

Good evening John Poole Middle School families,

This is Mr. Green with your weekly updates for the week of September 4 - September 8, 2023.

I hope everyone had a wonderful first week of school. It was great to see and hear the building full of students again. We had several members from central office, including our Superintendent Dr. McKnight, visit this week and they were all impressed with how well our students have transitioned back to school. Let's keep the positive energy going!

There is NO SCHOOL on Monday, September 4 in observance of Labor Day. We look forward to seeing everyone again on Tuesday.

This Thursday, September 7, will be our Back-to-School Night. More information will be shared later in the week. We look forward to meeting everyone!

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#### COVID-19 Update

Students who test positive for Covid-19 should isolate for at least 5 days at home per CDC guidelines. Students may return to school as early as day 6 if they are feeling well enough and have not had a fever in 24 hours (without the use of medication). When returning to school, students should wear a mask through day 10. After day 6, students with two daily consecutive negative COVID-19 rapid tests can end the masking period.

While out of school, please continue to have your child check the myMCPS classroom for any assignments that they are missing while out of school, if they feel well enough to do so. Students will also be given time to complete their assignments when they return to school. Please contact the main office if you have any questions.

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#### The Fall Book Fair is coming to JPMS!

The Scholastic Book Fair will be in the media center from September 5th through September 8th

Students will have an opportunity to shop the fair with their English Teacher, as well as during some lunches and TAP. The book fair will also be open late for Back-to-School Night on September 7th.

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#### Student Picture Day - September 14

Student Picture Day is here! Students will be photographed on Thursday, September 14th. Pictures will be taken outside, weather permitting. It is suggested that students wear solid color shirts and avoid large logos, busy patterns, and neon colors.

All ordering will be entirely online. You will be able to choose from many wonderful

photos. Parents will receive an e-mail alert with a link to the student's gallery when photos are available. Please contact the main office with any questions.

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#### Family Portraits - October 6

Our photography company, Freed Photography, is providing a family portrait opportunity to our families. Family portraits will take place on Friday, October 6th from 4:00-6:30 p.m. at John Poole Middle School. Family portraits will take place outside, weather permitting.

Families must sign up online. [CLICK HERE](#) or visit <https://schedule.freedphoto.com/johnpoolems> and follow the prompts to make an appointment at your preferred time.

All ordering will be entirely ONLINE! You will be able to choose from many wonderful photos. Parents will receive an e-mail alert with a link to the gallery when it becomes available. If you have any questions, please contact the main office.

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#### Fall MAP Testing

Fall MAP testing for all grade levels will occur on Wednesday, September 13th (MAP-R) and Friday, September 15th (MAP-M). Students will follow this [modified bell schedule](#) on both days. Prior to the first day of testing, student testing groups will be posted by the main building entrance and at the end of each hallway. Data collected from Fall MAP testing will be used to determine students' current performance levels in the areas of literacy and math and to inform instruction. Please contact [Jacqueline L Orrence@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Jacqueline_L_Orrence@mcpsmd.org) with any questions.

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#### 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](mailto:jon_green@mcpsmd.org)

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### **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.

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### **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 that 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](mailto:communitytechsupport@mcpsmd.org)

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### **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.

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### **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.

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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.

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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 6:00 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.

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Have a great night and a wonderful week! --Mr. Green