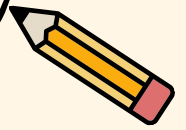




# Piney Ridge Elementary School



APRIL 2025 NEWSLETTER

Dear Piney Ridge Families,

April is an exciting time of the school year. The weather is getting warmer, and we will head into the the final marking period of the year. Quarter 3 report cards will be coming home on April 11th. We encourage parents to review their child's progress and set goals for a strong finish to the school year.

In March, many students were enrolled for Kindergarten during our Kindergarten Registration Week. We suspect there are still more students out in the community who are yet to be registered. Parents of students who will be 5 years old on/before

September 1, 2025 should contact the school as soon as possible to make an appointment to register. Please spread the word. Early registrations will help us to make accurate enrollment projections as we plan staffing and classroom space for next school year.

The Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP) testing for ELA and Math begins for students in grades 3 through 5 this month. Please help your students to get a good night's sleep and eat a healthy breakfast so they can show their best work on the test.

Check out the April calendar in this newsletter for noteworthy dates such as the Early Dismissal on April 4th, MCAP testing dates, and Spring Break.

We wish our students, families, and staff a safe and healthy month of April!

*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: 9:15 - 3:45

[preattendance@carrollk12.org](mailto:preattendance@carrollk12.org)

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

# Upcoming Important Dates

4/2 Board of Education Town Hall 6pm (at Carroll County Career & Tech Center)

4/2 World Autism Day - Wear **BLUE** to school!

4/4 Third Marking Period Ends - 2 Hour 45 Minute Early Dismissal

4/7 Fourth Marking Period Begins

4/7 MCAP Testing Grade 5-AM, Grade 3-PM

4/8 MCAP Testing Grade 4- AM

4/9 MCAP Testing Grade 5-AM, Grade 3-PM

4/11 MCAP Testing Grade 4- AM

4/17-22 Spring Break, Schools Closed

4/23 Administrative Professionals Day

4/28 MCAP Testing Grade 5-AM, Grade 3-PM

4/29 MCAP Testing Grade 4- AM

4/30 MCAP Testing Grade 5-AM, Grade 3-PM

5/2 MCAP Testing Grade 4- AM

School Library Month - World Autism Month

April 7-11 National Assistant Principals Week, April 20-26 Administrative

Professionals Week, April 21-25 School

Volunteer Week, April 24-30 National School Leadership Week

## A Note from the Nurse

Stress is a function of the demands placed on us and our ability to meet them.

Even very young children feel stress to some degree. For example, separation from parents can cause anxiety. Academic and social pressures can create stress in children.

Kids who complain about the number of activities they're involved in or refuse to go to them, may be signaling that they're overscheduled.

Kids' stress can be more than what is happening in their own lives. Do your kids hear you talking about troubles at work, illness, financial concerns or fighting with a spouse? Children can pick up on their parents' anxiety and start to worry them. Kids who see disturbing images on TV may worry about their own safety.

Symptoms of stress in children may include, behavioral changes, changes in sleep patterns, bedwetting, stomachaches and headaches, lying, bullying, nightmares, and changes in academic progress.

Help your child reduce stress with proper rest, good nutrition, and make time for your kids each day. It's also important to let them have down time as well. Let your child know that it's ok to feel angry, scared, lonely, or anxious and that others have those feelings too. For some, stressors are always in the back of their mind even if able to appear fine. These feelings may last a few days, weeks or even months.

Steps to help cope can be deep breathing, reminding self of positive things vs. negative, talking to a trusted friend/adult, and/or writing feelings down. Exercise like yoga, walking and getting outside can also reset the brain and body. Always consult with your doctor when stress is causing significant problems in functioning at home or school.

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As a reminder, students are not allowed to transport any medication to school. If your child will need as needed medication for cold/allergies symptoms mid day, a parent or guardian must come to school to administer the medication or obtain a doctors order for the Nurse to give.

- A. The following items are not considered to be medications and therefore students may carry them without being in violation of our drug and alcohol procedure: 1) Chapstick/Lip Balms
- B.2) Non-medicated cough drops. Any cough drops that indicate a limit per day require a health care provider's order.
- C.3) Saline eye drops, wetting/lubricating eye drops, or contact solution.
- D.4) Saline nose spray
- E.5) Hand creams/lotions
- F.6) Sunscreen
- G.7) Individually sized waterless hand cleanser
- Please contact the School Nurse if you have questions.

Piney Ridge Elementary School



everychild.one voice.®

Now Through April 22- Hersheypark Ticket Fundraiser: [Click to Purchase](#)

Thursday, April 10- Monthly PTA Meeting in the Media Center or Virtually at 7:00 PM

Saturday, April 26- Spot's Spring Fling Extravaganza: [Admission is FREE! Click Here to RSVP!](#)

- [Adult Volunteers Needed](#)
- [Student Volunteers Needed](#)
- [Snack Shack/Bake Sale Donations](#)

Calling all interested in the PTA Executive Board! We are seeking nominations for President and Secretary. If you or anyone you know might be interested email [clbonner@gmail.com](mailto:clbonner@gmail.com).

Advocacy Update March 2025

The Carroll County Public Schools are still facing unprecedented budgetary challenges. There are frequent news updates about the funding challenges and Blueprint implementation.

You can access the Carroll County Times and the Baltimore Sun using your library card log in credentials. We encourage you to give this a try to keep current on the news stories about these challenges.

SPRING FLING 2025  
REGISTRATION IS HERE!!  
SAVE THE DATE: APRIL 26TH,  
10AM-3PM



THIS YEAR ADMISSION IS FREE AND INCLUDES ARTS AND CRAFTS, UNLIMITED GAMES, AND SO MUCH MORE! STOP BY GENOVA'S TO GO, THE I SCREAM TRUCK, OR SPOT'S SHACK SHACK FOR A TASTY MEAL OR TREAT (AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE) AND BE SURE TO BROWSE OUR POPULAR SILENT AUCTION, FEATURING AN ASSORTMENT OF GENEROUSLY DONATED ITEMS FROM THE COMMUNITY AND CREATIVE THEME BASKETS FROM EACH HOMEROOM.

THE HOMEROOM WITH THE MOST STUDENT RSVPS WILL RECEIVE A SPECIAL CLASS REWARD IN MAY!! PLEASE RSVP BY APRIL 24 WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME AND HOMEROOM TEACHER.




VOLUNTEER SIGN UP

BAKE SALE DONATIONS

**NEW THIS YEAR!**

- EACH PINEY RIDGE STUDENT WILL RECEIVE 5 FREE TICKETS FOR THE "TEACHER EXPERIENCE RAFFLE." PLEASE STOP BY SPOT'S SHACK SHACK IN THE CAFETERIA TO PICK UP YOUR FREE TICKETS. ADDITIONAL TICKETS MAY BE PURCHASED AT THE EVENT, AND DONATIONS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME.




**HERSHEY PARK**  
2025 PINEY RIDGE ELEMENTARY  
PTA FUNDRAISER  
PURCHASE BY **TUESDAY, APRIL 22!**


**BUY NOW!**

**\$49.00 EACH  
VALID THROUGH  
1/4/2026**

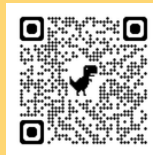
**ELECTRONIC TICKETS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED  
MID-MAY. EMAIL ADDRESS REQUIRED.  
NO REFUNDS OR TICKET EXTENSIONS.**



SCAN TO PURCHASE  
TICKETS AND  
PARKING  
WITH CREDIT CARD  
PAYMENT



TO PAY BY CHECK/CASH, PLEASE FLIP OVER.



## 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.myir.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](mailto:pjhagg@carrollk12.org) to schedule an appointment.



# Inclusivity at Piney Ridge

## HELP PINEY CELEBRATE WORLD AUTISM MONTH ON WEDNESDAY APRIL 2ND BY WEARING BLUE!

What is autism?

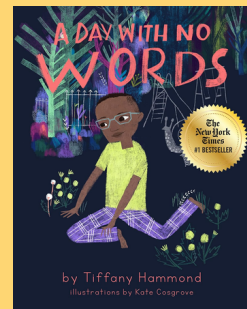
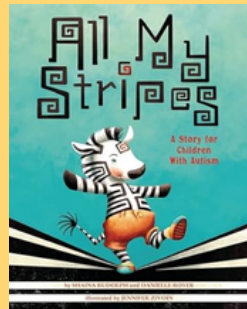
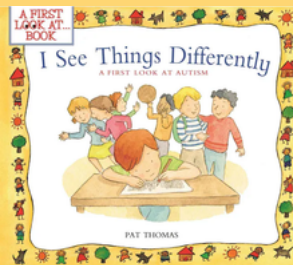
Autism, or autism spectrum disorder (ASD), refers to a broad range of conditions characterized by challenges with social skills, repetitive behaviors, speech and nonverbal communication. According to the Centers for Disease Control, autism affects an estimated 1 in 36 children and 1 in 45 adults in the United States today.

Click the links and books below for resources and activities to explore at home!

Video: DIY stress creatures Create fun stress-relieving fidget characters.

Movement and mindfulness  
Virtual classes to help children stay active, focused, and calm while infusing good energy into their lives.

Video: DIY Sensory Bottle Create a DIY sensory bottle for yourself or a sensory-seeker in your family.



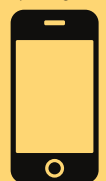
Resource Guide- Use the filters to locate providers near you regarding financial assistance, mental health, safety, educational, legal, evaluation, etc.



## Reminder of CCPS Portable Electronic Devices Policy

During the Summer of 2024, CCPS reviewed regulations for Board Policy JICJ regarding portable electronic devices. This information was shared at Back to School Nights and through the newsletter at the beginning of the school year. Some key points are listed below. At Piney Ridge, we are starting to see an increase in the number of students bringing and attempting to use devices during the school day.

- Students may NOT use portable electronic devices during the school day.
- This includes lunch, recess, field trips, and special events that occur during the school day.
- Any device must be turned off and stored away out of sight.
- Smart watches are considered portable electronic devices and have the same expectations as phones.
- Elementary students are strongly discouraged from using devices on the bus.
- Students who are not following these regulations will be subject to disciplinary steps.





# 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 TRANSPORTATION  
GO TO [PREATTENDANCE@CARROLLK12.ORG](mailto: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.

# April 2025

MONDAY

Piney Ridge Elementary

Breakfast

TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
<b>1</b>		<b>2</b>		<b>3</b>		<b>4</b>	
<b>Condiments:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Syrup</li><li>• Cream Cheese</li><li>• Grape Jelly</li><li>• Margarine</li></ul>		Hot Breakfast Entree Variety of Breakfast Breads Variety of Cereal 100% Fruit Juice Variety of Fruit		Hot Breakfast Entree Variety of Breakfast Breads Variety of Cereal 100% Fruit Juice Variety of Fruit		Hot Breakfast Entree Variety of Breakfast Breads Variety of Cereal 100% Fruit Juice Variety of Fruit	
<b>7</b>		<b>8</b>		<b>10</b>		<b>11</b>	
Hot Breakfast Entree Variety of Breakfast Breads Variety of Cereal 100% Fruit Juice Variety of Fruit		Hot Breakfast Entree Variety of Breakfast Breads Variety of Cereal 100% Fruit Juice Variety of Fruit		Hot Breakfast Entree Variety of Breakfast Breads Variety of Cereal 100% Fruit Juice Variety of Fruit		Hot Breakfast Entree Variety of Breakfast Breads Variety of Cereal 100% Fruit Juice Variety of Fruit	
<b>14</b>		<b>15</b>		<b>16</b>		<b>17</b>	
Hot Breakfast Entree Variety of Breakfast Breads Variety of Cereal 100% Fruit Juice Variety of Fruit		Hot Breakfast Entree Variety of Breakfast Breads Variety of Cereal 100% Fruit Juice Variety of Fruit		Hot Breakfast Entree Variety of Breakfast Breads Variety of Cereal 100% Fruit Juice Variety of Fruit			
				Spring Break		Spring Break	
<b>21</b>		<b>22</b>		<b>23</b>		<b>24</b>	
				Hot Breakfast Entree Variety of Breakfast Breads Variety of Cereal 100% Fruit Juice Variety of Fruit		Hot Breakfast Entree Variety of Breakfast Breads Variety of Cereal 100% Fruit Juice Variety of Fruit	
Spring Break		Spring Break					
<b>28</b>		<b>29</b>		<b>30</b>			
Hot Breakfast Entree Variety of Breakfast Breads Variety of Cereal 100% Fruit Juice Variety of Fruit		Hot Breakfast Entree Variety of Breakfast Breads Variety of Cereal 100% Fruit Juice Variety of Fruit		Hot Breakfast Entree Variety of Breakfast Breads Variety of Cereal 100% Fruit Juice Variety of Fruit		<b>Milk Choices:</b> Nonfat Milk <del>Nonfat Chocolate Milk</del>	

**Breakfast Entree Options:** Bacon Scramble Pizza , Mini Blueberry Pancakes , Mini Maple Pancakes , Pancake and Sausage on a Stick , Mini B  
Mini Maple Waffles , Yogurt Smoothie - Peach , Yogurt Smoothie - Strawberry Banana

**Assorted Breakfast Cereals:** Apple Cinnamon Cheerios , Cheerios , Cinnamon Toast Crunch , Cocoa Puffs , Rice Chex , Trix

**All menus are subject to change.** We make it our priority to serve the menu as planned, but sometimes situations arise where we need to make  
will make every attempt to substitute similar products when they are available. We appreciate your understanding.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider. Layout & Design © Nutrislice, Inc. Printed on 3/26/2025 at 3:06 pm .









# April 2025

MONDAY

Piney Ridge Elementary

Lunch

TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
1		2		3		4	
<b>Milk Choices:</b> • Nonfat Milk • Low Fat Milk • Nonfat Chocolate Milk	Entree Choices • Beef Tacos • Ranchero Pizza • Crispy Chicken Salad Grab and Go Combo Featured Sides • Green Beans Fruit and Vegetable Bar	Entree Choices • Grilled Cheese Sandwich • Chicken Patty on a Roll • Crispy Chicken Salad Grab and Go Combo Featured Sides • Tomato Soup Fruit and Vegetable Bar	Entree Choices • Macaroni and Cheese • Soft Pretzel Rod • Hamburger on a Roll • Cheeseburger on a Roll Crispy Chicken Salad Grab and Go Combo Featured Sides • Crispy French Fries Fruit and Vegetable Bar	Entree Choices • Stuffed Crust Cheese Pizza • Stuffed Crust Pepperoni • Pizza • Fish Sandwich Crispy Chicken Salad Grab and Go Combo Featured Sides • Steamed Broccoli Fruit and Vegetable Bar			
7	8	9	10	11			
Entree Choices • Chicken Nuggets with Dinner Roll • Garlic Cheesy Twiz-Stik with Marinara Dipping Sauce Chef Salad Grab and Go Combo Featured Sides • Savory French Fries • Baked Beans Fruit and Vegetable Bar	Entree Choices • French Toast Sticks with Sausage Patty • Mini Pizza Bagels • Chef Salad Grab and Go Combo Featured Sides • Corn • Tater Tots Fruit and Vegetable Bar	Entree Choices • Spaghetti with Meat sauce with Garlic Knot • Pizza Crunchers Chef Salad Grab and Go Combo Featured Sides • Green Beans Fruit and Vegetable Bar	Entree Choices • Mozzarella Cheese Sticks with Marinara Dipping Sauce • Teriyaki Chicken over Rice with Dinner Roll Chef Salad Grab and Go Combo Featured Sides • Steamed Broccoli Fruit and Vegetable Bar	Entree Choices • Cheese Pizza • Pepperoni Pizza • Popcorn Chicken with Dinner Roll Chef Salad Grab and Go Combo Featured Sides • Steamed Carrot Coins Fruit and Vegetable Bar			
14	15	16	17	18			
Entree Choices • Homestyle Chicken Tender with Dinner Roll • Cheeseburger on a Roll • Chicken Ceasar Salad Grab and Go Combo Featured Sides • Baked Beans Fruit and Vegetable Bar	Entree Choices • Walking Taco • Deep Dish Cheese Pizza • Chicken Ceasar Salad Grab and Go Combo Featured Sides • Corn Fruit and Vegetable Bar	Entree Choices • Chicken Nuggets with Dinner Roll • Pretzel Bites & Cheese • Chicken Ceasar Salad Grab and Go Combo Featured Sides • Savory French Fries • Steamed Broccoli • Sugar Cookie Fruit and Vegetable Bar	 Spring Break	 Spring Break			
21	22	23	24	25			
 Spring Break	 Spring Break	Entree Choices • Grilled Cheese Sandwich • Hamburger on a Roll • Cheeseburger on a Roll • Crispy Chicken Salad Grab and Go Combo Featured Sides • Crispy French Fries • Tomato Soup Fruit and Vegetable Bar	Entree Choices • Pizza Crunchers • Chicken and Broccoli Alfredo • with Garlic Knot Crispy Chicken Salad Grab and Go Combo Featured Sides • Steamed Broccoli Fruit and Vegetable Bar	Entree Choices • Cheese Pizza • Pepperoni Pizza • Cheesesteak Sub • Crispy Chicken Salad Grab and Go Combo Featured Sides • Green Beans Fruit and Vegetable Bar			
28	29	30					
Entree Choices • Homestyle Chicken Tender with Buttermilk Biscuit • Chicken & Cheese Quesadilla Southwest Chicken Salad Grab and Go Combo Featured Sides • Baked Beans Fruit and Vegetable Bar	Entree Choices • French Toast Sticks with Sausage Patty • Hot Ham and Cheese Southwest Chicken Salad Grab and Go Combo Featured Sides • Tater Tots • Corn Fruit and Vegetable Bar	Entree Choices • Popcorn Chicken with Dinner Roll • Sweet and Sour Chicken over Fried Rice Southwest Chicken Salad Grab and Go Combo Featured Sides • Steamed Broccoli Fruit and Vegetable Bar					

**All menus are subject to change.** We make it our priority to serve the menu as planned, but sometimes situations arise where we need to make changes. We will make every attempt to substitute similar products when they are available. We appreciate your understanding.