

Good evening John Poole Middle School families,

This is Mr. Green with your weekly updates for the week of August 28-September 1, 2023.

On behalf of all of our staff, I would like to welcome you to the 2023–2024 school year! I will typically send my weekly updates on Sunday evenings around 6:30 p.m. I wanted to send this first message early as a way to help families prepare for our first day of school.

As of today, we have 436 students entering our doors on Monday morning. We have a new sidewalk and our entire building is clean and ready for students. The building looks tremendous thanks to our outstanding building services team. The teachers and staff have been working very hard in preparing their classrooms and creating wonderful lessons for each and every student in each of their classes. I know I am excited for the year to officially begin.

Here is a copy of our [bell schedule](#) and a copy will also be included in our first day folders we hand out to students. This year, we will continue to have three lunch periods. We will also have an outdoor eating option with adult supervision, weather permitting. Due to our school size and schedule, the lunches were sectioned by the students' 4th or 5th-period teacher. We will let the students know which lunch they will be eating on Monday.

We will have a brief time for a snack after Period 2. Our Timberwolf Advisory Period (TAP) is a dedicated period each day where students will receive school-wide lessons and/or additional support from their teachers. Detailed information regarding our TAP schedule will be shared at our Back-to-School Night on September 7th.

Getting Prepared to Return!

JPMS 2023-2024 Back to School Resources Page: Please visit our back to school resources page for information on buses, school supplies, our bell schedule, and more important information for students and families.

All students will report to their Advisory (TAP-period 8) class as they enter the building on Monday morning. There will be signs posted around the building to guide students to their appropriate advisory class. [Here](#) is a copy of the TAP assignments for your convenience.

A HUGE THANK YOU to our families who made donations and to our terrific PTSA for your support and for providing us lunch and snacks this week as we were setting up our classrooms and preparing for our students. Please consider joining the PTSA to support our school. Information on how to join and how you can participate can be found on our school website [here](#). If you have questions, contact the PTSA at jmsptsa.678@gmail.com.

All students will be bringing home a folder on Monday afternoon with materials regarding the new school year. Some paperwork will need to be signed and returned to the school by Friday, September 1, 2023.

Synergy/ParentVUE/StudentVUE

For the upcoming school year, MCPS will continue to use Synergy/ParentVUE. This August, the MCPS central office began emailing letters to all parents/guardians with instructions on creating accounts and activating ParentVUE. By now, all parents and guardians should have received and activated their ParentVUE accounts. Student accounts were automatically activated and can be accessed in the MCPS Resources in their Google accounts.

****Student login and passwords are the same as last year.****

Please be sure to update your contact information as this serves as the primary source of contact during the school year.

[ParentVUE](#) is a valuable tool to enable parents, guardians, and caregivers to monitor their children's grades and progress throughout the school year.

If you did not receive your ParentVUE activation email please check your spam/junk folder first. If you still have not received your login information, you can contact the school at 240-740-4200 or email Mr. Green at jon_green@mcpsmd.org

myMCPS Classroom

myMCPS Classroom is the digital learning platform used by classroom teachers. Students will be able to access each of their classrooms. Parents are able to view and monitor each class. Parents are able to access [myMCPS Classroom](#) by first logging into ParentVUE and then selecting Parent Resources on the left hand side, under your student's picture.

Chromebooks

This year, every 7th and 8th grade student will continue to use their school-issued Chromebook. All new students and students in 6th grade will also receive a Chromebook, unless they have one from summer school. Students will be responsible for any damage beyond the normal wear and tear of the Chromebook and more information will be shared regarding this and any fees. More information, including guidelines and expectations, will be provided in the first day folder.

SchoolCash Online

Montgomery County Public Schools has transitioned to a new online payment system called SchoolCash Online as its preferred method of payment for school-related fees such as fundraisers, field trips, obligations, etc. (Please note that the new payment system is NOT related to school cafeteria accounts)

SchoolCash Online helps parents/guardians and community members pay school-related fees safely, quickly, and easily. SchoolCash Online will help increase efficiency and security at schools by making payments directly into schools' bank accounts and eliminating the need for teachers to handle money. In addition, once registered, you will be immediately informed about school activities!

As of Monday, August 21, 2023, guardian(s) will no longer need a pin to add their student(s) to their SchoolCash Online (SCO) account. The new feature in SCO will make it easier for guardians to attach their student(s) to their account profiles. This feature also delivers increased convenience for guardians and greater control for the primary guardian to manage access to accounts. School staff will no longer be tasked with providing pins to the community. Guardians will automatically get emails from SCO with instructions.

For approved guardian(s) who do **not** currently have an SCO account, they will receive an automated email with an invitation to create an account.

For approved guardian(s) who **already have** a SCO account, but who have **not yet linked** their student(s) to their account. An automated email from SCO for each unlinked student will be sent to the guardian. The email will have an "Accept" button. If the guardian clicks the button, the system will attach that guardian's child to their account automatically based on the student Information data.

Parents/guardians can register now at - <https://mcpsmd.schoolcashionline.com/>

The MCPS Help Desk has set up a community support drop box (see below) for community support.

communitytechsupport@mcpsmd.org

Cafeteria/Lunch Payment Account Information

Please refer to the MCPS [Division of Food Services](#) website for information regarding school lunch accounts, payments, and other importation news.

Cell Phone Use at JPMS

We will continue to use the MCPS Cell Phone Use Policy this school year. Students who have cell phones are expected to have their cell phones "off (silenced) and away" in classrooms and hallways. Students are allowed to have their cell phones out/be on their cell phones in the morning, before the beginning

of Period 1, during lunch, or if a teacher has allowed it for instructional purposes. Parents will be encouraged to call the school any time or text their child(ren) during lunch with messages, etc.

Thank you, in advance, for your support and understanding.

Monday, August 28: FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL! Our doors will officially open at 7:45 a.m. Any student arriving prior to then will remain outside with JPMS staff. There will be no adult supervision prior to 7:30 a.m. All students will report to their TAP class at 7:45 a.m.

Friday, September 1: Please return all paperwork to your first period teacher or to the main office.

Please continue to check the [myMCPS Classroom](#) calendar or our [JPMS school webpage](#) for the most updated information, including upcoming events, bus routes and other happenings occurring at school.

Please mark your calendars for these important upcoming events:

Monday, September 4: NO SCHOOL for staff and students. Schools and offices are closed on Monday, September 4.

Thursday, September 7: Back to School Night will be Thursday, September 7th. Our schoolwide presentation will begin at 6:15 p.m. in our all purpose room. There will be optional sessions beginning at 5:45 p.m. More information will be sent out closer to the date.

Thursday, September 14: Picture Day. Please see the attached [flyer](#) for details.

Friday, September 22: Early Release Day. Students will be dismissed at 12:10 p.m.

Monday, September 25: NO SCHOOL for staff and students.

We look forward to opening our doors to everyone on Monday, August 28th. All students will report to their TAP classes as they enter the building. There will be signs posted around the building and staff will be in the hallways to assist.

I hope everyone had a fabulous, relaxing summer. Have a great night and see everyone on Monday morning!