



From the Principal's Pen

Dear Poolesville Families,

Although we have only six weeks until the end of the school year, we are a hub of activity! We are finishing our spring sports, administering State tests, cleaning lockers, preparing for graduation, and, of course, teaching and learning until the official last day!

In our final newsletter of the year, we highlight the Mathematics, Counseling Services, and World Language Departments.

Administrators and counselors work all summer, so if you have any questions or wish to meet in person, we are open for business. Summer is quiet in our building so it's a particularly good time to arrange an appointment with your child's counselor to discuss college or other options after graduation. We recommend these individual meetings for 11th and 12th grade families.

The entire staff joins me in thanking our Poolesville community of sending us the most wonderful students who love to learn!

Best wishes for a relaxing and enjoyable summer with your family.

Deena Levine
 Principal



Counseling Services

Happy Spring from all of us in the Counseling Services department! It's always busy in the Counseling office and this season is no different. Attending senior presentations from the various Houses always gives us a sense of awe at the knowledge and skills of our students and also gives us hope for the future! In addition to celebrating the many successes of our students, we are happy to provide the following updates on what's happening in Counseling:
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World Languages

As the school year winds down, our World Language teachers and students are diligently working to maintain a 90% or more target language use in the classroom. Our rigorous curriculum along with the incorporation of a variety of interpersonal, presentational and interpretive authentic resources in our daily lessons build our students' core second language learning.
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Fine Arts

The month of May is the grand finale for our Fine Arts department. On May 2nd, students, parents, staff and the Poolesville community enjoyed the remarkable art and music of our at Poolesville High School students the annual Spring Art Show as well as the Spring Orchestra and Chorus concerts. The chorus amazed the audience with their energetic and powerful performances. The orchestra ended the night's performance with a skillfully presented accompaniment to a Pixar movie montage. The classic gym was transformed into an art gallery displaying 2D & 3D art as well as studio art drawings and paintings.
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Mathematics

Greetings from the Poolesville Math Department! If someone would have told me as a senior in Poolesville High School in 2002, that I would be the department chair 17 years later, I would have never believed them. However, this job has been the greatest honor of my professional life. I am amazed every day at the dedication of our wonderful staff, including our longest tenured Poolesville math teacher, Mr. Jeff Flowers, who was actually my Honors Pre-calculus teacher 20 years ago. The rest of the math department is made up of Mr. Gordon, Mr. Dobbs, Mr. Nowell, Mr. Conyer, Mr. Maurer, Ms. Junkins, Ms. Morgan, and Ms. Ackerman. Of course, I couldn't leave out Dr. Spiker who volunteers his time every day to be in our Math classes as an extra support for our students.
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Counseling Services continued

Registration

Registration season is coming to a close. Please contact your child's counselor if you would like to make a course request change or if you have any questions about academic or career planning. The deadline for making course request changes is June 14. Counselors have met with most 9th and 10th graders to review course plans and requests for next year. Juniors will have more extensive meetings with counselors prior to the end of the school year to review and discuss course requests and post-high-school plans.

Rising Senior College Planning

We are pleased to announce our final Parent Lab for the school year. Students are also welcome to attend! This workshop will be held on Wed. June 5 at 6:30 in the PHS Auditorium and will focus on being prepared for the college application process. For many seniors, applications can be due as early as September or October, with the University of MD priority deadline of November 1. We will review the many things students can be doing over the summer to prepare for this process. Rising seniors are expected to turn in a Student Self-Evaluation to their counselor as a part of the clearance process at the end of the school year. We also offer parents the opportunity to provide information about their students in the Parent Questionnaire. Both forms are available on the Counseling page of the PHS website. This information is essential for counselors to write the best letters possible for college recommendations. We also encourage rising seniors to meet with their counselor over the summer in order to individualize help in the college application process.

Naviance

It's never too early to start planning for life after high school! All students and parents should have their own access to Naviance Student, a college and career planning tool. You can access it here: <https://student.naviance.com/poolesville>. If you do not know how to log in, or forgot your password, please contact Ms. Rosalie Deoto, our College and Career Information Coordinator (CCIC) at Rosalie_A_Deoto@mcpsmd.org or call 240-740-2449.



Meet with Your Counselor

We are very fortunate to work with such amazing and talented students! As the school year comes to a close and we look toward summer, please know that counselors will be working during the summer on certain days. If you would like to meet for any reason, please feel free to call or email your counselor to make an appointment! Counselors are assigned alphabetically based on students' last names.

Mr. Hand	A - E
Ms. Nagy	F - Ho
Ms. Martin	Hp - M
Mr. Gysberts	N - R
Ms. Boishin	S - Z

Stay tuned for more information by visiting our website:

<https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/poolesvillehs/counseling/>

Dave Gysberts, Resource Counselor
David_S_Gysberts@mcpsmd.org



World Languages continued

In late March, the upper level French and Spanish students attended a field trip to the National Gallery of Art. Students had the opportunity to explore and compare style, subject matter and technique of Spanish and French artists and compare it with their own culture.

Mrs. Díaz's AP Spanish Language and Culture students will be assessed on their proficiency in the interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational modes of communication. Throughout the exam the students read and listen to authentic texts from the Spanish-speaking world. Mrs. Díaz has 27 students sitting for the exam. Students that earn a 4 or 5 on the AP Spanish Language and Culture exam are eligible to earn the Maryland Seal of Biliteracy.

I am very pleased to be able to report that thirty students have earned the Maryland Seal of Biliteracy this year. To receive a Maryland Seal of Biliteracy, a student must pass the PARCC in English 10 and demonstrate Intermediate High proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing in a language other than English, as measured by assessments that are aligned to the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) proficiency guidelines. Students demonstrate their proficiency by scoring a 4 or higher on an Advanced Placement language test or via a variety of ACTFL approved second language proficiency tests. The tests that are used are very rigorous and the bar is set high. The ACTFL has taken on the leadership role in the creation of national standards.

Allie Hicks, World Languages Resource Teacher
Alexandra_S_Hicks@mcpsmd.org



Fine Arts continued

Twenty-seven students were inducted into the Art Honor Society and ten students presented their certificates for completing their chosen Art Pathway. In June, several of our top art students will be showcased at Montgomery Mall in Bethesda, Maryland.

Our dedicated art teachers, Ms. Heaton, Mr. Petke and Ms. Schaefer have worked tirelessly to support our AP Studio Art 2D (Photography), AP Studio Art 3D and AP Studio Art Drawing students in preparing their portfolios for submission to the College Board. Eighteen of our talented student artists will be submitting portfolios this month. Ms. Heaton, Mr. Rogoza and Ms. Schaefer are proud to boast that their combined total of 104 students are well prepared for the AP Art History, AP Music Theory and AP Research exams. We wish all of our students good luck when they sit for their exams.

Allie Hicks, Fine Arts Resource Teacher
Alexandra_S_Hicks@mcpsmd.org



Mathematics continued

It's been a banner year yet again for our Poolesville Math students. Our Math Team won the county championship for the first time in school history, knocking off Blair High School's 30+ year reign. We also had about 250 students take the UMD Math Competition, with 30 students advancing to Part II. We also had six students advance to the semifinals of the American Mathematics Competition. Our Math Honors Society continues to thrive, providing free tutoring services during lunch to help make sure that all students are succeeding.

As a Math Department our focus has been on developing student discourse and student discovery. While direct instruction will always have a place in a Math class, we have found that the most effective learning occurs when students are grappling with challenging content and discussing with each other methods and strategies for solving problems. It is not uncommon to walk in on any of our Math classrooms and see students sitting in groups, discussing and figuring out the learning on their own as the teacher facilitates conversations and asks prompting questions. Those activities where students productively struggle through a problem, and eventually come up with the solution on their own are our most rewarding days. We truly believe in the growth mindset. We believe that Math skills are not something that you are born with, but that anyone who wants to can learn math.

Lastly, I'll leave you with this. Parents routinely ask, "What can we do at home to support our son or daughter's math learning." The best answer I can give is, ask them to tell you one thing they learned in Math that day and have them show or explain it to you." The ability to recall something you learned earlier that day greatly helps that idea or concept being stored into long term memory. Being able to answer just that small question can help that student who believes that "they are not good at math" start to gain confidence.

Thanks for the opportunity you give us to teach your kids every day. If I can ever be of assistance to you, never hesitate to ask.
Sincerely,

Kenny Kramek
Kenneth_M_Kramek@mcpsmd.org

