



EXPRESS

A NEWSLETTER FOR PGCPS EMPLOYEES

August 26, 2022

Top News

2022-23 School Year Kicks Off Monday



“Each first day of school is special. This year is even more special because for the first time since 2020, all of our students are returning to classrooms on the first day together. We look forward to focusing on what matters most: teaching, learning and serving our more than 131,000 students.”

~CEO Dr. Monica Goldson

[Read more](#)





PGCPS

THE POWER OF ONE

WWW.PGCPS.ORG

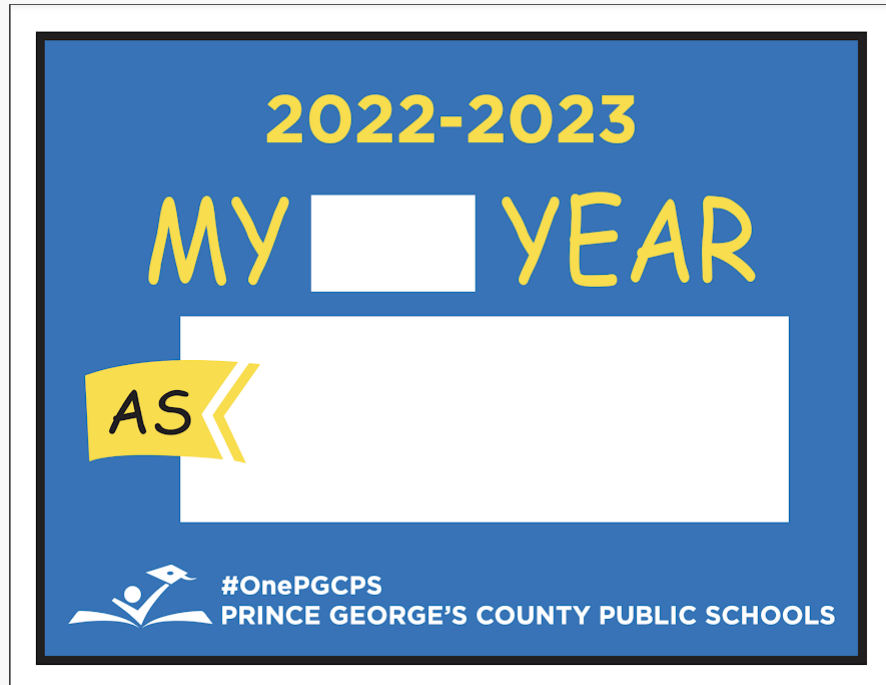
Preparing for #PGCPS1stDay22!



Teachers and staff have been busy with professional development and preparing our buildings and classrooms to welcome students on

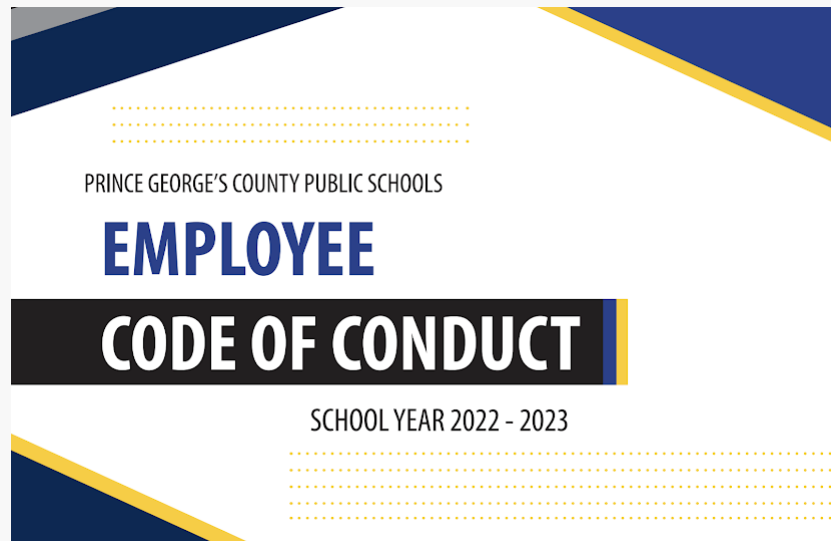
#PGCPS1stDay22! Share your back-to-school preparation and first day/week of school photos for a chance to be featured on PGCPS communications platforms.

Staff First Day Sign



Share Photos

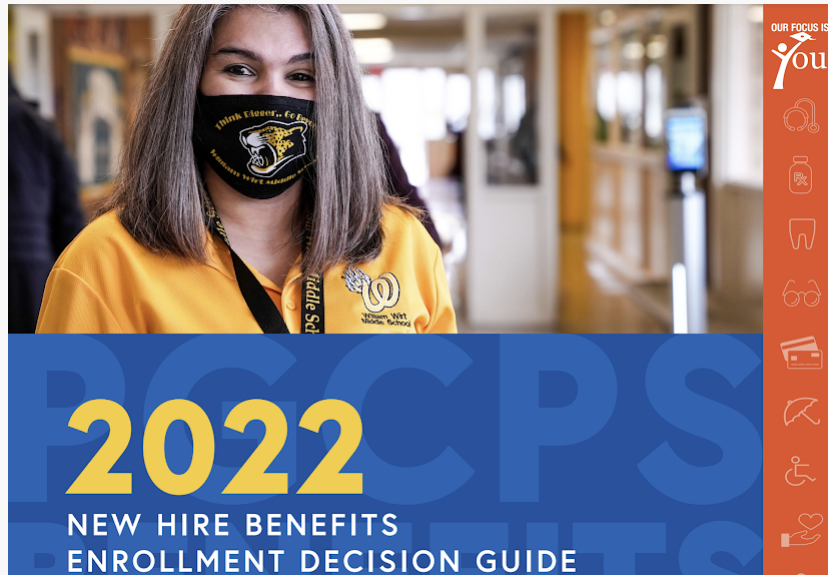
For Review: Employee Code of Conduct



The Employee Code of Conduct offers a summary of the expectations and standards of conduct that PGCPS expects of employees both certificated and uncertificated, full- and part-time, as well as substitutes and temporary employees.

View

New to PGCPs? Enroll in Benefits



Newly hired benefits eligible employees have 35 days from their date of hire to enroll in [benefits](#). Coverage is effective the first of the month after enrollment.

Employee Self Service

New Hire Benefits Decision Guide

Earn \$50 for Your Classroom with DonorsChoose



Teachers who have never had a classroom wishlist funded through DonorsChoose: now is the time to sign up! From Sunday, Aug. 28 through Saturday, Sept. 3, teachers who haven't had a project funded on the platform will automatically receive a \$50 donation to purchase classroom supplies. Teachers who [refer](#) a new teacher to DonorsChoose will also get \$25!

[Get Started](#)

Hispanic Heritage Month: Submit an Artifact That Reflects Your Identity



For Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept. 15 - Oct. 15) we invite staff, students and family members to submit poems, songs, recipes, photographs, art, stories, and other meaningful artifacts that represent aspects of their Hispanic/Latino identity! Stay tuned for more details.

Helping Families Get Back-to-School Ready



Staff and volunteers distributed more than 10,000 backpacks and school supplies to families at our annual Back-to-School Drive & Dash event! Thank you to sponsors Volunteer Fairfax, Synchrony, University of Maryland Capital Region Health, United HealthCare, WHUR 96.3 and Staples for your support of this event.

[View Photos](#)



CEO Dr. Monica Goldson attended the Community Youth Advance (CYA) Project Backpack event which donated backpacks and school supplies to nearly 1,000 youth.

Wellness360 Free Fitness Classes



Start your school year off with tools to support your wellbeing throughout the year! Wellness360 has resources and programs to support your healthy lifestyle!

BurnAlong gives you instant access to **on-demand and live video classes** spanning 45+ fitness and wellness categories. Classes are accessible on phones, tablets, computers, and smart TVs. There are classes for every age, interest, and fitness level, ranging from 5 to more than 60 minutes. The service is free of charge to permanent employees and their family members (add up to four family members under your account).

[Learn More](#)

Spotlights

Mt. Rainier Elementary Gets Refresh



Ahead of the new school year, Mt. Rainier Elementary received classroom and media center upgrades including new flooring, new permanent dry erase walls, furniture and more from Heart of America in collaboration with the Prince George's County Council.

Bowie High Marching Band Takes Center Stage



The Bowie High School marching band performed this week at a rally hosted by President Joe Biden and had a surprise meet-and-greet with the President himself!

Students and Grads Excel in Performing Arts



Dr. Henry A. Wise, Jr. High School Class of 2019 grads were featured in the independent film "[33rd and Memphis.](#)" **Suitland High School performing arts alum Shawn Cosby** wrote and co-directed the [film](#) which recently premiered at AFI Silver Theater and Cultural Center in Silver Spring.

Class of 2017 Dr. Henry A. Wise, Jr. High School alum **Tianna Robinson** is the new dance teacher at High Point High School! Robinson received her Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in dance from Long Island University.

Dr. Henry A. Wise, Jr. High School student Ciara Hines appeared on America's Got Talent.

In the News

Full Circle: Eleanor Roosevelt High Grad Takes the Helm



"When I walked the halls during my high school journey, I would have never thought I would be back here as the principal – and the first female principal," said Dr. Portia Barnes. "I consider myself home-grown – it does not get any better than that."

[Read more](#)

"We are All ESOL Teachers:" Templeton Elementary Shines as Safe Space for Newcomers

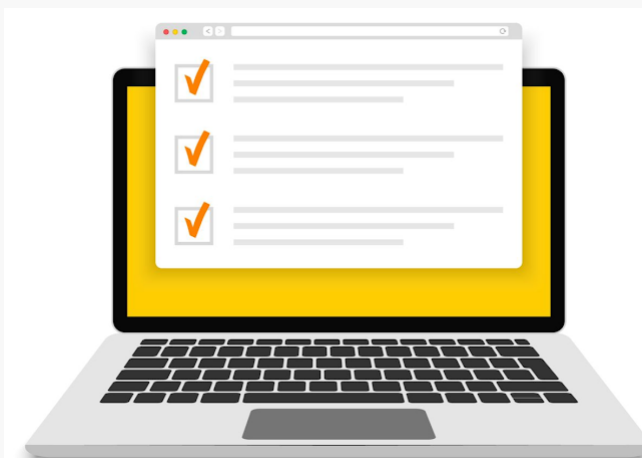


Did you know PGCPS has the largest percentage of ESOL students in the state, with more than 40 percent of students immigrants or children of immigrants? At Templeton Elementary School, where 75 percent of students are from one of 30 different countries and/or speak a different language, teachers and staff are committed to ensuring students' first educational experience in the U.S. is one where they feel safe, loved and welcome.

[WTOP Story](#)

ICYMI: In Case You Missed It

SafeSchools Mandatory Training



SafeSchools training modules are mandatory for all staff and designed to ensure every employee has the necessary information to maintain a positive, respectful, safe, healthy and lawful culture for safe and supportive school environments. **Round 1 sessions are due by August 26.** Start trainings now!

2022-23 Technology Highlights



Start the school year strong with tips from the Technology Training Team (T3):

- Canvas is now the primary learning management system used in PGCPSS.
- More than 3,000 PGCPSS classrooms have new SMART MX interactive panels.
- SchoolMessenger is the official district-approved tool for communicating with families. Training is required to gain an account.
- All students have devices for learning and various digital tools are accessible for everyone. Be sure to balance instruction with online and offline tasks to maintain digital wellness for students.

[Learn More](#)

2022-23 COVID-19 Safety Protocols



Top things to know:

- Masks are [required](#) until further notice.
- There is no longer a quarantine requirement for individuals who may have been exposed to COVID-19. Individuals who may have been exposed can remain in schools unless they become symptomatic. (It is recommended that anyone exposed get tested on the 5th day after exposure.)
- PGCPS will provide rapid antigen COVID tests only for symptomatic individuals with signed parental consent forms on file.
- Individuals who test positive should remain home for five days and can return on day six if asymptomatic.
- PGCPS has updated guidance for social distancing to mirror that of CDC. Individuals are encouraged to keep distance from others when feasible.

[More Info](#)

Employee Assistance Program

The Employee Assistance Program (EAP) addresses and resolves issues before professional obligations and overall quality of life are disrupted. To demonstrate its commitment to reducing employee stress, turnover and health care costs, the Prince George's County Board of Education provides an (EAP) for all full-time employees. This benefit is a part of an expanded Employee Wellness Program and is provided under contract by INOVA Health System.

[Learn More](#)

Mark Your Calendar

September is Attendance Awareness Month, an opportunity to spread awareness on why maintaining attendance in school is essential for academic success.

#TeamPGCPS Paparazzi



Lila Walker, Ed.D @Be... · 16h ...
Three of our newest members of Beacon Nation! We are so excited for this new chapter!
[@mathologist1](#)
[@beaconheightspg](#) [@pgcps](#)
[@Area1PGCPS](#) [@Title1_PGCPS](#)



Mary Piccirilli, ... · 8/9/22 ...
Excited about this upcoming school year! ✨ Our Instructional Leadership Team Retreat has been amazing! Dr. Pate is ready to lead CLES!
[@CLESCougars](#)



IHSLARGO @ihslapg · 4h

Welcome 9th grade students, we are excited for the New School Year 22-23
[@ilearnamerica](#) [@pgccnews](#)
[@IntlsNetwork](#) [@pgcps](#)
[@NankinEdu](#) [@PeerForward](#)
[#PGCPS1stDayReady](#)
[#PGCPS Proud](#) [@LAbIaza2](#)
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COMMENTS AND IDEAS: communications@pgcps.org