

John Poole's

BACK POCKET

February 14, 2014

A Thought for Today:

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

- Martin Luther King, Jr.

This Winter Just Won't Quit

By now, even I have begun to think it's time to put our pajamas on right side-out and ban the other snow day rituals for this year. As beautiful as it has been to see the countryside wrapped in pure white blankets, and as sweet as it is to wear the fuzzy slippers all day, we are getting seriously behind with all the instructional time we have missed this winter, and some parts of the calendar are not about to flex for bad weather.

For example, interims will be prepared on February 28 regardless of the time we have missed, and the third quarter will end on March 27 – just five short weeks from now. But first,

we have another immovable object to contend with: the Maryland School Assessments (MSAs).

This is the last year the MSA will be given. Next year, a new test – the PARCC (designed by the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers) – will take its place. That doesn't mean the MSA has lost its importance. We still rely on those scores to gauge student progress and to inform placement decisions. Not only do we have historical records that make this year's scores meaningful, but we understand these tests we've been giving for so many years. The PARCC is still uncharted territory.

Part of the final design process for the PARCC is to field test it with students in the more than 40 states that have joined the Partnership. MCPS is participating in the field tests, so this spring every middle school will give some part of the PARCC reading or math test. At JPMS, we are giving the PARCC Math test to about half our 7th graders.

2014 MSA Schedule		
Grade 6 Reading Test	March 3 & 4	
Grades 7 & 8 Reading Test	March 5 & 6	
Grade 6 Math Test	March 7& 10	
Grades 7 & 8 Math Test	March 11 & 12	
Grade 8 Science MSA	March 31 & April 1	
Grade 7 PARCC Math	March 24 & 25	

The PARCC will be administered in late March,

just at the time we are giving the MSA Science test to our Grade 8 students. (Incidentally, the Science test is the only part of MSA that will remain once the new PARCC assessments are in

place. Students in Maryland will continue to take MSA Science in grades 5 and 8 for the forseeable future.)

The students chosen to take the PARCC were selected randomly by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). We sent them our list of testing groups (we test in TAP groups, so that was easy enough to do) and they sent back the two sections they selected for the field test. Students who take the PARCC will not have to take the MSA, too.

Parents may elect to have their students take both the regular MSA and the PARCC field test. If you are interested in that option, just give us a call. Right now, we plan to have the students in the field test group do an online practice PARCC test while their peers are taking the MSA in Math. That should give them an idea of what kind of test lies ahead for them in April.

Everyone will take the regular MSA Reading as usual. Our participation in field testing is limited to 7th Grade Math.

These are just some of the school system's Rites of Spring that will roll out on schedule regardless of the current bad weather. Meanwhile, we are over our allotment of snow days for the year, so we may need to follow the contingency plan that is already embedded

IF SCHOOLS	THE SCHOOL YEAR WILL BE EXTENDED
ARE CLOSED	BY
5 days	one day to June 13, 2014
6 days	two days to June 13 and 16, 2014
7 days	three days to June 13, 16, and 17, 2014
8 days	four days to June 13, 16, 17, and 18, 2014
9 days	five days to June 13, 16, 17, 18, and 19, 2014

in the 2013-14 calendar, reproduced above.

In the past, MSDE has been willing to waive the rules on days of instruction when there has been such severe weather that closing school was ineitable. I know MCPS will apply for a waiver once the weather clears and we can be fairly sure exactly how many days we lost this year. I just don't know what the response will be.

Meanwhile, we might as well enjoy the snow and the cold while it's here. I hope our kids can get some exciting sledding and snowball fights in this long weekend. Just please remind them to keep up with their homework, spend some time reading, and be prepared to work hard once we get back to business as usual. Thanks!

- 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!

Killian Carney Leo Guillette

Madison Peek

Matthew Convers Josie Kolb

James Royal



Joseph Esser Sarah Mullikin Clare Wilson

Practical Math

Mr. McKay's first and second period Algebra Prep classes investigated the correlation between a student's homework grade and their class grade using a scatterplot.

A scatterplot is a mathematical diagram of coordinates that compares two variables for a set of data often used to determine if a correlation does or does not exist between the two variables.

Mr. McKay printed out his first and second period homework and class grades (with no names of course!) for each of the students. The students then plotted these points in an attempt to determine if there was a correlation between homework and class grades. After the points were plotted and a trend line was drawn to approximate the relationship, students were able to see that...(drumroll please)...there IS a correlation between your homework grade and class grade!

The correlation was positive, meaning that...

"The better you get on homework, the better the class average"

> - Killian Carney and Amelia Williams

"When the HW average increases, the class average will increase."

- Elizabeth Parise

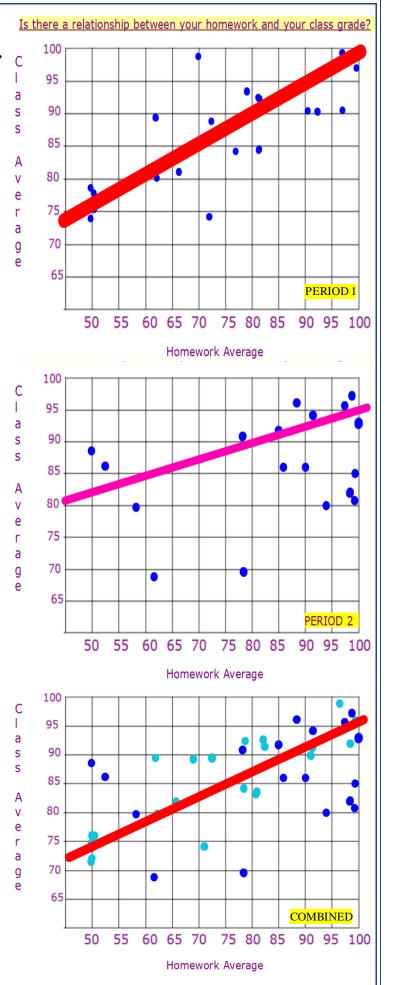
"The more homework you do the better your class grade is."

- Travis Lowe, Brendon White, and Bostyn Smith

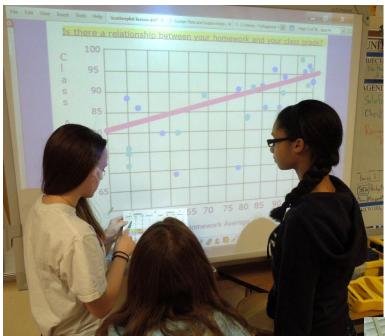
"The better you keep up with your homework, the better your class grade will be."

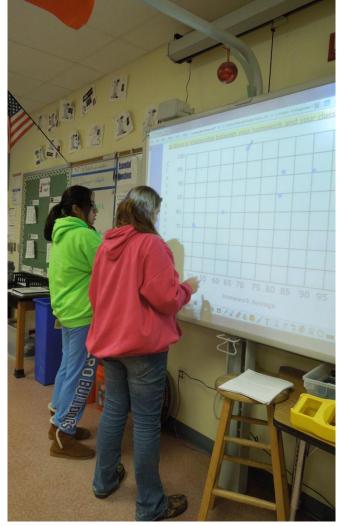
- Isaac Kasuske and Thomas Oram

The same correlation applies to other classes as well as math. Homework is like practice for an athlete – it pays off in improved performance!















Pennies for Patients

This month the SGA is sponsoring Pennies for Patients through Social Studies classes. Since 1994, millions of dollars have been raised in pennies and other spare change by more than 10 million elementary, middle and high school students throughout the country. The funds, collected during a three-week period, benefit The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

Students are encouraged to donate money to help children with cancer. The program runs from Monday, February $3^{\rm rd}$ until Friday, February $21^{\rm st}$. Our goal is to raise \$2,000 for this important cause.

Thanks for your support by bringing in money to donate to your Social Studies Pennies for Patients Box.

Girls Basketball News

Tuesday the girls basketball team raised its record to a perfect 5-0 with a dominating victory over Martin Luther King, Jr, Middle School. The strong defense led to another game in which everyone scored for JPMS.

Hannah Bush was the top scorer with 8 points. Alexis Abrigo added 7 while Sarah Mullikin, Bridgette Hammett, Haley Harkins, Megan Roldan and Kalie Terragno all added 6 points each.

The season wraps up next Tuesday, February 18 against Rocky Hill. Come out and support the girls as they look to go undefeated for the 2014 season.



Happy valentine's Day To all the SWEET Hearts WHO Make IT SUCH a Pleasure to Be Part of the JPMs family!

John Poole Middle School



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



Spotlight on... Registration

Watch for forms to come home and parent meetings this month about registering for next year's classes.

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.

The Parent Meeting for Incoming 6th Graders has been rescheduled for Thursday, February 27 at 7:00 PM in the APR.

If you have a friend or neighbor with a child currently in Grade 5, please remind them to change the date on their calendars.

If your child has already received registration materials for next year, please get them turned in to us as soon as possible. If you have questions or need a little more time, please be sure we receive the registration card no later than February 28. Thanks!

Poolesville High School invites 8th grade parents to attend an informational meeting about the Independent Studies Program on Wednesday, February 19th at 6:00 PM. Following at 7:00 PM, there will be a counselor presentation on course registration for the 2014-2015 school year. Please call the PHS counseling office if you have any questions.



February 6, 2014



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 a piano sales event.

This year's liquidation sales event will take place on February 15, 16, and 17, 2014, at 105 North Stonestreet Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20850. Saturday and Sunday, February 15 and 16, 2014, are by appointment only to provide an opportunity for you to purchase these pianos before they are offered for sale to the public on Monday, February 17, 2014. 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 February 15 or 16, call the Schaeffer's Piano Company appointment desk at 301-424-1147. No appointment is required for Monday, February 17, when the sale will be open to the general public from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, February 15, 2014 Sunday, February 16, 2014 Monday, February 17, 2014 Call 301-424-1147 to schedule an appointment Call 301-424-1147 to schedule an appointment 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

Student Service Learning (SSL) Tips Give a Little Time...Make a Big Difference

February 2014

Students address a recognized need in the community.

- President's Day (February 17, 2014) Weekend is a good time to get involved in activities that involve both *service* and *learning*. Plan ahead for service in the community by checking out the database of approved organizations and opportunities at www.mcpsssl.org.
- Select the Advanced Search option at http://www.montgomeryserves.org/volunteers/student-service-learning-ssl to explore SSL opportunities that focus on Children, People with Disabilities, Homelessness, Poverty, Senior Citizens, Health, Arts/Culture, Environment, and more!
- In the state of Maryland, SSL is a graduation requirement for all students. As with other graduation requirements, SSL comes with its own guidelines, standards, expectations, and timelines. The best way to stay informed on the SSL program specifics is to visit the MCPS SSL website at www.mcpsssl.org, read the MCPS SSL publications and communications and refer questions to the school-based SSL coordinator.
- SSL is reflected on quarterly report cards. Review the *Hours Required, Hours Earned, and Hours Remaining* on each report card. Report discrepancies to Mrs. Arnold.

Student Service Learning (SSL)

Superintendent's Service Learning Awards



Awarded to students who have met the 75 hour service-learning graduation requirement by the First Friday in April of a middle school year.

All documentation for the 2014 Superintendent's Student Service Learning Award must be submitted to the school-based SSL coordinator by Friday, April 4, 2014.



Sign-up for Soccer

There will be an informational meeting for all 7th and 8th grade students interested in playing for the school soccer teams on Wednesday, February 19th during A lunch. All paper work needed to try out will be given out at this time. Students who can't attend the meeting or who have B lunch, please see Mr. Willett or Mrs. Gerrie for all information and paperwork.

Open House Rescheduled at the Edison Center

The Thomas Edison High School of Technology's Annual Open House has been rescheduled for Thursday evening, February 20, 2014, between 5:00 and 8:00 PM. The Open House is a great opportunity for students and parents to visit Edison and see firsthand the 18 career programs available to high school students throughout MCPS. Students will also be able to apply for programs on site during this event.

Thomas Edison students are able to explore career choices, earn college credits, learn industry certifications, and acquire marketable skills while experiencing success through hands on learning.

Seeing is Believing! Make plans now to attend the Annual Open House at Thomas Edison High School of Technology The address is 12501 Dalewood Drive Silver Spring, MD 20906. For questions, please call 301-929-2175.

Attention Parents!

The yearbook club needs your help! Anyone with pictures of John Poole Middle School students participating in school activities or any out of school activities, please send the pictures in for possible yearbook pictures. This includes any sports pictures and snow day pictures! The yearbook club would love to do a sports page and a snow day page but we need pictures from you to make this happen. Please send all pictures in on a CD to Kelly Aulls or e-mail them to Kelly_m_aulls@mcpsmd.org Thanks!

Math News

If you've been watching the roll-out of Curriculum 2.0, you may have some questions about math programming for your child now that the middle and high school courses are being included in the roll-out. This is why we have featured evening meetings about the changing math curriculum several times both last year and this. Now you can get up-to-date information online at the MCPS website. This link will take you to resources in writing, videos, and powerpoints you can check out at your convenience. http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/math/

Sign Up for AlertMCPS

Sign up for AlertMCPS to receive text messages or emails from MCPS during weather-related emergencies and other major events that impact school system operations. You can also sign up to receive alerts specific to your child's school. AlertMCPS messages are available in both

English and Spanish. Visit http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/emergency/alertmcps.aspx to subscribe.

Suscríbase a AlertMCPS

Inscríbase en AlertMCPS para recibir mensajes de texto o correos electrónicos de MCPS durante las emergencias relacionadas con el clima y otros eventos importantes que afectan las operaciones del sistema escolar. También puede inscribirse para recibir alertas específicas de la escuela de su hijo. Los mensajes de AlertMCPS están disponibles en Inglés y Español. Visite http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/emergency/alertmcps.aspx para suscribirse.

Choose Respect Conference

The Choose Respect Conference will be held on Sunday, February 23, 2014. This FREE annual event is intended for middle and high school students, their parents and youth service providers. It includes free food, live entertainment, raffles, prizes and interactive, educational workshops that get attendees talking about important topics such as domestic violence, dating abuse and how to identify and promote healthy relationships and friendships. The workshops are divided by age, as we all know the issues facing 6th and 7th graders are vastly different from those affecting 11th and 12th graders.

The second piece of the Choose Respect initiative is an annual Public Service Announcement (PSA) contest, where students are asked to create a 60-second video that brings attention to domestic abuse and dating violence. Winners are announced at the conference and receive cash awards, with a top prize of \$1,000. I am also attaching a contest flyer and the official rules/entry form. Contact the Counseling Office for more details.

MCPS TV

MCPS News in 90 and Noticias en 90 (in Spanish) are 90-second updates on what is happening throughout the district. The shows are cablecast on MCPS TV and may be viewed at the following URL:

- News in 90: http://bulletin.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/
- Noticias en 90: http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/es/news/

Book Club Event Set for February 19

You are invited to join Superintendent Joshua Starr at a Book Club discussion on Wednesday, February 19, at 7 p.m. in the auditorium of the Carver Educational Services Center, 850 Hungerford Drive, Rockville. The Book Club will discuss *Making Hope Happen* by Dr. Shane Lopez, a senior scientist with the Gallup organization, who will join Dr. Starr for the discussion. The book introduces readers to the scientific study of hope, its power, how to create it, and how to teach it to others to lead happier, more successful lives. Parents, staff, students and community members who wish to be a part of the studio audience for this free event are asked to RSVP to pio@mcpsmd.org. Those watching online or on MCPS TV (Comcast Channel 34) can participate in the conversation by sending questions via Twitter (using the hashtag #mcpsbookclub) or by sending an email to ask@mcpsbookclub.org. Visit the MCPS website at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org and search "Book Club" for more information.

Evento del Club del Libro Programado Para el 19 de Febrero

Usted está invitado a unirse al Superintendente Joshua Starr en su Club del Libro el miércoles 19 de febrero, a las 7:00 p.m., en el auditorio del Centro de Servicios Educativos Carver, 850 Hungerford Drive en Rockville. El Club del Libro discutirá *Making Hope Happen* del Dr. Shane Lopez, científico principal de la organización Gallup, quien acompañará a Dr. Starr para la discusión. El libro introduce el estudio científico de la esperanza, su poder, como crearlo, y como ensenarle a otros vivir una vida más feliz y exitosa. Los padres, personal, estudiantes y

miembros de la comunidad que deseen ser parte de la audiencia en el estudio, durante este evento gratuito, deben confirmar su asistencia a <u>pio@mcpsmd.org</u>. Aquellas personas que vean el programa en línea o por MCPS TV (Canal 34 de Comcast) pueden participar en la conversación enviando sus preguntas por Twitter (usando el identificador de tema (hashtag) #mcpsbookclub) o por correo electrónico enviando un mensaje a <u>ask@mcpsbookclub.org</u>. Visite el sitio de internet de MCPS www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org y busque "book club " para obtener más información.

Opportunities at Calleva

If you have a child in love with horses, you will want to look into the programs Calleva is offering for elementary and middle school students this spring.

Full-day lessons and games will be offered on three weekdays when school is not in session: February 17 (Presidents' Day), March 28 (Professional Day) and April 21 (last day of Spring Break – Easter Monday.) The cost is \$60 per day and transportation by bus is provided to and from Poolesville Elementary School.

Starting March 10 and running through May 16, Saddle Club will meet at Calleva on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays after school. Remember that there are no activity buses from JPMS on Mondays and Fridays, but Calleva will provided buses each day that pick up at Poolesville Elementary at 3:00 PM and deliver students back to PES at 6:00 PM. Each day will include learning about horses, grooming, riding and doing barn chores. The cost is \$280 for eight sessions - \$35 per session.

Finally, Calleva is offering a spring break camp from April 14 - 15. Each day will be filled with both mounted and un-mounted lessons, games, horse care and farm fun. The cost for the week is \$350, and again, transportation will be provided from Poolesville Elementary.

If you are interested in any of these opportunities, contact Tess at Calleva for more information. You can call her at 970-317-1848 or email at tess@calleva.org.

After School Activities

RecXtra has returned to John Poole this year with a full schedule of after school activities. Students need to listen to the morning announcements or follow them <u>online</u> at our website to be ready to participate in the programs that interest them.



If you have any suggestions for programs you would like to lead or to see offered at JPMS please contact Mrs. Crutchfield at Winessa R Crutchfield@mcpsmd.org.

Activities begin after school at 2:30 p.m.

Activity buses are provided on Tuesdays Wednesdays and Thursdays except on early dismissal days or the day before a holiday. They leave JPMS at 4:00 p.m.

Algebra (Tuesday)

Homework Club (Tuesday)

Drama Club (Tuesday Wednesday and Thursday)

Extended Day Reading Classes (Tuesday)

Math Extended Day (Wednesday and Thursday)

main Extended Day (Wednesday and Indisday)

Basketball Practice (Tuesday Wednesday and Thursday)

Running Club (Feb. 19 & 26; Mar. 5)

Jazz Band (Wednesday)

Newspaper Club (Wednesday)

Leo Club (Wednesday – Dates TBD)

Give the gift that lasts a Lifetime!



Order Your 2014 Yearbook NOW.

Dear Parents & Students,

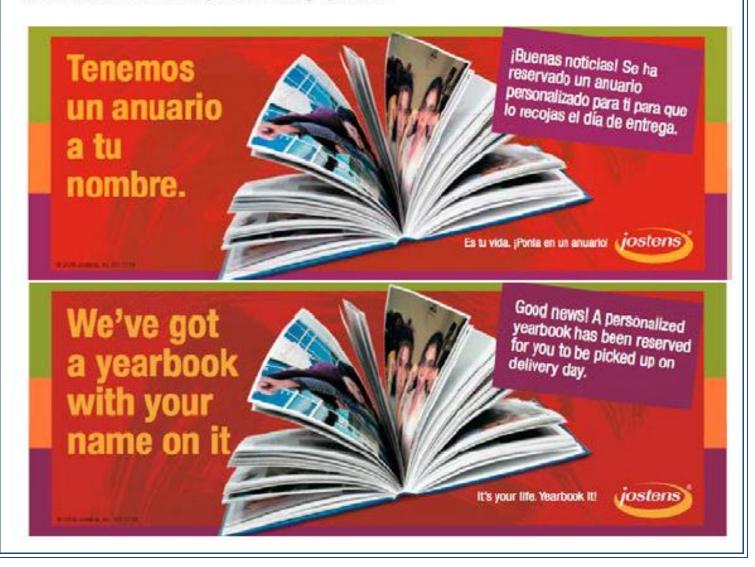
We look forward to an amazing year at John Poole Middle School! Our yearbook staff will be there to capture all the big events of the school year. Pre-order your child's yearbook **NOW**.

The cost of the yearbook is \$35, but you can purchase through January 31st for \$32.

Please order online at jostensyearbooks.com as John Poole Middle School does not accept any inschool purchases.

Online payment options include credit card, debit, personal check, Bill Me Later, Paypal or monthly installment option. Yearbooks may sell out, so order **NOW** and reserve your copy today!

NEED A HOLIDAY GIFT IDEA? Order your child's yearbook today and then share one of the certificates below with them to let them know that they will be receiving a yearbook.



Save the Date!

Important events you won't want to miss!

February 17 Holiday, Presidents' Day (No School)

February 27 Meeting for Parents of Incoming 6th Graders (rescheduled)

February 28 Interims Due

Early Release Day

(Students dismissed at 11:50 a.m.)

March 3-12 MSA Testing

March 13-14 MSA Make-ups

March 7 Interims Mailed

March 24 Blue Ribbon Monday (Wear Blue)

March 24 & 25 Grade 7 PARCC Math

March 27 3rd Marking Period Ends

Humanities Night (6:30 p.m.) Spring Recital (7:00 p.m.)

March 28 Professional Day (No School for Students)

March 31-April 1 Grade 8 Science MSA

Honor Roll Celebrations

Originally scheduled for Friday, February 14

Have been rescheduled for Friday, February 21

Grade 6: 12:50 Grade 7: 10:30 Grade 8: 8:40

Families are cordially invited to join us

PHS NEWS

Go Falcons!



The Miss Poolesville competition will be held on February 20th at 6:30 p.m. in the Auditorium at PHS.

Poolesville High School Athletics (Winter)

Boys Vars	ity Basketball	
2/14/14	5:15 p.m.	PHS vs. Seneca Valley HS at PHS
2/18/14	5:15 p.m.	PHS vs. Rockville HS at Rockville HS
2/21/14	7:00 p.m.	PHS vs. Wootton HS at PHS
2/25/14	7:00 p.m.	PHS vs. Walter Johnson HS at Walter Johnson HS
Girls Vars	ity Basketball	
2/14/14	7:00 p.m.	PHS vs. Seneca Valley HS at PHS
2/18/14	7:00 p.m.	PHS vs. Rockville HS at Rockville HS
2/21/14	5:15 p.m.	PHS vs. Wootton HS at PHS
2/25/14	5:15 p.m.	PHS vs. Walter Johnson HS at Walter Johnson HS



We know that PHS is the top-ranked high school in the state of Maryland. For some perspective on what that means, you may want to read about how Maryland stacks up against other states.

For the eighth consecutive year, Maryland had the highest percentage of high school seniors in the country pass Advanced Placement tests in 2013.

Nearly 30 percent of Maryland's seniors earned a college-ready score of 3 or better on the tests, according to a report released by the College Board on Tuesday. The tests — which range from the arts to world languages across more than 30 subjects — aim to give students a taste of work at the college level, and those who pass them can earn college credit while still in high school.

For the whole article by Ovetta Wiggins and Emma Brown in **The Washington Post**, click on this link: Maryland high school seniors top the nation on AP exams

PHS put the Visitor Management System in place Monday, February 3. This is the same system we have at JPMS where you swipe your driver's license and get a badge to wear in the building. It will be just as easy at the high school as it is here. Thanks for your cooperation.

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 - Mr. Grotenhuis
English IRT - Mrs. Lindsay
Social Studies IRT - Ms. Nachlas
Math IRT - Mr. McKay
Science IRT - Mrs. Callaghan
Special Education IRT - Ms. Turnbull

JPMS
Timberwolves
live with
Purpose
Respect
Integrity
Dedication
Effort



Our Vision:

Counseling - (Ms. Kitts, Secretary)

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

Mrs. Arnold- Mrs. Eisenberg

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