

Piney Ridge Elementary School

October 2024 Newsletter



Dear Piney Ridge Families,

We have enjoyed a great start to the school year. Thanks to all the family members who attended our Open House, Orientations, and Back to School Night events. Buses have settled into their consistent route schedules. Classroom procedures and routines are established. We are well on our way toward another successful school year.

We encourage families to join the Piney Ridge Elementary School PTA. The organization puts on several social, educational, and fundraising events which help to build community and support our school. The largest fundraising event of the year is the Dalmatian Dash, which takes place on October 16. Be on the lookout for more information about the Dash, as well as many other events that are sponsored by our PTA.

In October and November, we will hold three parent-teacher conference nights. Information about signing up for conferences will be sent out to families during the second week of October. We encourage parents to take advantage of this opportunity to meet with the teacher and discuss your child's progress. We wish everyone a safe and healthy month of November.

John Code. Principal
Morgan Pratt. Asst. Principal

Notice of Non-Discrimination

The Board of Education of Carroll County does not engage in discrimination that is unlawful or contrary to Maryland State Department of Education guidance on the basis of age, color, genetic information, marital status, mental or physical disability, ancestry or national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. The Board of Education of Carroll County is firmly committed to creating equal employment and educational opportunities for all persons by providing an environment that supports optimal academic achievement and productive work and is free from any form of unlawful discrimination, including access to school facilities, educational programs, and extracurricular activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

Director of Human Resources 125 North Court Street Westminster, MD 21157 (410) 751-3070.

Nurse's Nook

Restricted Activities and School

Please remember to send a note in with your child if they are unable to participate in PE for the day. Please also note if your child cannot participate in PE, they cannot participate in recess, or field day. If the injury is longer than 3 days, a doctor's note is requested. Notes will be circulated from the teacher to the office, the nurse, the P.E. teachers and recess monitors.

For safety concerns, if a student has a brace, a walking boot, or a cast on, they will also be required to sit out recess and PE. The risk of re-injury to the area is too great. Please contact the nurse if you have questions. Crutches,

Wheelchairs, Cast (soft or hard): A doctor's note must state the reason why and for how long it will be on or used. A doctor's note must also release them to return to activity.

Food Allergies

Piney Ridge Elementary School has many students with severe, possibly life-threatening food allergies. We also have students with chronic medical conditions that prohibit them from eating anything not provided by their parent. Our policy is as follows:

*No sharing/trading of food items

*Non-food rewards in classrooms

*No food Birthday celebrations including not allowing to purchase ice-cream or treat at lunch for your child's entire class or sending in goodie bags of candy/food.

*No candy/food items for holidays, including Halloween and Valentines

*Administration must approve any food celebrations and parents will be notified prior

*A Peanut free table is available in the cafeteria to be used by students with severe life-threatening food allergies

*If a Grade level snack is being consumed in class, we ask that it is a fresh fruit or vegetable, or an item that does not contain peanut or tree nut product.

We appreciate your support of these procedures and help in providing a safe environment for all the Students at Piney Ridge Elementary.



Piney Ridge Elementary School



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Nextrex Recycling Program- Bring in your plastic bags and help Piney Ridge earn a free bench! We are over halfway to our goal of collecting 1000 lbs.

Lend a Paw- If you are interested in volunteering in any way (big or small) reach out to preptapres@gmail.com.

The South Carroll Advocacy Group was created by PTA leadership from Eldersburg-area elementary schools, uniting stakeholders around shared challenges, redistricting concerns, and the broader implementation of Maryland's Blueprint for Education. This collaborative network is designed to pool resources, expertise, and insights to champion educational excellence and community engagement across the region.

Read more [HERE!](#)

IMPORTANT DATES

Learning Disabilities Awareness Month | National Bullying Prevention Month
National Principals Month

- October 10- PTA- PTA meeting 7:00 pm
- October 16- Dalmatian Dash Fun Run
- October 18- No School
- October 22- PTA- E.W. Beck's Fundraiser | Bus Driver and Assistant Appreciation Day
- October 24- Parent Teacher Conferences
- November 4- Parent Teacher Conferences
- November 5- Election Day- No School
- November 6- Two Hour and Forty Five Minute Early Dismissal |First Marking Period Ends

Enrichment Thoughts from Mrs. Stump, Advanced Academics Specialist

WANTING TO DO THINGS WELL IS A GOOD TRAIT TO HAVE. HOWEVER, IT CAN ALSO CAUSE SOME UNWANTED BEHAVIORS THAT CAN HINDER LEARNING, SUCH AS PROCRASTINATION AND AVOIDING CHALLENGES. BELOW ARE SOME STRATEGIES TO HELP STUDENTS TURN UNHEALTHY PERFECTIONISM INTO A POSITIVE TRAIT THAT MOVES STUDENT LEARNING FORWARD.

Enrichment Thought from
Mrs. Stump, Advanced
Academics Specialist

Unhealthy
Perfectionism

Issue

Students get upset when their grade is less than perfect.

Issue

Students focus on their mistakes and the need for the assignment to be perfect.

Issue

Avoiding situations or assignments that are risky where they may not be perfect.

Result

Students have high expectations for themselves, are motivated to reach their goals and have self confidence in their abilities.

How adults can help

Focus on student growth and learning and satisfaction of completing the assignment. Deemphasize grades.

How adults can help

Model how to handle mistakes, Provide examples of imperfections in themselves and in role models. Put time limits on assignments so students have a set end time.

How adults can help

Create an environment at home where academic and personal risks are ok to make. Praise student attempts, not the outcomes.

Grading Information

Grades are reported at the end of each quarterly marking period on the student's report card.

Grades are:

- A measure of student achievement in mastering curriculum standards
- Communication to parents
- Feedback for learning

Grades are NOT:

- Rewards
- Punishment
- Reflection of character

Pre-K through Grade 2

Pre-K through Grade 2 students are marked in a variety of academic areas on a system of O, S, N.

O = Outstanding

S = Satisfactory

N = Needs Improvement

Parents of students in PreK through grade 2 should be on the lookout for interim reports to come home at the midway point of each marking period.

Grades 3 -5

Students in grades 3 through 5 are graded on a letter grade system, based on performance on assigned work and assessments in each content area.

A = 90%-100% - Consistently meets standards at an outstanding level

B = 80%-89% - Generally meets standards at a high level

C = 70%-79% - Meets standards at a satisfactory level

D = 60%-69% - Meets some curriculum standards

F ≤ 59% - Fails to meet curriculum standards

Parents of students in grades 3 through 5 are encouraged to monitor students' grades through Home Access Center.

Honor Roll

Students in grades 3-5 whose grades meet the following criteria are eligible for the Honor Roll.

Honor Roll: All grades are B or better. All special areas grades are S or better.

Principal's Honor Roll: All grades are A or O.

Students who earn Honor Roll status will receive a certificate at the end of the marking period.

Presidential Award

At the end of grade 5, students who have met the following criteria are eligible for the Presidential Award for Reading and/or Math.

- Grade Point Average of 3.5 or greater in 4th grade and first half of 5th grade.
- Average of 90% or greater on CCPS benchmark assessments in 4th grade and first half of 5th grade.