

# Piney Ridge Elementary School



## November 2025 Newsletter

Dear Piney Ridge families,

We are approaching the end of the first quarter on November 4<sup>th</sup>. Parents of students in grades 3 through 5 may check Home Access Center to see up-to-date grades at any time. Be on the lookout for report cards to come home with students on November 11<sup>th</sup>. That will be an ideal time to discuss your child's progress during the first nine weeks and to set goals for the next marking period. .

Some teachers still have a limited number of parent-teacher conference time slots available for our final fall conference night on November 25<sup>th</sup>. Links to the sign-up pages and other details can be found in this newsletter.

The week of November 17<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> is American Education Week. Each year, this week honors the team of people who work with students in our schools. Parents are welcome to visit Piney Ridge Elementary that week to get a glimpse of a student's educational experience. More details about American Education Week can be found in this newsletter.

We wish everyone a safe and healthy month of November!

*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

November 4 Early Dismissal begins at 1:00  
November 11 Quarter I Report Cards distributed  
November 17-21 American Education Week  
November 25 Conference Night #2  
November 26 Early Dismissal begins at 1:00  
November 27 & 28 School Closed for Thanksgiving  
December 12 Early Dismissal begins at 1:00  
December 23 Early Dismissal begins at 1:00  
December 24- January 2, 2026 School Closed for Winter Break

## A Note from the Nurse

Reminder- Please dress your children appropriately for the weather.



- Outdoor Recess

Students will be outdoors for recess unless the feels like temperature is below 32 degrees, or conditions are excessively wet.

- P. E. will also be outside when possible.

Students who are excused from P.E. do not participate in recess but they do sit outside during their recess time.

High Pollen days can be tough on kids, please remind them to wash their hands and even faces when they come back inside from recess, if needed. Please talk with your doctor if daily allergy medication is right for child to help with allergies

**Piney Ridge Elementary School**

**PTA**<sup>®</sup>  
*everychild. one voice.*<sup>®</sup>

November 7- Family Paint Night

November 11- Veterans Day

November 11- PTA Meeting, 7 PM

November 25- Chick-Fil-A Night

December 5- International Night

**PINEY RIDGE PTA**  
2025-2026 Meeting Schedule

Tues 9/9	Thurs 2/12
Weds 10/8	Weds 3/11
Tues 11/11	Tues 4/14
Weds 12/9	Thurs 5/14
Thurs 1/8	Tues 6/2

Join Us @ 7pm!

Free Childcare for potty trained children.  
No RSVP needed.

Meetings are in the Media Center  
OR  
join virtually via Zoom!

**SIGN UP TODAY**





Our second session of parent-teacher conferences will be held on  
Tuesday, November 25th.

There are still a few open spots remaining for families who have not already held a conference with the teacher. Please click the grade level link below to sign up.

Pre-K:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0945A5AA2AAIF4C07-59096952-prek>

KDG:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0945A5AA2AAIF4C07-59095282-kdgconferences>

1st:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0945A5AA2AAIF4C07-59093472-1stgrade>

2nd:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0945A5AA2AAIF4C07-59094950-2ndgrade>

3rd:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0945A5AA2AAIF4C07-59095020-3rdgrade>

4th:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0945A5AA2AAIF4C07-59095096-4thgrade>

5th:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0945A5AA2AAIF4C07-59095100-5thgrade>

Special Areas:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0945A5AA2AAIF4C07-59132284-special>

Special Education Conferences:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0945A5AA2AAIF4C07-59132339-special>

## 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.

##### Reading:

• 3.5 GPA through all of 4th grade and the first half of 5th grade.

• 90% combined average on 4th grade CBA.

• 80% combined average on 5th grade Benchmark Advance Performance Task 2 - Narrative Writing and Benchmark Advance Interim 3 Posttest.

• Score of level 3 or 4 on 4th grade MCAP ELA.

##### Math:

• 3.5 GPA through all of 4th grade and the first half of 5th grade.

• 90% combined average for all of 4th grade and mid-year 5th grade CCPS Math Benchmark Assessment.

• Score of level 3 or 4 on 4th grade MCAP Math.

## 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.

# Reminder

## Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

- Please refrain from entering the parking lot for drop-off before 8:30 AM. Our staff has had difficulty parking for work in the morning.
- Remain in the car during arrival and dismissal unless your child needs assistance (PreK or Kindergarten students).
- The bus loop is only for busses 8:30-9:15 AM and 3:30-4:15 PM.

Remember proper footwear on P.E. days.



Our lost and found is growing. Items left in the lost and found after November 26<sup>th</sup> will be donated or discarded.





# Hungry for more information?

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



## Important Dates and Frequently Asked Questions

### Carroll County Public Schools 2025-2026 School Calendar

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

### 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!

## Attendance Reminders

### Dismissal Changes

- Dismissal changes should be sent to [PREattendance@carrollk12.org](mailto:PREattendance@carrollk12.org) no later than 2 PM for same day changes.

### Family Trips

- Family vacations during school days are strongly discouraged due to the impact they have on school performance and grades earned. With prior approval, absences for family travel/activities will be Lawful and students will be permitted to make up missed work. If prior approval is not granted, such absences will be Unlawful.

## 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

## 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.

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**SCHOLASTIC**

# BOOK FAIR!

COMING SOON!

Fair Dates and Times:

**November 17, 2025 - November 21, 2025**

**Family night: November 19, 2025**

**4:10- 7:30 pm**

Students **shop during their library media times** (see Buying Schedule)

What happens if a student misses their media book fair time?

Come in the **morning from 8:45- 9:10**

Make sure all students can get a book.

Donate to "All For Books" by bringing money to the box in the Media Center or donating change from book purchases.

We NEED you!

Sign up to volunteer for this beloved tradition:

<https://tinyurl.com/5aet5hs4>



**Creditcards** visit the website/ QR code below to load funds to an e-wallet account that kids can use



\*Any unused funds on e-wallet are not refunded by Scholastic, but can be:

- Used at next year's fair.
- Spent at the book fair link below.
- Donated to buy books for children in our school.

[scholastic.com/bf/pineyridgeelementaryschool](https://scholastic.com/bf/pineyridgeelementaryschool)

Checks made to: PRE

Cash accepted

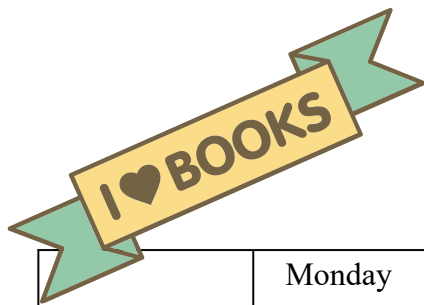
**Don't forget  
6% tax!**

Don't like a book/ item your child purchased? Have them bring it back, during book fair, for a full refund or exchange.

Want to volunteer without using the website?

Please Contact Renee Cross at [RNCROSS@carrollk12.org](mailto:RNCROSS@carrollk12.org) or 410-751-3535

Happy reading, Renee Cross & Kim Sands



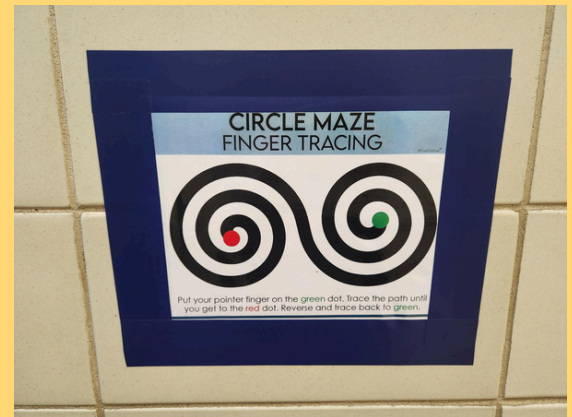
## Buying Schedule

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:20–9:50					
9:50–10:20		Mills	Belfont	Schneeman	North
10:20–10:50	Baldwin 1 <sup>st</sup> *		Griffiths	Coquia	Garofolo
10:50–11:20	Keiffer		Walters		
11:20–11:50		Day	Bailey		
11:50–12:20		Reda	Marion		
12:35–1:05		Yokay			
1:05–1:35		Reed	Albina	Brandon	
1:35–2:05	Foley				
2:05–2:35		Mason	Knox		
2:35–3:05	Oates		Laughman		
3:05–3:35	Baldwin (Kinder)		Liberto		
			Family Night 4:10- 7:30pm		

\*Mrs. Baldwin's 1st grade class will not shop during their assigned media time on Friday 11/21. This class will shop during the time listed above.



# Inclusivity at Piney Ridge




We are all sensory beings with differing sensory systems. Classroom environments can be overwhelming for some students, while others are seeking more input than they are receiving. Bright lights and excessive noise from within the classroom can cause our nervous systems to feel overloaded, so our bodies begin avoiding stimuli. Sitting in a chair for extended periods of time may make a student feel fidgety and have trouble concentrating, which leads to seeking additional sensory input. For years, Piney's occupational therapist has created a sensory walk in the kindergarten hallway on the first floor, accessible to all students. The sensory walk features gross motor tasks that incorporate proprioceptive (body awareness), vestibular (movement), and visual concentration tasks, such as tracing a path on the wall with a finger. Staff work together to determine which students could benefit from the use of the sensory walk to help regulate their nervous systems.

# AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK 2025

NOVEMBER 17-21

At Piney Ridge, we welcome parents and guardians to stop by and visit your child's classroom to get a glimpse of the work done in the school. If you are able to visit, we ask that you follow a few guidelines.

- Please come to the main entrance and sign in at the office. Please be prepared to show photo ID.
- School-aged and preschool aged children may not accompany the visitor.
- If another family member is visiting, we need written permission in advance from a parent or guardian so that we know that person is authorized to visit the child in the classroom.
- We ask that visitors be careful not to interrupt instruction during the visit.
- Visitors are welcome during student lunch times, but seating is limited in the cafeteria.
- When exiting, please sign out at the main office.
- Visitors' vehicles may not be in the bus loop before 9:15 AM or after 3:30 PM.
- Teachers may communicate specific times that are not ideal for visitors in their classrooms, such as tests or unique activities. Otherwise, visitors are welcome to stop by anytime between 9:15 AM and 3:30 PM.
- We look forward to seeing visitors this week!





This week honors the team of people who work together to provide an excellent education to students in our nation's schools.



# Breakfast

November 2025

Piney Ridge Elementary  
Breakfast

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>3</b> Hot Breakfast Entree Variety of Breakfast Breads Variety of Cereal 100% Fruit Juice Variety of Fruit	<b>4</b> Hot Breakfast Entree Variety of Breakfast Breads Variety of Cereal 100% Fruit Juice Variety of Fruit	<b>5</b> Hot Breakfast Entree Variety of Breakfast Breads Variety of Cereal 100% Fruit Juice Variety of Fruit	<b>6</b> Hot Breakfast Entree Variety of Breakfast Breads Variety of Cereal 100% Fruit Juice Variety of Fruit	<b>7</b> Hot Breakfast Entree Variety of Breakfast Breads Variety of Cereal 100% Fruit Juice Variety of Fruit
<b>10</b> Hot Breakfast Entree Variety of Breakfast Breads Variety of Cereal 100% Fruit Juice Variety of Fruit	<b>11</b> Hot Breakfast Entree Variety of Breakfast Breads Variety of Cereal 100% Fruit Juice Variety of Fruit	<b>12</b> Hot Breakfast Entree Variety of Breakfast Breads Variety of Cereal 100% Fruit Juice Variety of Fruit	<b>13</b> Hot Breakfast Entree Variety of Breakfast Breads Variety of Cereal 100% Fruit Juice Variety of Fruit	<b>14</b> Hot Breakfast Entree Variety of Breakfast Breads Variety of Cereal 100% Fruit Juice Variety of Fruit
<b>17</b> Hot Breakfast Entree Variety of Breakfast Breads Variety of Cereal 100% Fruit Juice Variety of Fruit	<b>18</b> Hot Breakfast Entree Variety of Breakfast Breads Variety of Cereal 100% Fruit Juice Variety of Fruit	<b>19</b> Hot Breakfast Entree Variety of Breakfast Breads Variety of Cereal 100% Fruit Juice Variety of Fruit	<b>20</b> Hot Breakfast Entree Variety of Breakfast Breads Variety of Cereal 100% Fruit Juice Variety of Fruit	<b>21</b> Hot Breakfast Entree Variety of Breakfast Breads Variety of Cereal 100% Fruit Juice Variety of Fruit
<b>24</b> Hot Breakfast Entree Variety of Breakfast Breads Variety of Cereal 100% Fruit Juice Variety of Fruit	<b>25</b> Hot Breakfast Entree Variety of Breakfast Breads Variety of Cereal 100% Fruit Juice Variety of Fruit	<b>26</b> Hot Breakfast Entree Variety of Breakfast Breads Variety of Cereal 100% Fruit Juice Variety of Fruit	 Thanksgiving Holiday	 Thanksgiving Holiday

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

**Condiments:** Syrup , Cream Cheese , Grape Jelly , Margarine

**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 substitutions. We will make every attempt to substitute similar products when they are available. We appreciate your understanding.

**Milk Choices:** Nonfat Milk , Low Fat Milk , Nonfat Chocolate Milk

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# Lunch

November 2025

Piney Ridge Elementary

Lunch

## MONDAY

3

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

## TUESDAY

4

Entree Choices  
 • Chicken Nuggets with Dinner Roll  
 • Mini Pizza Bagels  
 • Crispy Chicken Salad  
 Grab and Go Combo  
 Featured Sides  
 • Green Beans  
 Fruit and Vegetable Bar

## WEDNESDAY

5

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

## THURSDAY

6

Entree Choices  
 • Macaroni and Cheese with 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

## FRIDAY

7

Entree Choices  
 • Cheese Pizza  
 • Pepperoni Pizza  
 • Pork BBQ Sliders  
 • Crispy Chicken Salad  
 Grab and Go Combo  
 Featured Sides  
 • Steamed Broccoli  
 Fruit and Vegetable Bar

10

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

11

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

12

Entree Choices  
 • Spaghetti with Meatsauce with Garlic Knot  
 • Pizza Crunchers  
 • Chef Salad  
 Grab and Go Combo  
 Featured Sides  
 • Green Beans  
 Fruit and Vegetable Bar

13

Entree Choices  
 • Roasted Turkey ★ with Dinner Roll  
 • Thanksgiving Chicken Nuggets with Dinner Roll  
 • Chef Salad  
 Grab and Go Combo  
 Featured Sides  
 • Mashed Potatoes  
 • Cornbread Stuffing  
 • Sweet Potatoes  
 • Green Beans  
 • Sauerkraut  
 • Chocolate Chip Cookie  
 Fruit and Vegetable Bar

14

Entree Choices  
 • Cheese Pizza  
 • Pepperoni Pizza  
 • Mozzarella Cheese Sticks with Marinara Dipping Sauce  
 • Chef Salad  
 Grab and Go Combo  
 Featured Sides  
 • Steamed Carrot Coins  
 Fruit and Vegetable Bar

17

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

18

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

19

Entree Choices  
 • Chicken Nuggets with Dinner Roll  
 • Pretzel Bites & Cheese  
 • Chicken Caesar Salad  
 Grab and Go Combo  
 Featured Sides  
 • Savory French Fries  
 • Steamed Broccoli  
 Fruit and Vegetable Bar

20

Entree Choices  
 • Cheese Tortellini with Marinara Sauce with Garlic Cheesy Twiz-Stik  
 • Popcorn Chicken with Dinner Roll  
 • Chicken Caesar Salad  
 Grab and Go Combo  
 Featured Sides  
 • Green Beans  
 Fruit and Vegetable Bar

21

Entree Choices  
 • Cheese Pizza  
 • Pepperoni Pizza  
 • Chicken and Vegetable Dumplings with Chicken Egg Roll  
 • Chicken Caesar Salad  
 Grab and Go Combo  
 Featured Sides  
 • Steamed Broccoli  
 Fruit and Vegetable Bar

24

Entree Choices  
 • Garlic Cheese Pizza  
 • Orange Chicken over Rice  
 • Crispy Chicken Salad  
 Grab and Go Combo  
 Featured Sides  
 • Baked Beans  
 Fruit and Vegetable Bar

25

Entree Choices  
 • Nachos Grande  
 • Popcorn Chicken with Dinner Roll  
 • Crispy Chicken Salad  
 Grab and Go Combo  
 Featured Sides  
 • Corn  
 Fruit and Vegetable Bar

26

Entree Choices  
 • French Toast Sticks with Sausage Patty  
 • Garlic Cheese Pizza  
 • Crispy Chicken Salad  
 Grab and Go Combo  
 Featured Sides  
 • Tater Tots  
 Fruit and Vegetable Bar

27



Thanksgiving Holiday

28



Thanksgiving Holiday

**Fruit and Vegetable Bar:** Applesauce, Cinnamon Applesauce, Fresh Apples, Diced Pears, Fresh Pears, Chilled Peaches, Bananas, Fresh Grapes, Fresh Carrots, Cucumber Coins, Tossed Salad, Coleslaw, Green Peppers and Cherry Tomatoes, Red Pepper Hummus

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 substitutions. We will make every attempt to substitute similar products when they are available. We appreciate your understanding.

**Milk Choices:** Nonfat Milk, Low Fat Milk, Nonfat Chocolate Milk