



Piney Branch Elementary School

August 2019

Greetings Piney Branch Families!

Welcome to the 2019-2020 school year! We hope you have taken time to relax, recharge, and enjoy summer! I am thrilled to be serving the students and community of Piney Branch ES and have enjoyed the opportunity to talk with many of you this summer. I look forward to seeing you on **Friday, August 30th for our Open House at 1:30-2:30 p.m.** We coordinated times with Takoma Park Elementary School to help with family scheduling. **Class lists will be posted on Thursday, August 29th by 5:00 p.m.** We hope to see you at the open house!

As we begin this year's journey of success, our goal is to continue the outstanding work of the school community to provide our students with an excellent instructional program of high expectations and growth for every child. Our academic program continues to provide a challenging and engaging curriculum aligned with the MCPS Curriculum and the Maryland College and Career Readiness Standards. MCPS continues to enhance the data platform which provides access to formative data measures for regular analysis of student performance. This enables us to measure and analyze student progress, identify needs, and provide support and enrichment opportunities through a rigorous instructional program.

The 2019-2020 School Improvement Planning (SIP) process has been slightly refined this year. The new process allows for a deeper level of data analysis to more effectively identify and provision for student needs and professional development opportunities for staff. The action plan identifies a school goal as well as grade level strategies for instruction in literacy, mathematics, and cultural proficiency. Please let me know if you have further questions regarding the School Improvement Planning (SIP) process. We welcome and value your input in the SIP process and invite parent participation. Please contact the office if interested.

Educating students is a collaborative effort strengthened by our partnership with you and the community. Together we can have a positive impact on the lives of all children this year. Consistent communication between home and school is essential. Please contact me or the school staff if you have any questions, comments, or concerns throughout the year.

Our school website will serve as a resource tool for all upcoming events, curriculum information, student information, important reminders, and more. We will be launching a Twitter account as well. You will receive email and phone calls each Sunday detailing events for the upcoming week. The following pages outline specific items and information. We look forward to seeing everyone at our **OPEN HOUSE on Friday, August 30th from 1:30-2:30 p.m.** Additionally, **Back-to-School Night is scheduled for Wednesday, September 18th...**mark your calendar.

Sincerely,

Ms. Christine Oberdorf
Principal

Ms. Cinthea Greenberg
Assistant Principal



Piney Branch Elementary School



GENERAL INFORMATION

Principal: Ms. Christine (Chris) Oberdorf
Assistant Principal: Ms. Cinthea Greenberg

School Colors: blue and white
School Mascot: Panther

PTA EXECUTIVE BOARD

President	Sarah Goupell
Executive Vice President	Mike Thompson
Treasurer	Amy Gibson-Grant
Secretary	Jennifer Littlefield
VP of Fundraising	Angela Riemer
VP of Membership	Jared Hughes
VP of Communications	Gabe Seiden
VP of Equity	Annelies Echols & Viky Sosa
VP of Programming	Tracee Matthias
NAACP Representative	Amber Flynn

STUDENT CLASS ASSIGNMENTS

Class lists for the 2019-2020 school year will be posted at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 29th on the front doors of the school. The PTA has some fun additions to this evening planned.

ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE

Open House will be held **Friday, August 30th from 1:30-2:30 p.m.** There will be a patrol meeting at 2:30 p.m. for those students available to attend.

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

School starts **Tuesday, September 3rd, 2019.**

SCHOOL HOURS

School hours are **9:25 a.m. – 3:50 p.m.**



Piney Branch Elementary School

ARRIVAL

Students may enter the building beginning at 9:05 a.m. **There is no supervision available prior to 9:05 a.m.** Upon entering the building, students may report to the All Purpose Room for breakfast to go directly to their homeroom.

BREAKFAST

Breakfast is available for purchase daily and is served in the cafeteria from 9:00 – 9:20 a.m. each morning.

BUS SCHEDULES

Bus routes showing a list of stops and times for pick-up are available at <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/transportation/busroutes/> and will be posted on our website. Any questions regarding transportation should be directed to the Transportation Cluster Manager in the Division of Transportation at 240-740-1854.

On the first day of school, students will receive a sticker with a route number as they get off the bus in the morning. This will serve as a reminder to get on the correct bus at dismissal time. Teachers will also create a list that details how students arrive and dismiss. If your child takes a different bus home, please make certain they are aware of the bus number.

DISMISSAL

The school day ends at 3:50 p.m. Students will be escorted by staff to designated locations:

- o Car riders and Walkers will exit the building from the side or front door. Car riders will wait at the front of the school and be escorted by staff to their vehicles using the crosswalk.
- o Aftercare students will proceed to the APR or other assigned area as needed.
- o Bus Riders will assemble in the gym and board the bus as a group upon bus arrival at the school.

If your child needs to leave school early, please make arrangements in advance, as dismissal can be a busy time in the office:

- o Please send a note or email to our attendance secretary, Ms. Hagens, as well as your child's homeroom teacher.
- o Ms. Hagens will call your child to the main office at the designated time so he/she is ready to leave for the day.
- o If you forget to send an email or note in the morning, **please call the office no later than 12:30 p.m.**
- o When arrangements cannot be made beforehand, please come to pick up your child no later than 3:30 p.m. After 3:30 p.m. students are engaged in the whole school dismissal procedures. **We will not release students unless it is an emergency.** Thanks so much for your cooperation in facilitating a smooth dismissal each day.



Piney Branch Elementary School

CAR RIDERS

To ensure safety and ease of entry and exit for parents dropping off children and adhere to the following guidelines:

- o Please remain in your vehicle at all times and do NOT leave your car unattended in the Drop-Off and Pick-Up lane or in the bus circle.
- o Use the outer lane (to the left) for Drop-Off and Pick-Up as ***the inner lane is for buses only.***
- o Please drive slowly in the parking lot and refrain from using your cell phone. We want to ensure the safety of all students, staff, and families.
- o Pull up to the crosswalk marking in the front so your child may exit or enter from the side closest to the front door and does not have to cross in front of or behind cars. Staff members will open and close car doors for students.
- o Please follow the direction of the staff on duty at all times.

ADDITIONAL TIPS

Please make sure your child's name is on all items brought to school. When sending in money or a note, please enclose in a sealed envelope with your child's name and the teacher's name written on the front.

Please call the office if your child will be absent or late so the attendance record is accurate. If your child will be late and would like to order lunch, please call the school cafeteria at (301) 891-8004 before 10:00 a.m. You may also report an absence on the attendance tool on our school website.

BEFORE/AFTER SCHOOL CARE

Kids Adventures will be providing child care services before and after school and may be reached at (301) 438-8550.

SCHOOL UPDATES

School information and updates will be communicated in a variety of ways. Please refer to the MCPS calendar, PBES school and PTA calendar, school website, PTA website, newsletters, and weekly messages for up to date information.

SCHOOL VISITATION AND SAFETY MEASURES

Piney Branch ES welcomes all visitors! Upon arrival at the front door, you will press the button to request entry and state your name and the purpose for your visit. MCPS safety and security protocol requires that ALL visitors report to the office. All visitors must have their driver's license available to scan into our Visitor Management System (VMS). Once visitors have checked in, they will receive a badge to wear during their stay. Visitors not wearing proper identification will be stopped and redirected to the main office.

PARENT CONFERENCES

Parent conferences are scheduled in November. This is the only system schedule for conferences, however; you may request a conference at any time by contacting your child's teacher.



Piney Branch Elementary School

INCLEMENT WEATHER

MCPS may close schools during emergency conditions such as severe weather. Please check the MCPS website (www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org), listen to the local radio and television stations, or call (301) 279-3673 for a recorded message of closing information.

If school is delayed two hours, school begins at 11:25 a.m. with doors opening at 11:00 a.m. Breakfast is NOT served when school is operating on a two hour delay.

If weather conditions require an early dismissal, schools are typically notified by 11:00 a.m. We will communicate such a schedule change through a Connect Ed message. A lunch period will be provided for all students on early dismissal days.

SCHOOL MEALS PROGRAM

Payment to your child’s account may be made at any time through cash or check submission to the cafeteria manager or online through www.myschoolbucks.com. Lunch menus are available online and are posted below for the first week of school.

https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/foodserv/menus/elementary_lunch.aspx.

Meal Prices

Breakfast	Daily	Lunch	Daily
Paid	\$1.30	Paid	\$2.55
Reduced	\$0.00	Reduced	\$0.40

FREE OR REDUCED MEALS

If your child was eligible for free or reduced meals last school year, eligibility will continue through October 1st of this year. PLEASE COMPLETE A NEW APPLICATION AND RETURN TO SCHOOL IMMEDIATELY. Applications may also be submitted online at <https://www.myschoolapps.com/Application>. More information will be shared at the start of the school year.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BREAKFAST MENU

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
~WG Beef & Cheese Mini Bagel (235)	^WG Pancakes (210-450)	WG Oatmeal Bar w/ Yogurt	WG Breakfast Sandwich (201-365)	^WG Cinnamon Roll (232)
Assorted Fruits/Fruit Juice (55-90)	Assorted Fruits/Fruit Juice (55-90)	Assorted Fruits/Fruit Juice (55-90)	Assorted Fruits/Fruit Juice (55-90)	Assorted Fruits/Fruit Juice (55-90)
Fat Free or 1% Milk (80-120)	Fat Free or 1% Milk (80-120)	Fat Free or 1% Milk (80-120)	Fat Free or 1% Milk (80-120)	Fat Free or 1% Milk (80-120)



Piney Branch Elementary School

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LUNCH MENU

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3	4	5	6
+WG Chicken Patty Sandwich w/ Baked Curly Potatoes (510) ^Fiesta Cheese Omelet w/ Potatoes, Peppers & Onions on WG Croissant (466) Baby Carrots (30) Baked Fries (110) Salsa (5-45) Assorted Fruit (60-90) Fat Free or 1% Milk (80-120)	🍷 WG French Toast Sticks w/ *Sausage (346) ~Philly Steak 'N Cheese w/ Seasoned Potatoes & WG Bun (567) Celery Sticks Individual Serving Peanut Butter Cup^ (200) Roasted Chickpeas (160) Assorted Fruit (60-90) Fat Free or 1% Milk (80-120)	~Taco HM w/ Corn, Edamame & WG Baked Scoops (346) ^Blueberries w/ Lowfat Vanilla Yogurt & WG Granola (440) Tossed Salad w/ Ranch Dressing (92) Salsa (5-45) Assorted Fruit (60-90) Fat Free or 1% Milk (80-120)	^Cheese or +-Pepperoni WG Personal Pizza (310-355) 🍷%+Spicy WG Chicken Patty Sandwich (341) Tossed Salad w/ Ranch Dressing (92) Assorted Fruit (60-90) Fat Free or 1% Milk (80-120)

FOOD BROUGHT TO SCHOOL

Food that is sent to school for birthdays, special classroom activities, and school events must be store bought. This is MCPS policy and allows labels to be checked in the event there are any allergy concerns.

BIRTHDAYS OR SNACKS

Please consult with your child's teacher if you wish to send in a special snack to share with the class. When you arrive at school, please make the office staff aware of your prearranged plans with the teacher.

CELL PHONE USE

Students are permitted to bring cell phones to school if we have received a signed permission form. Forms will go home the first week of school. Students will only be allowed to use cell phones outside of the building after dismissal. Cell phones may not be used during the school day.

HEALTH ROOM

Mrs. Lisa Kowalewski is the registered nurse employed by the Department of Health and Human Services assigned to Piney Branch ES. She provides services such as health assessments, crisis intervention, health counseling, case management, referral services, and health education promotion. The health room is staffed daily by the School Health Technician, Mrs. Alexander. She is available to provide first aid and administer medications. It is important that the school have accurate contact information as well as emergency contact information in the event a parent cannot be reached. You can reach the Health Room staff directly at (301) 270-1614.

Please be alert to your child's health each morning and use your best judgment as to whether an absence due to illness is warranted. We ask that you keep your child home for 24 hours after vomiting or the last instance of a fever without medication.



Piney Branch Elementary School

Medication is administered only from the health room and must include parent/guardian permission **and** a note from a physician. Medical forms are available in the school office or health room and are required for each instance of illness and for each medication ordered. You may also access medication forms and Epi-Pen forms from the MCPS website <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/forms/pdf/525-13.pdf>.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

All students will attend a welcome assembly to review the school expectations. Your child will bring home the *Piney Branch ES Student Expectations and Discipline Policy* as well as the MCPS Student Code of Conduct. Students will assemble throughout the year to celebrate successes, share goals, and review reminders of expectations.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

Safety is our top priority during daily operations. At Piney Branch we follow system protocols which include:

- Complete all annual emergency drills,
 - Montgomery County Public Schools is committed to providing a safe and welcoming learning environment for our students and staff. Every year, each MCPS school conducts a number of emergency drills to ensure students are prepared in the case of an emergency.
- Secure and monitor all exterior doors throughout the day,
- Monitor entrance of visitors through the main entrance using the cameras and access software,
- Request identification of all visitors using the Visitor Management System,
- Visitor sign in and receive a pass,
- Visitors Sign out when visit is complete,
- Volunteers must complete the required training at <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/student-leadership/volunteer.aspx>, and
- Parents accompany children to evening school events.

Access additional information regarding MCPS protocols through <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/security/>

SCHOOL STAFF

PINEY BRANCH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STAFF LIST 2019-2020

Principal: Christine Oberdorf: Principal, Assistant Principal: Cinthea Greenberg

Administrative Secretary: Victoria Welch, Attendance Secretary: Marcella Hagens

<u>Grade 3</u>		<u>Grade 4</u>		<u>Grade 5</u>	
Taylor Claxton	214	Auda Cottrell	405	Michael Bass	419
Kristen Dunlap	205	Abigail Moran	403	Tracey Goldman	418
Elyse Eisenberg	204	Dale Pendleton	401	Maeve Kenney	409
Brandi Giles	213	Brogan Plummer	413	Rebecca Lane	420



Piney Branch Elementary School

Jaime Gillmann	216	Lena Richie	414	Sam Lee	408
Erika Granados	212	Taylor Rumsey	404	Renee Luker	410
Desiree Hernandez	215	Patrick Serra	411	Spencer Madsen	417
Samantha Meyer	202	Kim Scarborough	402	Krishni Patrick	415
Emily Rawson	203	Alexia Snyder	412	Devon Rook	416
				Cailey Tolson	407

STUDENT SERVICES

Alyssa Ambielli	Speech/Language
Anna Beekman	.5 Special Ed
LaPria Carter	Special Ed
Stacey Foley	ESOL
Eleazar Herbst	Special Ed
Art Lewis	Special Ed
Patricia Manha	ESOL
Kristina Martell	School Psychologist
Rachna Rikhye	ESOL
Amanda Ross	Counselor
Jill Simon	Special Ed
Leah Walker	.5 Counselor/.3 STEM
Danielle Whitman	Occupational Therapist
La Schell Wilson	PPW

SPECIALISTS

Erica Cantu	Art
Stacia Cutler	Instrumental Music
Eliot Edgar	Media Specialist
Soosan Faulk	Math Focus/Intervention
Ashley Heard	Music
Marianna Previti	.1 Music
	.1 Physical Education
Dave Russell	Physical Education
Ashley Soltis	.1 Art

STAFF SUPPORT

Robert Bledsoe	Reading Specialist
Lauren Holmes	Staff Development

HEALTH ROOM

Charlene Alexander	Health Tech
Lisa Kowalewski	School Nurse

SUPPORTING SERVICES

Sharon Allison	Paraeducator
Sandra Boone	Paraeducator
	Media Assistant
Emma Gonzalez	Paraeducator
Surrone Giancoli	Paraeducator
	Paraeducator
Ryan Green	Paraeducator
Liza Jones	Paraeducator
Tracey Martin	Paraeducator
Joy Morgan	Paraeducator
Joshua Ogburn	Paraeducator
Ambria Smith	Paraeducator

CAFETERIA

Zunilda Cavallo	Café Mgr
Ada Chan	Café' Asst.

Building Services

Fasil Alemayehu	BSW
Angelica Ayling	BSW
Carl Hunter	BSAM
Jamie Kinney	BSW
Philip Mitchell	BSM
Elena Villatoro	BSW

REPRESENTATIVES

ESR-Liza Jones
EFR-Krishni Patrick