

John Poole's

BACK POCKET

August 30, 2013

A Thought for Today:

No pessimist ever discovered the secrets of the stars, or sailed to an uncharted land, or opened a new heaven to the human spirit.

- Helen Keller

Welcome to Another Great Year at JPMS!

Back to school is always exciting. Everyone's an optimist as the school year begins. Every student is hoping the year will be happy and successful; every teacher brings renewed commitment to helping kids do their best. This week was such a lovely start that we have already gone a long way toward turning optimism into reality. You have sent us another bumper crop of outstanding kids, and we are ready to help them thrive!

Monday brought me one of the best omens a principal can observe on the first day of school: the tardy bell rang, and every hallway was both gleaming and empty. The building service staff had cleaned and polished until our floors shone, and our kids had all found their homerooms and made their ways into their seats right on time. Fabulous!





At the flag-

raising each fall, we open the academic year with a rededication to our school and our country. The weather was perfect, and it was beautiful to see our students, staff and families gathered in front of the school to celebrate our successes and look toward a bright future. There was a great deal to celebrate Monday morning!

For the last 4 years we have participated in PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and

Supports) – a national program focused on the simple premise that teaching children what you expect of them and then acknowledging them when they meet your expectations helps them be

the healthy, successful kids we want. In each of those years, the state of Maryland has recognized the quality of our program with an award. Like Olympic medals, these awards come in gold, silver, and bronze, and JPMS received our third Gold in a row at the flag-raising. The banner was presented by Kris Leary, the director of PBIS for MCPS, along



with some encouraging words about how wonderful our students are. I couldn't agree more!



Also representing MCPS were Dianne Jones, Director of the Division of School Plant Operations, and Seymour Thomas, our Building Service Area Supervisor, here to present our custodial staff with the Most Valuable Team Award. Ms. Jones led a group of leaders in the Division of School Plant Operations through visits to the 38 middle schools in our district, looking for the best-kept building and the most dedicated staff. Of course, they chose the outstanding crew at JPMS for this singular honor. Our Building Manager, Mrs. Thomas, accepted a beautiful plaque from Ms. Jones, and

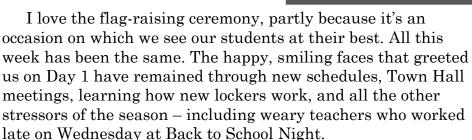
our entire team: Mrs. Thomas, Mrs. Bennett, Mr. Bourne, Mr. Bryant, and Mr. Weschler, were honored at a luncheon last week. It came as no surprise to me that the JPMS staff would earn this recognition. Whenever guests come into our school they tell me they can't believe we are 17 years old because everything still sparkles like new. That's Timberwolf PRIDE in action!

This summer our gym floor was re-surfaced, and it looks amazing! We still aren't walking on it while the finish sets, but the next time you come in, please be sure to get a look at the paw print painted in the center circle. This design was created by our own student **Rachel Macairan**, and the plaque pictured at right was also displayed at the flag-raising. It will be installed on the wall outside the gym to be sure Rachel is always celebrated for her tremendous artistic talent.

As usual, the ceremony concluded with students **Ryan Johnston** and **James Kavanagh** playing a brass duet rendition of the

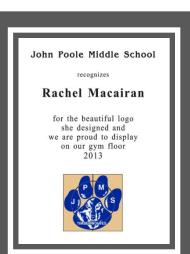


National Anthem as **Ellen Beal** and **Morgan Bliss** raised the flags, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.



Have a restful, happy Labor Day Weekend!

- Charlotte Boucher



This Week at JPMS...















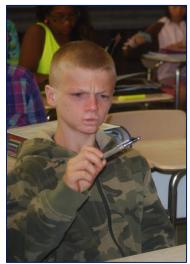
























Questions About Edline?

Edline is a great way to keep on top of your child's academic progress.

We make sure our students know how to log into their accounts, and we hope every parent will become an active user of the system as well.



For assistance please email Joy McIntyre at Joy_A_McIntyre@mcpsmd.org.

She can answer questions and troubleshoot problems with logins, passwords, combining accounts for more than one child, and other Edline features.

Don't wait - help is just an email away!

Safety First!

Back to school means those relaxed traffic patterns we got used to over the summer are gone until next year. Student safety is, of course, our primary concern. There are beautiful new sidewalks on Tom Fox to help students stay out of the road, and those of us behind the wheel need to do our part, too.

Here are four simple habits that will help ensure everyone can come and go safely, even in heavy traffic:

• When you arrive at school, please pull all the way forward to the Student Drop Off sign painted on the parking lot through-lane. That leaves the maximum space for cars to come in behind you, and fewer cars will spill out onto Tom Fox.



- Please observe the No Left Turn sign when you leave the JPMS parking lot. Take a little more time to exit turning right and wait until you reach Hughes Road to make your left hand turn. It's *always* what drivers are supposed to do, but at arrival and dismissal times, you'll be traveling away from the school traffic instead of back into it, and that will really help.
- Remember that Tom Fox is a two-way street. Cars approaching from the direction of Halmos Road need to stay in the right hand lane, even if that means waiting in a line of cars. Waiting on the opposite side of Tom Fox blocks traffic and requires students to cross in front of moving vehicles to reach their rides.
- When children are coming to school in the morning or going home in the afternoon, take special care to observe the speed limits and come to a complete stop at every stop sign in our neighborhood. Slowing down and observing the traffic laws can save lives.

Thanks for working with us to keep our kids safe!

Music Is More Than Playing



Stand in a public place and count the young people going by wearing ear buds—you'll see irrefutable proof that kids love music. Fortunately, studying and performing music is good for them, too! This excerpt from an article on www.aupaircare.net explores some of the many reasons to encourage students to take a music class.

There are many benefits to playing a musical instrument that go beyond improving hand-eye coordination and instilling a sense of responsibility in your child. Some other benefits include doing better in school, increasing attention span and having fun playing familiar songs for an audience of family and friends. It can also improve a child's ability to socialize with their peers. Truly, the benefits are innumerable. Here's a list of additional benefits that stem from playing a musical instrument that you won't want your kids to miss.

- 1. Time Management and
 Organizational Skills Practice makes
 perfect, but you have to make time for
 practice. Learning to play an instrument
 requires a child to work on managing
 their time in order to fit the appropriate
 amount of practice into their day. In
 addition, a child must learn to be more
 organized so they don't lose or misplace
 music books or parts of their instrument.
- 2. Focus, Concentration and
 Determination Playing an instrument
 helps improve focus and concentration
 skills. A child must learn to dedicate a
 certain amount of attention and focus to
 learning new notes or chords.
 Consequently, for them to learn an entire
 song they will have to assemble all the
 new notes they have learned. The reward
 of performing well can increase their level
 of determination to succeed, as well.
- 3. Goals and Aspirations It takes discipline to learn to play a musical instrument, and every note produced is another goal met, another triumph along the way. When a child gets into the swing

of things, they often become committed to the idea of learning and perfecting a new song they enjoy. This part of the process can promote short term and long term goal-setting habits in a child.

- 4. Sense of Achievement and Confidence

 Learning how to read music is like
 learning a second language, so learning a
 new instrument is an accomplishment in
 itself. Conquering every song he tackles is
 hard work and something he will feel
 proud of. This will boost his confidence
 and sense of accomplishment, especially
 when he begins to learn songs that are
 familiar or tunes that he loves.
- 5. Stress Relief Initially, learning a new instrument can be a bit overwhelming and even a bit stressful. Over time, however, as your child becomes more comfortable, it can become a source of stress relief. Playing music that brings joy can help soothe a child. It can also be calming for others to hear them play music.
- 6. Creative Expression There's nothing more releasing than learning a song that makes you happy or writing your own music that moves you. Playing an instrument allows your child to be

expressive
in how they
are feeling
by using
music as an
emotional
and creative
outlet. A
child's
personality



and talents can shine when they are allowed to be creative with music.

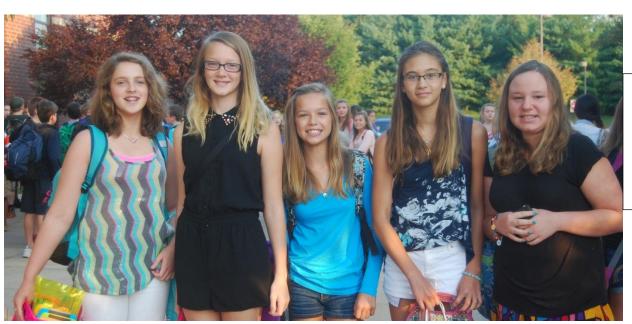
- 7. Patience Learning a new instrument takes patience. Mistakes are repeated many times before getting an entire song down pat. The process of learning through small triumphs and defeats teaches a child to have patience and to be diligent. They will begin to understand that with time and practice, they can achieve greatness.
- 8. Improved Memory, Reading and Comprehension Playing an instrument with sheet music requires constant reading and comprehension. Seeing notes and chords on the page and translating them to finger positions takes skill and committing them to memory takes persistence.



Student musicians preparing to play the Star Spangled Banner for our opening day flag-raising ceremony.

- 9. Being a Team Player Playing an instrument in a school band teaches a child to be a team player just as well as being on the football or basketball team. Each instrument has its own part and place in a song, and in order to participate in an ensemble a child will be forced to learn the art of working with others as a team to meet a common goal.
- 10. Better Grades A child who is taught music has been exposed to the necessary skills of concentration, focus and patience. These are abilities that tend to translate to above-average academic performance, as proven by a report released by the College Entrance Examination Board, which showed that students with a musical background outperformed their non-arts peers on the SAT and other standardized test.

Does your child love music? Even if your child has NO musical experience, it's not too late to begin learning an instrument. In some cases, we can even provide your child with an instrument at no cost!



Some of our wonderful students returning to another great year at JPMS!

Snack Time at JPMS

- Brain research shows that being hungry can inhibit learning.
- Hungry students have trouble concentrating on their work.
- Being hungry can lead to poor behavior.
- Students who leave home by 7:00 AM will wait at least 4-5 hours before they eat lunch.



Our Plan...Provide an opportunity for a light, healthy mid-morning snack



- Morning announcements will be made at the beginning of period 3 (around 9:20 each day).
- During announcements, students may eat a snack they have brought from home or purchased before school in the cafeteria.

The Rules

- Students must bring their snacks to period 3 when they arrive to class; they will not be excused to their lockers to fetch forgotten snacks.
- Snacks are for the person who brings them; they must *not* be shared or given to someone else.
- Liquids or snacks that require a utensil to eat are not permitted.
- Students must clean up after themselves; otherwise, they can lose the privilege to eat at snack time.

GOOD SNACKS

Granola Bars
Fruit
Small packs of carrots,
apple slices, etc.
Power Bars

PLEASE DON'T SEND -

- Candy or other sweets
- Juice, soda or other drinks
- Empty calories like chips
- Yogurt
- Anything that requires a spoon or fork

Snack Time began today, Friday, August 30.

Thanks for helping us ensure our kids get the nutrition they need to succeed!

John Poole Middle School



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

Membership and volunteer forms are available at the JPMS website:

http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/uploadedFiles/schools/poolems/parents/4.%20PTSA%20Membership%20Form.pdf



Spotlight on...

Math

Our first PTSA meeting will take place on October 8.

The subject will be the evolving MCPS Math Curriculum and how JPMS is implementing it.

The JPMS Staff says a big

THANK YOU

to our PTSA for treating us to great meals during pre-service week and before Back to School Night.



Our families are the best!



Did you earn SSL hours this summer?

Don't let your summer hours get forgotten in a drawer or closet somewhere. Get your SSL sheets completed with

- sponsor signature
- description of activity
- personal reflection answering all questions in full sentences
- Completed personal information including
 - ✓ first period teacher
 - ✓ student number

All hours are due on September 27, 2013. This is a county deadline! SSL sheets may be handed into the main office, counseling office or directly to Mrs. Arnold.





Softball

JPMS Softball tryouts start on Tuesday, September 10. They will be held Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday after school, for any 7th and 8th grader. Paperwork must be completed and turned in before you can try out. Paperwork can be picked up in the PE office.

Coed Cross Country

JPMS Co-ed Cross Country practice will be held on Tuesday, September 10. All paperwork must be turned in before practice. Paperwork can be picked up in the PE office.

School Store Grand Opening

The School Store will be open on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 7:25-7:30. We have lots of cool and inexpensive school supplies. Drop by and see what's in stock!

Building Our Future Together

Strategic Planning Framework

The Montgomery County Board of Education has adopted a new Strategic Planning Framework that will guide the work of MCPS schools and offices in the years to come. The Framework, Building Our Future Together: Students, Staff and Community, incorporates the three competencies that students need for success in the 21st century—academic excellence, creative problem solving, and social emotional learning—as well as a continued commitment to operational excellence. The Framework describes what students should know and be able to do in the three competency areas, as well as specific actions staff, parents, and community members should take to support students. Brochures were distributed at Back to School Night and are still available through the main office at JPMS. Learn more by visiting the MCPS website at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/framework or search Strategic Planning Framework.

Estructura de Planificación Estratégica

El Consejo de Educación (Board of Education) de Montgomery County ha adoptado una nueva Estructura de Planificación Estratégica que guiará el trabajo de las escuelas y las oficinas de MCPS en los próximos años. La Estructura, Construyendo Nuestro Futuro Juntos: Estudiantes, Empleados, y Comunidad, incorpora las tres áreas de competencia que los estudiantes necesitan para ser exitosos en el Siglo XXI—excelencia académica, resolución creativa de problemas, y aprendizaje social y emocional—como así un compromiso continuo hacia la excelencia operativa. La Estructura describe lo que los estudiantes deberían saber y ser capaces de hacer en las tres áreas de competencia, así como también acciones específicas que el personal, los padres y los miembros de la comunidad deben tomar para apoyar a los estudiantes. Los padres y el personal recibirán información sobre la Estructura de Planificación Estratégica al comienzo del ciclo escolar, pero ya pueden aprender más visitando la página de Internet de la Estructura de MCPS en www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/framework/es o busque Strategic Planning Framework.

STAY CONNECTED with MCPS



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ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND
OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

 For information on government resources in Montgomery County, call 311 or visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov

Stay Connected

The new *Stay Connected* website serves as a one-stop shop for all the tools that students, staff, and parents may use to stay informed and connected with MCPS. Visit www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/stayconnected/ for more information.

Sign-up for MCPS QuickNotes and Alert MCPS

MCPS QuickNotes is a free e-mail service that provides subscribers with important news and information about MCPS programs and activities, plus emergency information. MCPS QuickNotes is offered in six languages: English, Spanish, French, Korean, Chinese, and Vietnamese. Visit www.mcpsquicknotes.org to subscribe. Alert MCPS allows you to receive text messages or e-mail from the school system during weather-related emergencies and other major events that impact school system operations. Signing up for Alert MCPS is free, but please check with your wireless provider about charges associated with text messages. Sign up at http://alert.montgomerycountymd.gov.

Suscribase Para Recibir QuickNotes y Alerta MCPS

MCPS *QuickNotes* es un servicio gratuito por correo electrónico que ofrece a los usuarios noticias e información importante acerca de los programas y actividades de MCPS, además de información de emergencia. QuickNotes se ofrece en seis idiomas: inglés, chino, coreano, español, francés y vietnamita. Visite www.mcpsquicknotes.org para suscribirse. Alerta MCPS le permite recibir mensajes del sistema escolar por texto o por correo electrónico durante emergencias relacionadas a condiciones meteorológicas y otros sucesos de importancia que afectan las operaciones del sistema escolar. Suscribirse para recibir Alerta MCPS es gratis, pero por favor verifique con su proveedor de servicios inalámbricos para saber si hay cargos asociados al envío de mensajes de texto. Suscríbase ingresando a http://alert.montgomerycountymd.gov.

MCPS News Update

MCPS News Update and *Noticias de MCPS* (in Spanish) are weekly, five-minute news programs that are cablecast on MCPS TV and may be viewed online.

• News Update:

www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/news/

• Noticias de MCPS:

www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/es/news/

MCPS Moments

MCPS Moments are two-minute videos that highlight recent events, school programs, and more. The videos are featured online and on MCPS TV. Following is a list of some recent *MCPS Moments*:

- Linkages to Learning Celebrates 20th Anniversary
- Drive for Supplies Helps Families Get Ready for School
- Summer Camp Teaches Important Life Lessons
- MCPS Students Benefit from Summer Meals Program
- Board Approves New Strategic Planning Framework
- Ready for the New School Year
- Westover ES Educator is the Most Hopeful Teacher in America
- New Educators Introduced to MCPS
- 2013 Regional High School Summer School Graduation



MCPS News in 90

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

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

Education Matters

On the newest episode of *Education Matters*, Board President Christopher Barclay leads a conversation about the issues students and parents face as they make the transition from elementary school to middle school and middle school to high school. Topics of discussion include class schedules, parental supports, extracurricular and elective opportunities, anxieties, as well as counseling resources. The program can be viewed on MCPS TV (Comcast Ch. 34 and Verizon Ch. 36), and online at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/boe/edmatters/.

Student Transfer Policy

The Montgomery County Board of Education is seeking public comment on proposed revisions to Policy JEE, Student Transfers. This policy sets the standard under which MCPS students may be granted a transfer, referred to as a Change of School Assignment (COSA), to attend a school other than their home school or the school assigned to them under their Individualized Education Program (IEP). The public comment period for this policy will remain open until September 30, 2013. The Board of Education's Policy Committee will then consider all public comments before making a recommendation to the full Board later this fall. Any changes made to the policy will not impact the transfer requests for the 2013-2014 school year. The Board of Education's Policy Committee introduced the proposed changes to provide clarity and consistency in the COSA policy. Visit the MCPS website to learn more about the proposed changes and how to comment: www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/policy/student-transfers.aspx

Política de Transferencia de Estudiantes

Montgomery County Montgomery County Board of Education está buscando comentarios del público sobre las revisiones propuestas en la Política JEE, *Transferencia de Estudiantes*. Esta política establece la norma bajo la cual se podrá otorgar una transferencia a los estudiantes de MCPS, conocida como Cambio de Escuela Asignada (Change of School Assignment-COSA), para asistir a una escuela que no sea su escuela local o su escuela asignada según su Programa Educativo Individualizado (Individualized Education Program-IEP). El plazo para comentarios del público para esta política permanecerá abierto hasta el 30 de septiembre, 2013. El Comité de Políticas del Consejo de Educación entonces considerará todos los comentarios del público antes de hacer una recomendación al Consejo en pleno el próximo otoño. Ningún cambio que se le haga a la política impactará las solicitudes de transferencia para el ciclo escolar 2013-2014 El Comité de Políticas del Consejo de Educación introdujo los cambios propuestos para ofrecer claridad y consistencia en la política COSA. Para más información sobre los cambios propuestos y sobre cómo comentar, visite el sitio de Internet de MCPS en

www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/policy/student-transfers.aspx.

Extracurricular Activity (ECA) Fee Remittance Form

The Montgomery County Board of Education requires payment of an extracurricular activity (ECA) fee for middle or high school students who want to participate in extracurricular activities for the 2013–2014 school year. The ECA fee remittance forms are now available on the MCPS website in eight languages at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/forms/280-37.shtm.

Save the Date!

Important events you won't want to miss!

September 2 HOLIDAY, LABOR DAY (No School)

September 4 Grade 6 Outdoor Education Parent Meeting (6:30 p.m., APR)

September 5 Rosh Hashanah (No School for Students/Teachers)

September 9-10, 12 MAP-R Testing

September 11-13 Outdoor Education at the Smith Center (Grade 6)

September 18 Yearbook Portraits during PE

September 21 Poolesville Day

September 27 Early Release Day (students dismissed at 11:50 a.m.)

September 30 Blue Ribbon Monday (Wear Blue)

September 30 - October 4 Blue Ribbon Week

Softball Schedule

Boys' Coach: Bill Cartwright Girls' Coach: Jami Earle

September 19 Girls play King at JPMS (2:50 p.m.)
September 19 Boys play King at King (3:15 p.m.)

September 25 Boys play Clemente at JPMS (2:50 p.m.)
September 25 Girls play Clemente at Clemente (3:15 p.m.)

October 2 Girls play Kingsview at JPMS (2:50 p.m.)
October 2 Boys play Kingsview at Kingsview (3:15 p.m.)

October 9 Boys play Neelsville at JPMS (2:50 p.m.)
October 9 Girls play Neelsville at Neelsville (3:15 p.m.)

October 15 Girls play Rocky Hill at JPMS (2:50 p.m.)
October 15 Boys play Rocky Hill at Rocky Hill (3:15 p.m.)





Coach: Steven Schmidt

September 19 King at JPMS (2:50 p.m.)

September 25 Clemente at JPMS (2:50 p.m.)

October 2 JPMS at Kingsview (3:15 p.m.)

October 15 JPMS at Rocky Hill (3:15 p.m.)



PHS NEWS

Go Falcons!



Portraits – September 16 & 17

Make-up Senior Pictures – September 9-12

Athletic Schedule (partial)

Boys/Girls Cross Country	9/11/2013 9/17/2013	3:30 PM 3:30 PM	(H) (A)	PHS vs. Montgomery Blair PHS vs. Northwest
Boys Varsity Football:	8/30/2013 9/6/2013 9/12/2013 9/20/2013 9/27/2012	6:30 PM 6:30 PM 6:30 PM 7:00 PM 6:30 PM	(H) (H) (A) (H) (A)	PHS vs. Francis Scott Key PHS vs. Northwood PHS vs. Kennedy PHS vs. South Hagerstown PHS vs. Walter Johnson
9/10/2013 3:30 I 9/11/2013 3:00 I 9/16/2013 3:30 I 9/18/2013 3:00 I	013 3:30 PM (A) Coed 013 3:00 PM (A) Girls 013 3:30 PM (A) Coed 013 3:00 PM (A) Girls		Girls—Multiteam Event at Wheaton (Laytonsville GC) Coed—Multiteam Event at Blair (Worthington Manor GC) Girls—Multiteam Event at Wheaton (Laytonsville GC) Coed—Multiteam Event at Paint Branch (Northwest Park GC) Girls—Multiteam Event at Wheaton (Laytonsville GC) Coed—Multiteam Event at PHS (Hampshire Greens GC)	
Girls Varsity Soccer:	9/7/2013 9/10/2013 9/16/2013 9/18/2013	Time TBD 7:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM	(A) (H) (A) (A)	Multiteam Event at North Carroll PHS vs. Gaithersburg PHS vs. Magruder PHS vs. Northwest
Boys Varsity Soccer:	9/9/2013 9/16/2013 9/18/2013	7:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM	(A) (H) (H)	PHS vs. Gaithersburg PHS vs. Magruder PHS vs. Northwest
Girls Varsity Tennis	9/6/2013 9/9/2013 9/12/2013 9/17/2013 9/19/2013	3:30 PM 3:30 PM 3:30 PM 3:30 PM 3:30 PM	(H) (A) (H) (A) (H)	PHS vs. Gaithersburg PHS vs. Watkins Mill PHS vs. Whitman PHS vs. Churchill PHS vs. B-CC
Girls Varsity Volleyball	9/9/2013 9/12/2013 9/17/2013 9/19/2013	6:30 PM 6:30 PM 6:30 PM 6:30 PM	(A) (H) (A) (H)	PHS vs. Quince Orchard PHS vs. Gaithersburg PHS vs. Kennedy PHS vs. Rockville
Field Hockey Varsity:	9/7/13 9/10/2013 9/12/2013 9/17/2013 9/19/2013	Time TBD 7:00 PM 3:00 PM 3:30 PM 3:00 PM	(A) (A) (H) (A) (H)	Multiteam Event at Urbana PHS vs. Sherwood PHS vs. Whitman PHS vs. Seneca Valley PHS vs. Einstein

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

Counseling - (Ms. Kitts, Secretary) Mrs. Arnold - Mrs. Eisenberg

JPMS Timberwolves live with P urpose R espect **I** ntegrity **D** edication E ffort



Our Vision:

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

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