

# Piney Ridge Elementary School



March 2025 Newsletter

Dear Piney Ridge Families,

In March, we honor Youth Art Month and Music in Our Schools Month. We want to take this time to celebrate the work our students do to express themselves artistically and musically. We also want to thank our Art teachers, Ms. Evans and Ms. Midkiff, as well as our Music teachers, Ms. Thomas and Mr. Dundore for their work to inspire our students.

During the remaining weeks of the school year, most students will participate in a field trip. Field trips are opportunities for students to visit, view, and experience in-person learning opportunities that are connected to the curriculum. In order for a student to be marked present in school and to participate on a field trip, the student must ride the bus to and from the venue with their class and teachers. Depending on the location and nature of the trip, teachers may request volunteer chaperones to assist with supervision. Any chaperone must have completed the CCPS volunteer training module, and pass a background check prior to the date chaperones are chosen. Please keep in mind that the training and background check process can take up to 7 school days, and teachers often choose chaperones several days before a trip. Details about each field trip are shared on the permission slip that teachers will send home.

Our Lost & Found is growing. Several students have left behind jackets, hats, gloves, lunch bags, water bottles, and more. If you believe your child has lost an item at school, please encourage the child to check out the Lost & Found rack in the cafeteria. If items are labeled with a student's name, then staff will attempt to reunite the item with that student. Otherwise, when the Lost & Found becomes too full, the items will be donated or discarded.

We wish all of our students, families, and staff a happy and healthy month of March!

*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

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

# Upcoming Important Dates

March 2-8th National Foreign Language Week  
Irish American Heritage Month ~ Music in Our Schools Month ~ National Nutrition Month ~  
Women's History Month ~ Youth Art Month

3/5 Community Townhall Meeting (at Century High School)

3/7 PTA- Talent Show

3/9 Daylight Savings Time

3/10, 3/11, 3/12, 3/14- 5th Grade MISA Testing 9:30 AM

3/11- PTA Rescheduled Meeting

3/12 Board of Education Meeting

3/17 Schools Closed - St. Patrick's Day

3/19 Outstanding Teacher Awards

3/20 First Day of Spring

3/21 PTA- Science Fair

3/25 Maryland Day

3/24-3/28 Kindergarten Registration Week

## A Note from the Nurse



National Poison Prevention Education is during the Month of March.

The Maryland Poison Center provides emergency assessment of poison exposures, treatment recommendations, education and prevention. The Maryland Poison Center is the first place to call in the event of a suspected poisoning.

What you need to know about Poison Proofing

Each year, thousands of children and adults in Maryland experience potentially toxic exposures to common household products such as medicines, insect sprays, cleaners, paints, garden products, car

products and personal care products. The Maryland Poison Center, a division of the University Of Maryland School Of Pharmacy, is a 24-hour telephone service available to help if a poisoning occurs in your home. Many of these poisonings can be prevented.

Here are some ideas to poison-proof your home and keep you and your children safe:

- Read and follow directions on the label before using drugs and household products.
- Store all drugs, poisons and harmful household products out of the sight and reach of children, preferably in a locked cabinet.
- Keep all household products and drugs in their original containers. Never put chemicals or cleaning products in empty food or drink containers.
- Always ask for medicine in child-resistant containers (safety-lock tops), but remember that these are not child-proof. Given enough time, children can often open safety caps.
  - Don't take medicine in front of children and never tell children that medicine is candy.
- Remove poisonous plants from the house and yard. Know the names of plants in and around your home.
- Teach small children never to touch or put anything in their mouth unless they ask a grown-up.
- Put medicines away in their proper place after each dose even if it will be given again in a few hours.
  - Never mix household cleaning products together.
- Program the number in your cell phone...you can reach a poison center anywhere in the US by dialing 1-800-222-1222.



everychild.onevoice.®

The Carroll County Public Schools are facing unprecedented budgetary challenges. Please view these links from the Carroll County Public Schools website for more information:

[Blueprint for Maryland's Future - Carroll County Public School District](#)

[Meeting Information - Carroll County Public School District](#)

[Budget - Carroll County Public School District](#)



There are also frequent posts on the Piney Ridge PTA's Facebook page about this topic.



PTA Website

Information on Pre-K Registration Below!

## Kindergarten Registration March 24-28, 2025

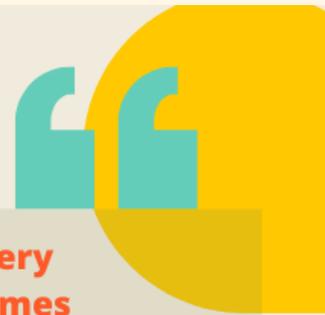
Kindergarten is mandatory in the State of Maryland. Your child must be 5 years of age by September 1, 2025. If your child is in Pre-K at PRE this year, documentation will roll over. No further action necessary at this time.

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.

# CAR RIDER FAQ



## Why are we asked not to arrive before 8:45 AM?

When the drop-off line forms before 8:45 AM, then staff are unable to access parking spaces in the lot. If staff cannot park and get into the building, then it may delay our ability to open the doors for students to enter.

## Why do we form two lines, then merge into one line?

Forming two lines allows more cars to get into the lot and reduces the backup of traffic on Freedom Avenue. Vehicles merge into one line before drop-off and pick-up so that students do not need to cross in front of other cars.

## Why does the door at the car rider area close at 9:10 AM each morning?

Instruction begins at 9:15 AM each day. Students are expected to be unpacked and ready to learn by that time. Students who enter after 9:10 are often late to get started. Also, the staff who monitor the door need to get to their classrooms to begin teaching and supporting students by 9:15. Any vehicle that arrives after 9:10 should pull around to the front of the building to drop off at the main entrance. Any student arriving after the 9:15 bell is marked "tardy" and needs to be signed in at the office by a parent or guardian.

## I pick up my child every day. Why am I sometimes asked to provide ID?

When staff become familiar with you, they may stop asking for ID. If a different staff member is on duty on a given day, then they may not know you as well. As a general rule, you should always be prepared to show ID when picking up your child. We want to ensure that students go home with the right adults.

## We live close to the school. Can my child walk home?

We allow students to walk home, but they must do with an adult. We do not release elementary students to go home on their own.

## The drop-off and pick-up process takes a long time. Is there a way to make things go faster?

We have a large number of families who utilize the car drop-off and pick-up process. We all have the same goal to dismiss students to their parents safely, while also doing so in a timely manner. The best way is for us to work together.

Some ways to help include the following:

- *Pull up to the first available numbered cone to drop off or pick up. This allows us to handle four cars at a time.*
- *During drop-off, please refrain from long "goodbyes." Have students ready to exit the car promptly when you stop at the drop-off area.*
- *When picking up, please have your red number card or ID ready to show the staff member on duty. Remind your child to listen for their name to be called in the gym to be dismissed.*
- *Avoid trying to take "short cuts" around the process. This just makes things slow down for everyone. It is also not a great way to make friends in the community.*

# Inclusivity at Piney Ridge

Conversation starters are important with kids because they initiate meaningful dialogue, which helps children develop their language skills, build strong relationships, learn to express themselves effectively, and feel heard and understood, all while fostering a sense of trust and connection with adults. This can help lay the foundation for healthy communication throughout their lives.

## ***Family Conversation Starters***

If you could be in any movie, what movie would you choose?	What is your favorite chore? What about your least favorite chore?
What makes you feel loved?	What are you most proud of?
If you could only take 3 things to a deserted island, what would you take?	What is the nicest thing anyone has ever said to you?
Where would you fly if you had wings?	Describe someone else at this table in 3 words.
If you could plan a family trip, where would we go and what would we do?	If you could be any animal, what would you be?
If you had just one wish, what would it be?	What is your least favorite color?
What is your favorite season and why?	If you could only eat one thing for the rest of your life, what would it be?
What is your favorite song right now and why?	What is your favorite family tradition?
What was the first thing you thought of when you woke up this morning?	If you could have any super power, what would it be?
Describe yourself in 3 words.	What makes you happy when you are sad?

# READ ACROSS MARYLAND



**March 15, 2025**  
**9:00 AM to Noon**

**Carroll County Career & Technology Center**

**1229 Washington Rd  
Westminster MD**

**FREE Event**

- Free breakfast for children
- Each child chooses a free book to keep
- Games & Activities
- Reading by special guests
- Andy the Armadillo, if available
- Corky the Penguin, if available
- HS Musicals
- Carroll County Public Library, the Judy Center, the famous Braille table

Made possible by donations from

Penguin  
Random  
House



# 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](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.

# March 2025

# Piney Ridge Elementary

MONDAY

## Breakfast

### TUESDAY

### WEDNESDAY

### THURSDAY

### FRIDAY

**3**

Hot Breakfast Entree  
Variety of Breakfast  
Breads Variety of  
Cereal 100% Fruit  
Juice Variety of Fruit

**4**

Hot Breakfast Entree  
Variety of Breakfast  
Breads Variety of  
Cereal 100% Fruit  
Juice Variety of Fruit

**5**

Hot Breakfast Entree  
Variety of Breakfast  
Breads Variety of  
Cereal 100% Fruit  
Juice Variety of Fruit

**6**

Hot Breakfast Entree  
Variety of Breakfast  
Breads Variety of  
Cereal 100% Fruit  
Juice Variety of Fruit

**7**

Hot Breakfast Entree  
Variety of Breakfast  
Breads Variety of  
Cereal 100% Fruit  
Juice Variety of Fruit

**10**

Hot Breakfast Entree  
Variety of Breakfast  
Breads Variety of  
Cereal 100% Fruit  
Juice Variety of Fruit

**11**

Hot Breakfast Entree  
Variety of Breakfast  
Breads Variety of  
Cereal 100% Fruit  
Juice Variety of Fruit

**12**

Hot Breakfast Entree  
Variety of Breakfast  
Breads Variety of  
Cereal 100% Fruit  
Juice Variety of Fruit

**13**

Hot Breakfast Entree  
Variety of Breakfast  
Breads Variety of  
Cereal 100% Fruit  
Juice Variety of Fruit

**14**

Hot Breakfast Entree  
Variety of Breakfast  
Breads Variety of  
Cereal 100% Fruit  
Juice Variety of Fruit

**17**

Schools Closed

**18**

Hot Breakfast Entree  
Variety of Breakfast  
Breads Variety of  
Cereal 100% Fruit  
Juice Variety of Fruit

**19**

Hot Breakfast Entree  
Variety of Breakfast  
Breads Variety of  
Cereal 100% Fruit  
Juice Variety of Fruit

**20**

Hot Breakfast Entree  
Variety of Breakfast  
Breads Variety of  
Cereal 100% Fruit  
Juice Variety of Fruit

**21**

Hot Breakfast Entree  
Variety of Breakfast  
Breads Variety of  
Cereal 100% Fruit  
Juice Variety of Fruit

**24**

Hot Breakfast Entree  
Variety of Breakfast  
Breads Variety of  
Cereal 100% Fruit  
Juice Variety of Fruit

**25**

Hot Breakfast Entree  
Variety of Breakfast  
Breads Variety of  
Cereal 100% Fruit  
Juice Variety of Fruit

**26**

Hot Breakfast Entree  
Variety of Breakfast  
Breads Variety of  
Cereal 100% Fruit  
Juice Variety of Fruit

**27**

Hot Breakfast Entree  
Variety of Breakfast  
Breads Variety of  
Cereal 100% Fruit  
Juice Variety of Fruit

**28**

Hot Breakfast Entree  
Variety of Breakfast  
Breads Variety of  
Cereal 100% Fruit  
Juice Variety of Fruit

**31**

Hot Breakfast Entree  
Variety of Breakfast  
Breads Variety of  
Cereal 100% Fruit  
Juice Variety of Fruit

#### Condiments:

- Syrup
- Cream Cheese
- Grape Jelly
- Margarine

#### Milk Choices:

- Nonfat Milk
- Low Fat Milk
- Nonfat Chocolate Milk

**Breakfast Entree Options:** Bacon Scramble Pizza , Mini Blueberry Pancakes , Mini Maple Pancakes , Pancake and Sausage on a

Stick , Mini Blueberry Waffles ,

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

# March 2025

# Piney Ridge Elementary

MONDAY

Lunch

## TUESDAY

## WEDNESDAY

## THURSDAY

## FRIDAY

3

Entree Choices  
• Chicken Nuggets with Dinner Roll  
• Three Cheese Calzone  
• Chef Salad  
Grab and Go Combo  
Featured Sides  
• Savory French Fries  
• Baked Beans  
Fruit and Vegetable Bar

4

Entree Choices  
• French Toast Sticks with Sausage Patty  
• Mini Pizza Bagels  
• Chef Salad  
Grab and Go Combo  
Featured Sides  
• Tater Tots  
• Corn  
Fruit and Vegetable Bar

5

Entree Choices  
• Spaghetti with Meatballs with Marinara Dipping Sauce  
• Knot  
• Pizza Crunchers  
• Chef Salad  
Grab and Go Combo  
Featured Sides  
• Green Beans  
Fruit and Vegetable Bar

6

Entree Choices  
• Mozzarella Cheese Sticks with Marinara Dipping Sauce  
• Teriyaki Chicken over Rice  
• Chef Salad  
Grab and Go Combo  
Featured Sides  
• Steamed Broccoli  
Fruit and Vegetable Bar

7

Entree Choices  
• Cheese Pizza  
• Pepperoni Pizza  
• Pretzel Bites & Cheese  
• Meat Lovers Pizza  
• Chef Salad  
Grab and Go Combo  
Featured Sides  
• Steamed Carrot Coins  
Fruit and Vegetable Bar

10

Entree Choices  
• Homestyle Chicken Tenders  
• Dinner Roll  
• Cheeseburger on a Roll  
• Chicken Ceasar Salad  
Grab and Go Combo  
Featured Sides  
• Baked Beans  
Fruit and Vegetable Bar

11

Entree Choices  
• Walking Taco  
• Deep Dish Cheese Pizza  
• Chicken Ceasar Salad  
Grab and Go Combo  
Featured Sides  
• Corn  
Fruit and Vegetable Bar

12

Entree Choices  
• Chicken Nuggets with Cornbread  
• Beef Chili with Beans with Cornbread  
• Chicken Ceasar Salad  
Grab and Go Combo  
Featured Sides  
• Crispy French Fries  
• Steamed Broccoli  
Fruit and Vegetable Bar

13

Entree Choices  
• Macaroni and Cheese with Soft Pretzel Rod  
• Hot Dog  
• Corn Dog  
• Chicken Ceasar Salad  
Grab and Go Combo  
Featured Sides  
• Green Beans  
Fruit and Vegetable Bar

14

Entree Choices  
• Cheese Pizza  
• Pepperoni Pizza  
• Meat Lovers Pizza  
• Deep Dish Cheese Pizza  
• Chicken Ceasar Salad  
Grab and Go Combo  
Featured Sides  
• Steamed Carrot Coins  
Fruit and Vegetable Bar

17

Schools Closed

18

Entree Choices  
• French Toast Sticks with Sausage Patty Hot Ham and Cheese Crispy Chicken Salad  
Grab and Go Combo  
Featured Sides  
• Corn  
Fruit and Vegetable Bar

19

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

20

Entree Choices  
• Pizza Crunchers  
• Chicken Patty on a Roll  
• Chicken and Broccoli Alfredo with Garlic Knot  
• Crispy Chicken Salad  
Grab and Go Combo  
Featured Sides  
• Steamed Broccoli  
Fruit and Vegetable Bar

21

Entree Choices  
• Cheese Pizza  
• Pepperoni Pizza  
• Fish Sandwich  
• Crispy Chicken Salad  
Grab and Go Combo  
Featured Sides  
• Green Beans  
Fruit and Vegetable Bar

24

Entree Choices  
• Homestyle Chicken Tenders with Buttermilk Biscuit  
• Garlic Cheesy Twiz-Stik with Marinara Dipping Sauce  
• Crispy Chicken Salad  
Grab and Go Combo  
Featured Sides  
• Baked Beans  
Fruit and Vegetable Bar

25

Entree Choices  
• Mesquite Chicken with Buttermilk Biscuit  
• Deep Dish Cheese Pizza  
• Crispy Chicken Salad  
Grab and Go Combo  
Featured Sides  
• Mashed Potatoes  
• Corn  
• Maryland Crab Soup  
Fruit and Vegetable Bar

26

Entree Choices  
• Popcorn Chicken with Dinner Roll  
• Orange Chicken over Rice  
• Crispy Chicken Salad  
Grab and Go Combo  
Featured Sides  
• Steamed Broccoli  
Fruit and Vegetable Bar

27

Entree Choices  
• Chicken Nuggets with Garlic Knot  
• Lasagna with Garlic Knot  
• Crispy Chicken Salad  
Grab and Go Combo  
Featured Sides  
• Green Beans  
Fruit and Vegetable Bar

28

Entree Choices  
• Cheese Pizza  
• Pepperoni Pizza  
• Mozzarella Cheese Sticks with Marinara Dipping Sauce  
• Crispy Chicken Salad  
Grab and Go Combo  
Featured Sides  
• Mixed Vegetables  
Fruit and Vegetable Bar

31

Entree Choices  
• Popcorn Chicken with Buttermilk Biscuit  
• Rib-a-Que Sandwich  
• Crispy Chicken Salad  
Grab and Go Combo  
Featured Sides  
• Mashed Potatoes  
• Corn  
Fruit and Vegetable Bar

**Condiments:**  
• Nonfat Milk  
• Low Fat Milk  
• Nonfat Chocolate Milk