

Top News

Virtual Instruction: Professional Development & Snow Days



The Maryland State Department of Education has approved the PGCPS [Virtual Day Instruction Plan](#) for snow days and teacher professional days this school year.

Snow Days

The school year calendar has three built-in snow days. If schools are closed due to snow for more than three days this winter, we have approval to convert virtual instruction to avoid adding make-up days in June.

Professional Development Days

To provide teachers additional time for end-of-quarter grading and planning, teacher professional days at the end of the first, second, and third quarters will become asynchronous virtual learning days for students.

On the half-days scheduled for Nov. 7, Jan. 25, and March 31, students will work independently at home on lessons assigned to them in Canvas. Unit I students will be able to work remotely on these days.

Guidance on how to implement asynchronous virtual instruction for these days, including the posting of assignments in Canvas and taking attendance, is forthcoming.

Telehealth Now Available in Middle Schools & Academies



Additional health services for students launched this week in PGCPS middle schools and academies! When students aren't feeling well at school, the school nurse can now initiate a telehealth visit with a pediatric provider within minutes and at no cost to families. Parents can also access Hazel free of charge Monday through Friday 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. if their child becomes ill at home.

Telehealth will launch in high schools on Oct. 24. In November, the service will expand to include elementary schools, and will also include mental health teletherapy.

Help us spread the word and encourage interested families to complete the [student health form](#) to ensure their child has access to these services.

Science On a Roll with New STEAM Mobile!



Go inside the new **STEAM Mobile**, a science classroom on wheels to get students excited about science, technology, engineering, arts and math. The brainchild of Director of Instructional Technology and Support Dr. Lisa Spencer, students in Charles DiNatale's carpentry class at Croom High School (now Traditional Program South) completed interior work to convert the school bus into a mobile lab!



National School Lunch Week



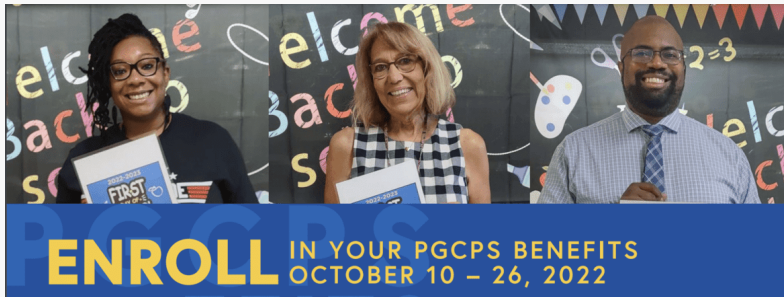
School meals are a key ingredient to student success. Thank you, Food and Nutrition team!

Focus On School Bus Safety



October 17-21 is National School Bus Safety Week! Thank a transportation team member and [learn how](#) you can help ensure our nearly 90,000 student riders make it to and from school safely.

Open Enrollment is Underway



Open Enrollment is underway! Don't miss this once-a-year opportunity to review your benefits and make selections for you and your family. Changes made during Open Enrollment will go into effect January 1, 2023. If you do not make changes, your current benefits will remain the same next year with the exception of Flexible Spending Accounts.

[Learn More](#)

Middle School Construction Updates

Attend an upcoming [virtual meeting](#) for updates on PGCS middle schools under construction!

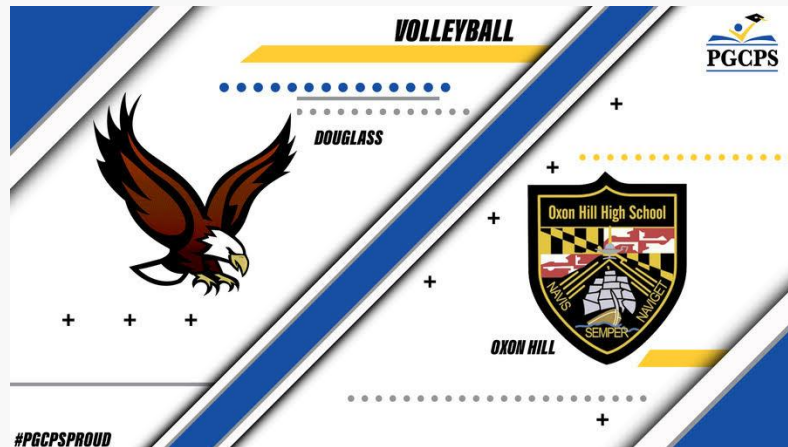
Spotlights

French-Moroccan Activist Visits Central High School



In partnership with the French Embassy, Nobel nominee Latifa Ibn Ziaten visited Central High School French Immersion program staff and students to discuss her work to prevent violent extremism and to encourage cultural and religious tolerance.

Game of the Week: Undeclared Volleyball Teams



Tune in Monday, Oct. 17 to see a battle of two undefeated high school varsity volleyball teams, the Frederick Douglass Lady Eagles vs. the Oxon Hill Clippers. The broadcast will begin at 6:20 p.m. on the [PGCPS YouTube channel](#).

Did you know our first Game of the Week [livestream](#) of the Dr. Henry A. Wise High School and Charles H. Flowers High School varsity football game received more than 13,000 views?

Next Week: October Observances



- Breast Cancer Awareness** – Wear pink on Oct. 18
- Bullying Prevention Awareness** – Wear orange on Oct. 19
- Domestic Violence Awareness** – Wear purple on Oct. 20

Announcements and Professional Development

Principal Application Window Now Open

The 2023-2024 principal application window is open! Qualified candidates should **apply through Dec. 31** via iRecruitment. Interested applicants may visit the [PGCPS Careers](#) for more information and to review job announcements.

- Job announcements include:*
- IRC183480 - Elementary/Secondary Principal
 - IRC183481 – Montessori
 - IRC183482 - Language Immersion
 - IRC183483 - Early Childhood Center
 - IRC183860 - Regional School Programs

Apply

New Date & Location: Explore Pre-K-12 Specialty Programs



Join us for our Specialty Programs Showcase on November 3 from 6-8 p.m. at Charles Herbert Flowers High School to learn about a 'Pathway to Possibilities' for all students!

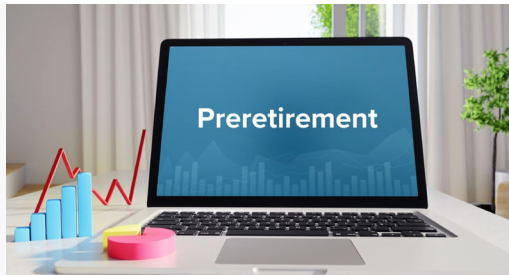
Meet the Honorees: 2022 Hall of Fame



On Friday, Oct. 28, the Excellence in Education Foundation for PGCPs will induct distinguished PGCPs alumni into the 2022 PGCPs Hall of Fame. Tickets are still available for this annual fundraiser and gala!

Get Tickets

Register: 2022 Fall Pre-Retirement Planning



Employees within 3 to 5 years of retirement should consider attending the virtual Fall Pre-Retirement Planning conference on Saturday, Oct. 29. Space is limited and registration is required.

[Learn More](#)

Proposed Changes to School Boundaries

[Learn more](#) about the boundary initiative process, a recap of work done in phases one and two, answers to common questions and next steps.

Share Input: Proposed Board of Education Policies



As Board of Education policies are developed or revised, the public is permitted to provide input. On Sept. 22, the Board voted to approve the following policies for public comment before adoption:

[Draft policy 0109](#) - *Financial Impropriety, Improper Conduct, and Whistleblower Protection*

[Draft policy 3500](#) - *Naming of Schools, School District Facilities, Dedicating Areas of School and School District Facilities or Grounds and Erecting Monuments*

[Draft policy 5113](#) - *Student Attendance, Absence, and Truancy*

The deadline for comment is Tuesday, Oct. 18 at 5 p.m. Comments on proposed policies may also be submitted by email to testimony@pgcps.org.

In the News

'Hero Award' for SEL



Associate Superintendent of Student Services Dr. Elizabeth Faison, is a finalist in the eSchool News K-12 [Hero Awards](#) for her strides prioritizing student safety, learning, SEL and mental health!

Leading in Arts Integration



Samuel Ogle Middle School RELA teacher Ann-Marie Maloney is featured in the latest edition of National Education Association Magazine for her [student-led approach](#) to arts integration.

ICYMI: In Case You Missed It

Mini-Grants for Teachers

Mini-Grants to fund special projects or activities are available to teachers through [Maryland Retired School Personnel Association!](#) [Apply](#) by Nov. 1.

Back-to-School Gift Card Giveaway



Now through Nov. 30, [enter to win](#) a \$50 Amazon gift card courtesy of American College of Education!

#TeamPGCPS Paparazzi

The Bradbury Heights Elementary School food and nutrition team celebrate National School Lunch Week!



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COMMENTS AND IDEAS: communications@pgcps.org