwEI7W/view?usp=drive_link) to see closures and early release days. We encourage you to print this calendar.

I would like to start by introducing the new staff members that we have welcomed to John Poole Middle School. They are each amazing people who will contribute in positive ways to the work we are doing here at John Poole. Please join me in welcoming:

* **Lindsi Allen, Special Education Teacher**
* **Desiree Bayonet, Technology Teacher**
* **Alison Chase, Speech-Language Pathologist**
* **Eri Ellis, Cafeteria Worker**
* **Rebecca Gibbs, Science Teacher**
* **Bernadette Martin, Special Education Resource Teacher**
* **Bernard Jankowski, Special Education Teacher**
* **Delroy Marsh, Special Education Paraeducator**
* **Danielle Murray, Math Content Specialist**
* **Lisa Schartiger, Media Specialist**
* **Robert Smith, Social Studies Teacher**
* **Brooke Tilley, Spanish Teacher**

I know that we have put the right people in the right places, and I believe that we will have a great year this year for our Timberwolves!

In addition to this letter, you will find a great deal of information for you to review and use prior to the opening of the school year on our website. While we wait for further direction from the Board of Education, the [*23-24 Back to School Resources*](https://www2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/poolems/parents/summermailings/) link on the school website will be updated. The [*23-24 Back to School Resources*](https://www2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/poolems/parents/summermailings/) link provides information on the school supply list, bus route information, homeroom assignments, information on how to join the PTA, and so much more. If you cannot access the online resources, hard copies will be available by appointment only at the John Poole Middle School main office.

We will continue to use the student information system called Synergy. ParentVUE is a valuable tool to enable parents/guardians to monitor their children’s progress throughout the school year.  Information regarding optional parent sessions for ParentVue will be coming soon. Please be sure to update your contact information as this serves as a primary source of contact information during the school year.  We will continue using myMCPS Classroom as our instructional platform for teachers. Please visit our [this MCPS webpage](https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/parents/tech-info-support.aspx) for more information.

As you plan for the start of the school year here are some additional dates that you may want to mark on your calendar:

* **Thursday, August 24 -** New student orientation. All 6th graders and those 7th and 8th graders new to John Poole Middle School are welcome to attend an orientation from 7:55-11:40 a.m. to share information and prepare students for the first day of school. Students will briefly attend their classes, meet their teachers, and will be able to make sure they know where to check-in on Monday, August 28, 2023, for the first day of school. Bus transportation will be provided to all bus riding students.
* **Monday, August 28 –** First day of school for students!
* **September 4 -** No School- Labor Day
* **September 7 -** Back-to-School Night, beginning at 6:15 p.m. This is a great opportunity for parents to meet their child’s teachers, learn more about our curriculum, and find out other important information about school procedures and expectations. There will be a parent meeting to discuss the Family Life curriculum as well as ParentVue support sessions that will take place at 5:45 p.m. Classroom visits will begin at 6:45 p.m.
* **September 5-8** – Scholastic Book Fair in the Media Center
* **September 14** – Student Picture Day
* **September 22** – Early Release Day (dismissal begins at 12:10 p.m.)
* **September 25** – Non-Instructional Day – No school for students and teachers

**Immunization Requirements for the 2023-2024 School Year:** All students must have up-to-date immunization records prior to the start of the 2022-2023 school year.

Parents should contact their doctor to make sure their child is properly immunized and submit a copy of the documentation to the Health Room as soon as possible, but no later than **Monday, August 28, 2023** the first day of the 2023-2024 school year. Immunizations for students new to MCPS and children in Kindergarten through Grade 12, are available Monday through Friday, by appointment, at locations in Rockville and Germantown.

Appointments are available at:

School Health Services Immunization Clinic at Rocking Horse Road: 4910 Macon Road. Rockville; Phone: 240-740-4430 Germantown Health Center: 12900 Middlebrook Rd. Germantown; Phone: 240-777-3380 [Visit this webpage](https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/immunizations/) to view the full list of immunization requirements for students.

**Chromebook/Technology Information:**All students who are new to JPMS will receive a touch screen Lenovo Chromebook and charger signed out to them to use throughout the school year.  Current JPMS students will continue to use the Chromebook that was provided to them last school year. Students will be expected to charge their device at home each evening and bring the device back to school every day for use in their classes. Chargers are to be left at home, so they are not lost/misplaced at school. [Here](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ZBAigLmbTq6A43I7lVXDNmVXV5tXtWyxUmBnbmtcfNU/edit) is the link to the Chromebook Agreement that will be sent home with all students on the first day of school.

JPMS will only have a limited number of loaner Chromebooks and chargers this year available for students if they forget their device or it needs to be repaired, therefore it is very important for students to take excellent care of their device and remember to bring it to school each day fully charged.

Students will be responsible for any damage beyond the normal wear and tear of the Chromebook; more information will be shared regarding this and any fees.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to email me at [Jon\_Green@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Jon_Green@mcpsmd.org). You can also call the school and leave a message at 240-740-4200. I value open communication as we work to provide your children with the highest level of education! I am looking forward to beginning our work together.

Sincerely,

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Jon Green

Principal