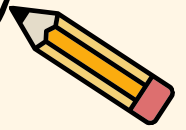




Piney Ridge Elementary School



MAY 2025 NEWSLETTER

Dear Piney Ridge Families,

Early in May, we will celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week. This is a good time to recognize the excellent teachers at Piney Ridge for their hard work and dedication. Also in May are recognitions for National Sport and Physical Education Week, School Lunch Hero Day, National School Nurse Day, and Pupil Personnel Worker Week. Thank you to our Physical Educators, Mr. Resh and Ms. Curtin; our kitchen staff Ms. Binder, Ms. Fountain, Ms. Norris, and Ms. Todd; our nurse Ms. Yetman and our PPW, Ms. Maloney for the great work they do to support our students at Piney Ridge.

Our third, fourth, and fifth grade students continue to participate in MCAP state testing in ELA and Math this month. These assessments give students an opportunity to show what they have learned and give our staff information that will help future instruction. We ask that parents help their children to stay on a good sleep routine and arrive at school on time so they can do their best work on the assessments.

Field Day is scheduled for Wednesday, May 14th. Mr. Resh and Ms. Curtin have planned an exciting variety of physical activities during the day. If you are interested in volunteering to help with Field Day, sign-up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0945A5AA2AA1F4C07-55906503-2025> All volunteers must be CCPS volunteer trained. The rain date for Field Day is Friday, May 16th.

At the April Board of Education Meeting, it was announced that the official last day of school for students will be Friday, June 13th. This is a 2-hour, 45-minute early dismissal. At Piney Ridge, dismissal will begin at 1:00 PM.

We wish the Piney Ridge students, staff, and families a safe and healthy month of May!

John Code, Principal

Morgan Pratt, Asst. Principal and 504/ADA Bld. Coordinator

Keep in Touch!

6315 Freedom Ave Sykesville, MD 21784

(410)751-3535 (410)751-3539 Fax

School Hours: 9:15am - 3:45pm

Summer Hours: 8am-4pm

preattendance@carrollk12.org

Need to contact an
administrator? A teacher?
Check the Staff Directory!

Upcoming Important Dates

National Physical Fitness and
Sports Month
National Teacher Appreciation
Week May 5-9th
National PPW Week May 12-16th

5/1- School Principal's Day, SECAC Awards
5/2- School Lunch Hero Day
5/5- Cinco de Mayo
5/6- National Teacher Day
5/7- National School Nurse Day
5/8- Music Concerts
5/11- Mother's Day
5/12- Q4 Interims
5/13 PTA Meeting 7pm
5/14- BOE Meeting, Field Day
5/26 Schools Closed- Memorial Day
6/3- PTA Meeting 7pm

A Note from the Nurse

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. If emailing, please copy the nurse and PE teachers.

For safety concerns, if a student has a brace, a walking boot, or a cast on the arm or leg they need 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 use the apparatus and for how long it will be on or used. It is best to arrange for your child to be a car rider during this time if they need assistance.

Medication Pickup End of the Year

Parents, please be sure to pick up any remaining medications by the last day of school for students June 13th, no later than 1:30pm. Medications cannot be left to use for next school year, and medication consent forms expired in June. Any medications not picked up by the end of the day of the last day will be destroyed. Students can not transport medication. If you need to make other arrangements for pick up, please contact the school nurse prior to this date.

Student Dress Code

With warmer weather approaching, please be sure your children have not outgrown their clothing from last year. Shorts need to cover the entire buttocks area while sitting, stand and bending over. Shirts need to cover the back, chest and entire midriff area. Please be sure shoes also fit. You may wish to send new "extra" clothing for their cubby/locker if it has not been replaced since last year as well. Please see page 69 in the Student/Parent handbook Calendar for further information.

Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten is mandatory in the State of Maryland. Your child must be 5 years of age by September 1, 2025. If your child is in Pre-K at PRE this year, documentation will roll over. No further action necessary at this time.

Parents are required to provide:

- Photo ID of parent
- Proof of birth—birth certificate, hospital certificate, baptismal certificate, birth registration, or passport/visa
- Verification of residence such as a current utility bill (ex: gas, electric, water, cable all of which must include the service address) a current lease agreement or settlement document.
- Current Immunization Record- Immunizations are also required at the time registration. Please contact your pediatrician for a copy or print from your healthcare portal. State vaccination records can also be retrieved from <https://md.myr.com/> and create an account. You will also receive a health inventory, dental and lead form during registration.

Please contact Mrs. Hagg
at 410-751-3535 or
pjhagg@carrollk12.org to
schedule an appointment.

Piney Ridge Elementary School



everychild.one voice.®

Many thanks to the vendors, volunteers, administration, custodians, teachers, staff, and PRE families who helped to make Spot's Spring Fling Extravaganza a success! We are so appreciative of your donations of goods, services, supplies, time, and energy! THANK YOU!!

Teachers Light The Way To A Brighter Future! Celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week May 5th-May 9th

Monday 5/5-Friday 5/9
Students-Bring in
thank you notes and
deliver to teachers and
staff all week long!

Thursday 5/8
Soft Pretzel Bar in
the Lounge

Monday 5/5
Muffins and OJ in the
Staff Lounge
Wednesday 5/7
Catered Lunch in the Staff
Lounge

AND More
throughout the
week to show Piney
Ridge Elementary's
Gratitude!

THE PINEY RIDGE PTA IS HOSTING

THE SON EVENT

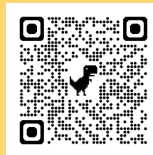
Join us at Red Barn Ranch
for an afternoon of fun

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday May 10th 3-5pm
ADDRESS: 175 KLEES MILL RD,
SYKESVILLE, MD

This event is completely free! Boys
are invited to bring their mom or a
special adult. Enjoy a variety of
games, pizza, desserts, and much
more.

Use QR Code for RSVP



Summer Office Hours
8am-4pm

Summer Information

More Information to Come

School Supply List

Inclusivity at Piney Ridge

Creating a language-rich environment at home is essential for children's language development.

Reading Aloud to Children

Encourage parents to read aloud daily. Choose books that match the child's interests, but also introduce books with new vocabulary and themes. Reading together is not only bonding time, but it helps with listening skills, vocabulary acquisition, and comprehension. Suggest resources like the Read Aloud Handbook by Jim Trelease or websites like Storyline Online where celebrities read children's books aloud.

Interactive Storytelling and Conversations

Teach parents the importance of engaging in conversations with their children throughout the day, even during simple routines. Suggest activities like asking open-ended questions ("What do you think will happen next?") or encouraging kids to tell their own stories. You could provide handouts or online links that offer tips on fostering meaningful back-and-forth dialogue at home.

Literacy-Enriching Apps and Websites

Recommend apps and websites that promote vocabulary building, reading, and writing. Examples include:

Starfall: A website that helps children with phonics and reading skills.

Epic: An eBook library with thousands of children's books.

Reading Rockets: Provides articles, strategies, and videos for parents on supporting early literacy development.

Simple Language Games (No Supplies Needed)

- 20 Questions- One person thinks of an object, person, or animal. The other has 20 yes/no questions to guess what it is.
- I Spy (With a Twist)- Traditional "I spy with my little eye..." but describe the item using adjectives or functions ("I spy something you can sit on").
- Alphabet Categories- Pick a category (animals, food, places). Take turns naming something in that category starting with each letter of the alphabet.
- Rhyme Time- Say a word and take turns saying words that rhyme with it. Keep going until no one can think of another rhyme.
- Story Builder- One person starts a story with a sentence. Each person adds one sentence to continue the story.
- Opposites Game- One person says a word, and the other quickly says the opposite. Great for vocabulary development.
- Would You Rather...?- Take turns asking fun, silly, or thoughtful "Would you rather...?" questions to spark conversation and reasoning.
- Word Association- Say a word, and the other says the first word that comes to mind. Continue back and forth. Try to keep it going fast!
- Guess the Sound- One person makes a sound (animal, object, action) and the other guesses what it is.
- Finish the Sentence- Start a sentence and let the child finish it however they want. Example: "If I could fly, I would..."
- Describe and Guess- One person describes an object (without saying what it is), and the other guesses based on the clues.
- Syllable Clapping- Say a word and clap out its syllables together. Turn it into a game by guessing how many claps each word will have.
- Name 5- Give a category (e.g., fruits, things that are red), and the child has to name 5 things that fit.
- What's Missing? (Verbal Version)- List 3-5 items aloud. Then repeat the list but leave one out. Can the child tell what's missing?
- Tongue Twisters- Say classic tongue twisters together, or make up your own silly ones and try to say them fast.

School Counselor Corner

Hello, my name is Ms. Wafle-Tabacchi, the long-term substitute counselor for Piney Ridge Elementary. I am glad to be here to tend to the student's needs, including social/emotional support, academics, and the career domain.

Any questions or concerns, please see reach me at 410-751-3535 or rcwafle@carrollkl2.org.

Upcoming dates:

Career Day: May 30th, Time TBD

School Counseling lessons: 5/1-5/2: Kindergarten, 1 grade. ♣ 5/7: 2 and 3rd grade ♣ 5/9: 2 and 3rd grade ♣ 5/15: 4th and 5th grade ♣ 5/21: 4th and 5th grade

Examples of what a School Counselor may do:

- Address student concerns, emotions and apply interpersonal skills.
- Planning of postsecondary options.
- Individual student goal setting and academic planning.
- School Counseling classroom lessons.
- Short term and group counseling.
- Mediations
- Being a mentor and advocate for students.
- Referrals for longer-term support.
- Using needs assessments and data analysis to identify student's challenges, needs, and issues.

Carroll County Public Schools

Questions?

Call 410-751-3613

[PreK FAQs](#)



PRE-KINDERGARTEN 2025-2026 ENROLLMENT

A child who will turn 4 years of age **on or before September 1, 2025** may be eligible for enrollment into CCPS PreK Program

1 COMPLETE APPLICATION

All families who are interested in being considered must complete a CCPS Pre-Kindergarten application & provide necessary documentation.

APPLY HERE



2 ENROLLMENT DETERMINED

Enrollment determined based on Federal Poverty Level guidelines, foster care, and/or homeless status.

Should space be available, children who have an IEP and/or Multi-language Learner status may be given priority. Due to limited availability families are encouraged to consider private Pre-K options as well.

Eligibility requirements met.

You will be notified by email to enroll your child

Eligibility requirements NOT met.

You will be notified by email and your child will be placed on a wait list.

Hungry for more information?

Check our WEBSITE regularly for news, resources and important topics.



Important Dates and Frequently Asked Questions

Informational Calendar Student/Parent Handbook

Best for answering all of those random questions! Where to check for snow day info, contacts for resources, various regulations for reference and more!

Carroll County Public Schools 2024-2025 School Calendar

All the important dates! School closures, early dismissals and report card distribution.

Bullying Reporting System

Our school is committed to establishing and promoting a safe, non-threatening environment for all students to learn. The Bullying Reporting System or the Bullying, Harassment, or Intimidation Reporting Form is available to students, families, and staff to report alleged incidents of bullying, harassment, or intimidation that occurred during the current school year on school property, at a school-sponsored activity or event off school property, on a school bus, on the way to and/or from school, or through electronic communication on or off school property. Please see the QR code and links below access the reporting system and for additional information.

Incident Reporting - Carroll County Public School District Informational Calendar Student/Parent Handbook

Volunteers and Visitors

- All visitors to the school must come to the main entrance and ring the doorbell.
- Upon entering, proceed to the office to sign in. Visitors must show a photo ID.
- Parents/Guardians may visit during lunch, after September 16.
- Any school volunteers must complete CCPS Volunteer Training at least 7 days prior to volunteering in the school.

CHANGES TO TRANSPORTATION! NOTIFICATION OF ABSENCE?

TO REPORT AN ABSENCE, REQUEST VACATION PREAPPROVAL OR CHANGE IN TRANSPORTION GO TO PREATTENDANCE@CARROLLK12.ORG

TEMPORARY
CHANGE OF
TRANSPORTATION



NOTICE OF
ABSENCE/VACATION
PREAPPROVAL REQUEST



SCAN ME

Permanent Transportation Changes

CCPS Transportation -

click here for current information on bus routes and changes.

To report a permanent change in transportation, please contact the front office (410-751-3535) to complete a 2024-2025 Elementary Transportation Form.

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.