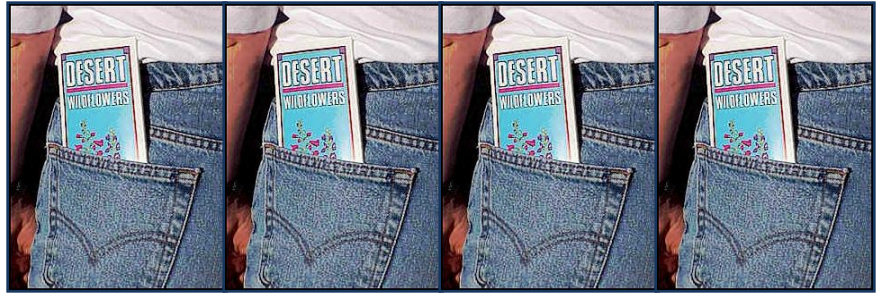


John Poole's **BACK POCKET**



August 31, 2012

A Thought for Today:

The fruit of liberal education is not learning, but the capacity and desire to learn; not knowledge, but power.

- Charles W. Eliot



It's Been a Great Week!

No matter how ready I am, I still can't sleep the night before school starts. It's been that way since I was 5 and looking forward to kindergarten – the first day of school is a very big deal.

Our students arrived excited, too, with their stylish new shoes and carefully chosen outfits.

They did an excellent job of managing their excitement, though – we had excellent cooperation from all three grades. They smiled all day, greeting their friends and the staff with lovely manners. Thanks for sending us such wonderful students!

Again this year, we opened school year our traditional Flag Raising Ceremony. The sunshine made it especially lovely to have the whole school and a number of parents and community members grouped around the flag pole to celebrate the new school year.



We applauded the Green School Award JPMS earned last spring and the Positive Behavior Incentives and Supports (PBIS) Gold Award we received over the summer. This is the second Gold Award we have earned by focusing on teaching our students the high expectations we have for their behavior and acknowledging them when they meet those expectations.



The ceremony ended when members of our concert band played *The Star Spangled Banner*, the flag was raised and we recited the Pledge of Allegiance. This is a special year for *The Star Spangled Banner* since it marks the 200th anniversary of the start of the War of 1812. During that war, on September 14, 1814, Francis Scott Key watched the American flag flying over Fort McHenry in Baltimore through an all-night naval bombardment. He wrote the words to our national anthem to commemorate this experience. You can see the real Star Spangled Banner at the Conservation Laboratory of the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History downtown – or you can drive by JPMS on September 14 when we will be flying a replica of the flag on the anniversary of the famous battle.



The students who took part in the Flag Raising did an outstanding job. Many



thanks to

Morgan Bliss, Delaney Cecco and Theresa Nardone for presenting the PBIS and Green School Awards; to musicians **Daniel Ballew, Stefanie Beltran, Morgan Bliss, Kenydi Cross, Kaley Fisher, Jennifer Jang, Ray Kinzie, and Daria Sharifi**, who did a great job on our National Anthem; to **James Donovan and Mackenzie Gross** who raised the flag; and to **Ellie Creedon** for singing *The Star Spangled Banner* and leading us in the Pledge.

The flag raising is a JPMS tradition, and so is high academic achievement.

We're very proud of our test scores from the 2012 Maryland School Assessments (MSA), and I will be sharing these data with you in some detail in upcoming *Back Pocket* newsletters. Right now, I'd like to point out a few features that are new to our school this year.

We are welcoming three new teachers to JPMS this year. Mr. Owens joins our staff as our Grade 8 American History teacher. He's young, enthusiastic and full of ideas for making history exciting. We are fortunate that a little additional staffing has allowed us to provide a second teacher in more classes than ever before. Mrs. Bedard will be co-teaching in social studies classes and Mrs. Hazel is co-teaching in science and math. Both these ladies are experienced professionals who bring our students both expertise and commitment to helping them learn. I know you will enjoy getting to know these fine teachers.

Another new aspect of this school year is our rededication to building strong relationships among our students, staff and community. We're launching a mentoring program you'll hear more about in September, and we're developing ways students can make a difference in and out of school. The Timberwolf Community Cares program allows students to donate their PRIDE Props to charity. This week, 8th graders selected three causes they were especially interested in supporting: Wounded Warriors, Saint Jude's Hospital, and the ASPCA. Throughout the year, students in all grades may spend their Props at the PRIDE store as always, or they may place them in the container designated for the charity they care most about. At the end of each semester, we'll count up the Props and make a corresponding donation to the three charities.

We're also supporting a project we're calling Kid Caps. Montgomery County's association for retired teachers has worked for years to create school boxes for pre-school students and kindergarteners. This fall they distributed more than 11,000 school supply kits, each of which includes a set of math counters made from plastic bottle caps. We're helping out by collecting bottle caps in our cafeteria. Instead of discarding the

twist off caps from water and soda bottles or the snap off caps from milk bottles served at lunch, our students can put them in the Kid Caps buckets for donation to the retired teachers' project.

All week students been working on learning the names of their classmates and the staff who help them in the cafeteria. Knowing someone's name is the first step to communicating effectively and caring about each other, so we are requiring students to know the students and staff they have lunch with and the PRIDE expectations for the cafeteria before they are released for free seating. To help out, we gave everyone a "cheat sheet" identifying all the adults and expectations and providing space to record the names of the students they eat with. Here's what the "cheat sheet" looks like:

Getting to Know You – Cafeteria

Shhh! – Cheat Sheet

Activity 1 – The first and last names of the people sitting at my lunch table are:

- | | | |
|-----------|-----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 2. _____ | 3. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 5. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 7. _____ | 8. _____ | 9. _____ |
| 10. _____ | 11. _____ | |

Activity 2 – Names

Counselors: Mrs. Arnold & Mrs. Hardy

Principal: Mrs. Boucher

Assistant Principal: Ms. Lemon

Security: Mr. Boettner

Lady Checking Passes at the Door: Mrs. Tetlow

Activity 3 – Cafeteria Behaviors- PRIDE

Purpose	Respect	Integrity	Dedication	Effort
Be seated	Walk to and from the cafeteria	Be honest	Stay at your seat	Clean up your own lunch
Bring a pass to be excused	Be polite to each other and adults	Bring or buy your own food	Go to the Media Center or to a teacher to study or read	Help others to clean up
Bring only your lunch money or lunch to the cafeteria	Use good table manners	Ask an adult if you need help	Recycle	
	Use inside voice			

Activity 4 – More Names – Cafeteria Ladies

Cafeteria Manager: Mrs. Moreland

Cafeteria Assistants: Mrs. Zoellner and Mrs. Kenley

Activity 5 – Some More Names – Building Services

Building Services Manager: Mrs. Thomas

Building Service Custodians: Mrs. Bennett and Mr. Bourne

Activity 6 – Students at my table who are in my other classes

Student Name	Class	Student Name	Class	Student Name	Class

It's surprising how many students sit in class and at cafeteria tables without knowing the names of the peers they are working and relaxing with. We also aim to help students feel comfortable with adults in the building so they will always be relaxed about asking for help if they need it. It's been fun to rehearse the information on the "cheat sheet" with kids as they study up.

If your child has not yet completed these six tasks: 1. Name the students at your lunch table; 2. Name the counselors, administrators, security assistant and hall pass monitor; 3. State the cafeteria expectations; 4. Name the cafeteria staff; 5. Name the custodial staff in the cafeteria at lunch; 6. Identify the students at your table who are also in other classes; you might help out by practicing together this weekend. Thanks!

On Tuesday we will begin another new program: mid-morning snack time. When some of our students get on their buses to leave home before 6:30 AM, it can be a very long wait until lunch. Being hungry can distract even the most conscientious student from learning, so we moved the morning announcements to the end of period 2 so that students could have a few minutes to snack while listening to the PA. I hope this improves everyone's mood and focus! There are some rules to remember, of course; please review the flyer we sent home this week. It's reproduced in this issue as well. We'll be starting snack time when we come back from Labor Day weekend next Tuesday.

Upcoming issues of the *Back Pocket* will keep you posted on these and other innovations at John Poole as well as giving you a window on your child's school life and discussing some of the important issues in education today. I hope you will click in to our website every week and read the *Back Pocket* regularly.



JPMS had a great opening week, and the staff and I couldn't be more pleased with the wonderful kids you sent us. Please come to Back to School Night on September 13, join the PTSA and become an active member of our school community. Together, we'll make sure our students have an excellent year!

- Charlotte Boucher

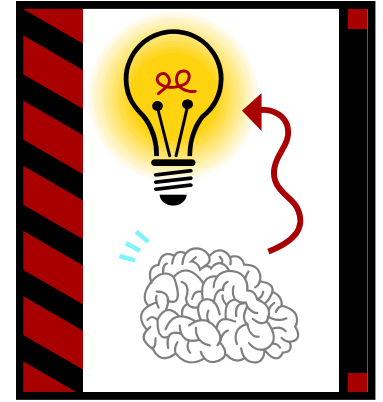
Back to School Night Thursday, September 13!

- *Read 180 Parent workshop and dinner
– 5:30 PM*
- *Review of Health materials & Edline
help – 6:30 PM*
- *General Meeting – 7:00 PM.*

See you there!

Snack Time Comes to 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



- Move morning announcements to the end of period 2 (around 9:20 each day).
- During announcements, allow students to eat a snack they have brought from home or purchased before school in the cafeteria.

The Rules

- Students must bring their snacks to period 2 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 begins Tuesday, 9/4

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

Don't Miss Picture Day!

¡No te pierdas el Día de la Foto!



Watch for details
on your flyer or visit
lifetouch.com

*Busca los detalles en tu volante o visita
lifetouch.com*

66484 © 2012 Lifetouch National School Studios Inc.

Friday, September 14

Pick Your Pose!

¡Selecciona Tu Poso!



Pick Your Background!

Selecciona Tu Fondo!



Dear Parents & Guardians,

Volunteers are needed for picture day!

Lifetouch photography needs your outgoing personality, positive attitude, and organizational skills to assist the photographer for a successful picture day.

Volunteers will be asked to distribute camera cards, keep lines orderly; assist students with grooming needs and answer questions. We ask that each parent volunteers for a minimum of 4 hours. We estimate that two parent helpers for the morning and two parent helpers in the afternoon would be sufficient to keep students flowing to the camera efficiently.

In appreciation for giving your time we are offering a complimentary **Portrait Package B** to use for your student.

If you are interested in volunteering on picture day please call our office toll free at 1-800-445-1189. It will just take a few minutes to pre-register and receive a confirmation. All volunteers need to register with the Lifetouch office prior to picture day.

We appreciate your partnership in working together for a successful picture day.

Call Us Toll Free at 1-800-445-1189.

Thanks!

The Lifetouch logo, featuring the word "Lifetouch" in a stylized, cursive blue font with a registered trademark symbol.

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.

Help for parents is available in the media center on Back to School Night beginning at 6:30 PM.

For assistance before then, please email Mrs. Vega at krista_n_vega@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!

The beautiful fall weather we've had this week has made it pleasant for students to walk to and from school, so traffic has flowed smoothly. Once it gets cold and wet, we'll see more cars picking up and dropping off students.

Student safety is, of course, our primary concern. Here are three 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.

Thanks for working with us to keep our kids safe!



Your PTSA –

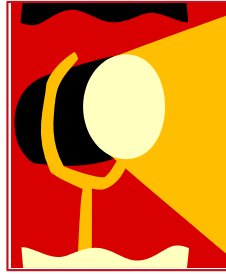
“Every child, one voice”

- Jennifer Kasten - President
- Dawn Albert - Vice President
- Dreama Hemingway - Secretary
- Wendy Roldan - Treasurer
- Lori Kocur - Membership & Volunteers
- Anne Donovan & Jackie Gaddis - Staff Appreciation

Please contact Lori Kocur at kocurs@verizon.net for membership information or to register as a JPMS Parent Volunteer. Once you are a registered volunteer, you will receive emails when opportunities to help out at school arise. It's as easy as that!

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...

Back to School Night

Thursday, September 13

Preview Health materials in the media center starting at 6:30.

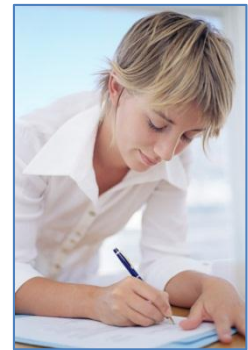
Be in the auxiliary gym by 7:00 PM sharp so you don't miss anything!

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 Friday, September 28th. This is a county deadline! SSL sheets can be handed into the main office, counseling office or directly to Mrs. Arnold.



Welcome back JPMS students and parents!

It is our goal to provide activities to meet the desires of all students. If you have any suggestions for programs or interests, please contact Mrs. Crutchfield at Winessa_R_Crutchfield@mcpsmd.org. Some of the programs offered this year are Books and Boxing, Babysitting Club, Jewelry Making, Zumba Class, Scrapbooking, Game Room, Book Club and much more. Keep checking the *Back Pocket* for upcoming classes.



School Store Grand Opening

The School Store will be open every day this week from 7:25-7:30. Tuesday before you leave for school grab a handful of change and stop by the school store as you make your way to 1st period. We have lots of cool and inexpensive school supplies.

Homework Hotline Live

Homework Hotline Live starts soon – on September 12th. You'll be able to call on the phone, or go on the web for homework help. Stay tuned for more information.

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.

Policy CNA

The Montgomery County Board of Education approved changes to Policy CNA, which guides the distribution of informational materials and flyers in schools. Under the revised policy, nonprofit organizations will be able to send printed materials home with students in elementary schools up to four times a year. However, such distribution no longer will be allowed in secondary schools. The revised policy will still allow MCPS, government agencies and Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs) to distribute printed materials in all schools at any time during the year.

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>.

Suscríbase 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>.

mcpssuper

mcpssuper is a video program hosted by Dr. Starr that provides viewers an in-depth look at the work of MCPS to engage and educate our more than 149,000 students. In the current episode of *mcpssuper*, Dr. Starr discusses Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) and takes viewers inside Montgomery Blair High School and Shady Grove Middle School to see PLCs in action. The program can be seen on MCPS TV (Comcast Ch. 34 and Verizon Ch. 36), and online at

www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/superintendent/mcpssuper/

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/

How to Raise a Reader

Common Sense Media has a great website I often explore looking for good ideas about how to help kids learn to manage the media and technology appropriately. Currently, they are featuring articles about turning kids into lifelong readers. It's well worth a few minutes to look over their recommendations, book lists for children from pre-school to Grade 12, and managing the apps devices that can link old-fashioned reading to new-fangled devices.

The web address is http://www.common sense media.org/new/how-raise-reader?utm_source=ExactTarget&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=08.21.12_standalone ; I think you'll find the site both informative and interesting.

Fall 2012 Parent Academy

The MCPS Parent Academy is back with an exciting lineup of free workshops for parents. The 2012 Fall session of the Parent Academy will begin on Thursday, August 30, 2012. The Parent Academy helps equip parents with the tips and tools they need to help their children succeed. All of the workshops are free and are held at schools and locations throughout Montgomery County. The schedule of workshops is available at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/parentacademy/schedule.aspx

Academia Para Padres Otoño 2012

La Academia Para Padres de MCPS regresa con una interesante serie de talleres gratuitos para los padres. La sesión del Otoño 2012 de la Academia Para Padres comenzará el jueves, 30 de agosto. La Academia Para Padres ayuda a equipar a los padres con los consejos prácticos y las herramientas que necesitan para ayudar a sus hijos a triunfar. Todos los talleres son gratis y se ofrecen en escuelas y otros lugares en todo Montgomery County. El horario de los talleres se encuentra a disposición en www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/parentacademy/schedule.aspx

Save the Date!

Important events you won't want to miss!



September 3	HOLIDAY, LABOR DAY (Schools Closed)
September 10-14	MAP-R Testing (during Science classes)
September 12	Outdoor Education Parent Chaperone Information Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
September 13	Back-to-School Night (7:00 p.m.)
September 14	Yearbook Portraits taken during PE
September 15	Poolesville Day
September 17	Rosh Hashanah (No School for Students and Teachers)
September 19-21	Outdoor Education at the Smith Center (6 th Grade)
September 24-28	Blue Ribbon Week
September 26	Yom Kippur (No School for Students and Teachers)
September 27&28	Vision and Hearing Testing
September 28	Early Release Day (students dismissed at 11:50 a.m.)

We're going to have a
GREAT YEAR!



PHS NEWS

Go Falcons!



School Portraits: September 12 and 13 – Spirit Week: September 10-14

Athletic Schedule (partial)

Cross Country:	9/12/2012	3:30 PM	(A)	PHS vs. Richard Montgomery
	9/19/2012	3:30 PM	(H)	PHS vs. Walter Johnson and Einstein
	10/2/2012	3:30 PM	(A)	PHS vs. Magruder and Northwest
Boys Varsity Football:	8/31/2012	6:30 PM	(H)	PHS vs. Watkins Mill
	9/7/2012	6:30 PM	(A)	PHS vs. Richard Montgomery
	9/14/2012	6:30 PM	(H)	PHS vs. Williamsport High
	9/21/2012	6:30 PM	(A)	PHS vs. Walter Johnson
	9/28/2012	6:30 PM	(H)	PHS vs. South Hagerstown High
Golf:	9/4/2012	3:30 PM	(A)	PHS, Blair, Einstein, and Sherwood at Northwest Park
	9/5/2012	3:00 PM	(A)	MCPS Girls Match #2 at Laytonsville GC
	9/10/2012	3:00 PM	(A)	PHS, Einstein, Clarksburg, and Rockville at Little Bennett
	9/12/2012	3:00 PM	(A)	MCPS Girls Match #3 at Laytonsville
	9/13/2012	3:00 PM	(A)	PHS, Blake, Blair, and Rockville at Needwood
Girls Varsity Soccer:	9/1/2012	8:00 AM	(A)	PHS at North Carroll Tournament
	9/4/2012	7:00 PM	(H)	PHS vs. Springbrook
	9/11/2012	7:00 PM	(A)	PHS vs. Wheaton
	9/13/2012	7:00 PM	(A)	PHS vs. Walt Whitman
	9/19/2012	7:00 PM	(H)	PHS vs. Blake
	9/24/2012	5:00 PM	(H)	PHS vs. Seneca Valley
Boys Varsity Soccer:	9/4/2012	5:30 PM	(A)	PHS vs. Springbrook
	9/11/2012	5:30 PM	(H)	PHS vs. Wheaton
	9/13/2012	7:00 PM	(H)	PHS vs. Walt Whitman
	9/19/2012	7:00 PM	(A)	PHS vs. Blake
	9/24/2012	7:00 PM	(H)	PHS vs. Seneca Valley
Girls Varsity Tennis:	8/31/2012	3:30 PM	(A)	PHS vs. Watkins Mill
	9/5/2012	3:30 PM	(H)	PHS vs. Rockville
	9/7/2012	3:30 PM	(H)	PHS vs. Magruder
	9/11/2012	3:30 PM	(A)	PHS vs. Springbrook
	9/12/2012	3:30 PM	(A)	PHS vs. Damascus
	9/18/2012	3:30 PM	(H)	PHS vs. Clarksburg
	9/20/2012	3:30 PM	(A)	PHS vs. Richard Montgomery
Girls Varsity Volleyball:	8/31/2012	6:30 PM	(A)	PHS vs. Quince Orchard
	9/5/2012	6:30 PM	(H)	PHS vs. Paint Branch
	9/11/2012	6:30 PM	(H)	PHS vs. Damascus
	9/13/2012	6:30 PM	(A)	PHS vs. Northwood
	9/18/2012	6:30 PM	(A)	PHS vs. Richard Montgomery
	9/20/2012	6:30 PM	(H)	PHS vs. Walt Whitman

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

JPMS
Timberwolves
live with
Purpose
Respect
Integrity
Dedication
Effort



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**