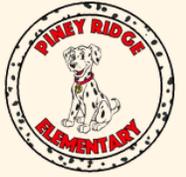


# Piney Ridge Elementary School



## December 2025 Newsletter

Dear Piney Ridge Families,

We hope everyone enjoyed a relaxing Thanksgiving break. The break was a good time to reflect on the things that we are thankful for in our lives. At Piney Ridge, we are thankful for the great students, supportive families, and hard-working staff. While we are giving thanks, we also want to give a thank you to the many parents who came out for our two fall parent-teacher conference nights. Though our fall conference nights are complete, we encourage parents to contact teachers at any time if there are questions about a student's progress.

This month, we want to take time to thank our music teachers, Mrs. Thomas and Mr. Dundore, along with our many student musicians who will perform at our concerts on December 3rd and December 10th. We also celebrate National Inclusive Schools Week in early December. Students and staff will have the opportunity to reflect on what makes Piney Ridge Elementary special.

The mid-term date for the second marking period is December 10th. Parents of students in PreK through Grade 2 will receive an interim report from the teacher. Parents of students in grades 3 through 5 are encouraged to check Home Access Center for updated student grades on or about that date.

Lastly, we want to remind parents to begin thinking about the possibility of inclement weather and its impact on schools. If an announcement is made about the delay or closing of schools, this information will be communicated through the CCPS website, School Messenger emails and/or calls, Channel 21, and other local radio or television stations. It is a good idea to plan ahead so that your family can be prepared for a delay or closing of schools with short notice. For more information about inclement weather and schools, [click here](#).

We wish everybody a safe and healthy month of December!

*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

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

January 5- Schools Reopen

January 16- Early Dismissal begins at 1:00

January 19- Closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday

January 23- Second Marking Period ends

January 26- Schools Closed for Students- Professional Development / End of Marking Period

January 27- Third Marking Period begins

## A Note from the Nurse

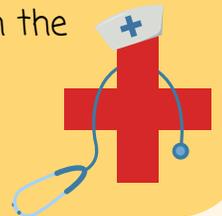
Mrs. Yetman is in need of pull on type pants/legging for girls, all sizes.

If your child borrowed pants/shorts/tops from the Nurse, please wash and return them back to the nurse.

All grade levels should keep an extra pair of leggings or sweat pants in their locker/cubby. The Nurse has very limited clothing supplies, especially for older students that may have spills, muddy clothes, etc.

If your child failed Hearing or Vision screening (Grades PK, K, 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> were screened in September), you have received a physical letter at least twice to follow up with the appropriate care.

Please send results to the nurse.



**Piney Ridge Elementary School**

**PTA**®   
*everychild. one voice.*®

December 5- International Night

December 9- PTA Meeting @ 7 PM

January 8- PTA Meeting @ 7 PM

January 15- Family Fitness Night

A graphic for the Piney Ridge PTA 2025-2026 Meeting Schedule. It features a dark background with colorful pencils on the left and paper clips on the right. The text is in white and pink. A central box lists the meeting dates and times. To the right, it says 'Meetings are in the Media Center OR join virtually via Zoom!'. At the bottom, it says 'Free Childcare for potty trained children. No RSVP needed.'

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!

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

Free Childcare for potty trained children. No RSVP needed.

**SIGN UP TODAY**



# Home Access Center



**Home Access Center (HAC) is the CCPS parent/student portal that allows you/your child to access a variety of information.**

You can view attendance, student's e-mail/password, classes, grades, service-learning, and emergency contact information.

You can register to receive an email anytime your child is absent and receive a weekly email with your child's classwork and grades.

If you have not yet registered, we encourage you to do so by clicking on this link: [HAC Login](#)

Click the "Request Password" link and follow the directions on-screen.

If you forgot your password, click the "Forgot Password" link and follow the steps.

Home Access Center is also available as a mobile app for both Apple and Android devices - search keyword: eSchoolPLUS Family. The app will not replace Home Access Center; it is an additional way to access your child's information.

## **To receive HAC attendance and gradebook alerts**

Go to Home Access Center - if you have more than one student in CCPS, then you will be prompted to select a student.

After you select the student, let the cursor hover over your name on the top right corner of the screen.

Click on My Alerts. Check the box for "Classwork Alerts" - you will receive these alerts every Thursday.

You can also check the box for "Receive Attendance Alerts" - those emails are sent daily if your child is marked tardy, absent, or has an early dismissal.

Parents who subscribed to receive these alerts last year will need to subscribe again this year. You will need to follow these steps for each child.

# 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.

## 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.

# Inclusivity at Piney Ridge

Check out the January Workshops listed below from Tammy Chisholm.  
CCPS Family Support Birth Thru 21



January 14- Financial Planning

January 21- What happens to my child's IEP or 504 if I leave CCPS?

January 27-Traditional vs. Self-Directed with Service Coordination



Thank you for getting the school year off  
to a great start in P.E.

We will miss you, Ms. Fleishall.

Welcome Back, Mr. Resh!

# Piney Reads

See the next page for additional information



Use this [link](#) to sign up.



# Piney Ridge Elementary School

6315 Freedom Avenue Sykesville, Maryland 21784

Phone 410-751-3535, 410-795-9022

Fax 410-751-3539

Building the Future

John N Code, IV, Principal  
Morgan E. Pratt, Assistant Principal



Dear Piney Families,

We would like to invite Piney Families to join our school wide reading program “Piney Reads”. Our goal for this program is to provide interested families with a book and an electronic reading packet that they can read with their children and discuss as a family. Students can continue the discussions casually with friends throughout the school day. The Piney Ridge PTA generously provides a book for each family that chooses to participate, and the media staff provides discussion-starting questions/ research/ activities as well as a schedule of chapters to read during the month of February. The reading packet will be provided via email, unless parents specifically request a print copy. We will ask some trivia questions on the morning announcements and participating students can answer questions and enter to win a drawing for prizes. It is a fun way for our school to read the same book at the same time. As a bonus, many schools in the area will be reading the same book around the same time frame. Participating schools are likely to include Carrolltowne, Eldersburg, Freedom, and Linton Springs Elementary. Upon completion of the book, we would like to invite all participating families join in a culminating activity hosted by the Carroll County Public Library.

If interested, please complete the bottom portion of this form, and return it to the media center by: December 23, 2025.

More information will be sent directly to you.

Happy Reading!

Renee Cross & Kim Sands  
RNCROSS@carrollk12.org

Please write legibly.

Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Youngest Child’s Name (First and last): \_\_\_\_\_

Youngest Child’s Homeroom Teacher (Last name only): \_\_\_\_\_

Number of children from your household participating: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Return to media center 12/23/25

Please note that this is an optional program. There is no need to read the book if the book selected does not suit your family. This is a fun enriching experience that happens as a result of voluntary hard work on the part of the staff members involved. Thank you for being flexible and allowing the fun to continue for our school!

# Breakfast

December 2025

Piney Ridge Elementary

Breakfast

**MONDAY**

**TUESDAY**

**WEDNESDAY**

**THURSDAY**

**FRIDAY**

<p><b>1</b></p> <p>Hot Breakfast Entree Variety of Breakfast Breads Variety of Cereal 100% Fruit Juice Variety of Fruit</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>Hot Breakfast Entree Variety of Breakfast Breads Variety of Cereal 100% Fruit Juice Variety of Fruit</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>Hot Breakfast Entree Variety of Breakfast Breads Variety of Cereal 100% Fruit Juice Variety of Fruit</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>Hot Breakfast Entree Variety of Breakfast Breads Variety of Cereal 100% Fruit Juice Variety of Fruit</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>Hot Breakfast Entree Variety of Breakfast Breads Variety of Cereal 100% Fruit Juice Variety of Fruit</p>
<p><b>8</b></p> <p>Hot Breakfast Entree Variety of Breakfast Breads Variety of Cereal 100% Fruit Juice Variety of Fruit</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>Hot Breakfast Entree Variety of Breakfast Breads Variety of Cereal 100% Fruit Juice Variety of Fruit</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>Hot Breakfast Entree Variety of Breakfast Breads Variety of Cereal 100% Fruit Juice Variety of Fruit</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>Hot Breakfast Entree Variety of Breakfast Breads Variety of Cereal 100% Fruit Juice Variety of Fruit</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>Hot Breakfast Entree Variety of Breakfast Breads Variety of Cereal 100% Fruit Juice Variety of Fruit</p>
<p><b>15</b></p> <p>Hot Breakfast Entree Variety of Breakfast Breads Variety of Cereal 100% Fruit Juice Variety of Fruit</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>Hot Breakfast Entree Variety of Breakfast Breads Variety of Cereal 100% Fruit Juice Variety of Fruit</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>Hot Breakfast Entree Variety of Breakfast Breads Variety of Cereal 100% Fruit Juice Variety of Fruit</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>Hot Breakfast Entree Variety of Breakfast Breads Variety of Cereal 100% Fruit Juice Variety of Fruit</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>Hot Breakfast Entree Variety of Breakfast Breads Variety of Cereal 100% Fruit Juice Variety of Fruit</p>
<p><b>22</b></p> <p>Hot Breakfast Entree Variety of Breakfast Breads Variety of Cereal 100% Fruit Juice Variety of Fruit</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>Hot Breakfast Entree Variety of Breakfast Breads Variety of Cereal 100% Fruit Juice Variety of Fruit</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>Have a great Winter Break!</p>  <p>Winter Break</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>Have a great Winter Break!</p>  <p>Winter Break</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p>Have a great Winter Break!</p>  <p>Winter Break</p>
<p><b>29</b></p> <p>Have a great Winter Break!</p>  <p>Winter Break</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>Have a great Winter Break!</p>  <p>Winter Break</p>	<p><b>31</b></p> <p>Have a great Winter Break!</p>  <p>Winter Break</p>	<p><b>Condiments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Syrup</li> <li>• Cream Cheese</li> <li>• Grape Jelly</li> <li>• Margarine</li> </ul>	<p><b>Milk Choices:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nonfat Milk</li> <li>• Low Fat Milk</li> <li>• Nonfat Chocolate Milk</li> </ul>

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

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# Lunch

December 2025

Piney Ridge Elementary

Lunch

**MONDAY**

**TUESDAY**

**WEDNESDAY**

**THURSDAY**

**FRIDAY**

<p><b>1</b></p> <p>Entree Choices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Homestyle Chicken Tenders with Buttermilk Biscuit</li> <li>• Chicken &amp; Cheese Quesadilla</li> <li>• Southwest Chicken Salad Grab and Go Combo</li> </ul> <p>Featured Sides</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baked Beans</li> </ul> <p>Fruit and Vegetable Bar</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>Entree Choices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chicken Patty on a Roll</li> <li>• Three Cheese Calzone</li> <li>• Southwest Chicken Salad Grab and Go Combo</li> </ul> <p>Featured Sides</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tater Tots</li> <li>• Corn</li> </ul> <p>Fruit and Vegetable Bar</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>Entree Choices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Popcorn Chicken with Dinner Roll</li> <li>• Sweet and Sour Meatballs over Rice with Dinner Roll</li> <li>• Southwest Chicken Salad Grab and Go Combo</li> </ul> <p>Featured Sides</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Steamed Broccoli</li> </ul> <p>Fruit and Vegetable Bar</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>Entree Choices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chicken Nuggets with Dinner Roll</li> <li>• Cheese Tortellini with Marinara Sauce with Garlic Cheesy Twiz-Stik</li> <li>• Southwest Chicken Salad Grab and Go Combo</li> </ul> <p>Featured Sides</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green Beans</li> </ul> <p>Fruit and Vegetable Bar</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>Entree Choices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cheese Pizza</li> <li>• Pepperoni Pizza</li> <li>• Corn Dog Nuggets</li> <li>• Southwest Chicken Salad Grab and Go Combo</li> </ul> <p>Featured Sides</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mixed Vegetables</li> </ul> <p>Fruit and Vegetable Bar</p>
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<p><b>8</b></p> <p>Entree Choices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deep Dish Cheese Pizza</li> <li>• Hamburger on a Roll</li> <li>• Cheeseburger on a Roll</li> <li>• Crispy Chicken Salad Grab and Go Combo</li> </ul> <p>Featured Sides</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Corn</li> </ul> <p>Fruit and Vegetable Bar</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>Entree Choices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nachos Grande</li> <li>• Ranchero Pizza</li> <li>• Crispy Chicken Salad Grab and Go Combo</li> </ul> <p>Featured Sides</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green Beans</li> </ul> <p>Fruit and Vegetable Bar</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>Entree Choices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grilled Cheese Sandwich</li> <li>• Chicken Patty on a Roll</li> <li>• Crispy Chicken Salad Grab and Go Combo</li> </ul> <p>Featured Sides</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Savory French Fries</li> <li>• Tomato Soup</li> </ul> <p>Fruit and Vegetable Bar</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>Entree Choices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chicken and Vegetable Dumplings with Chicken Egg Roll</li> <li>• Popcorn Chicken with Dinner Roll</li> <li>• Crispy Chicken Salad Grab and Go Combo</li> </ul> <p>Featured Sides</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Steamed Broccoli</li> </ul> <p>Fruit and Vegetable Bar</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>Entree Choices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cheese Pizza</li> <li>• Pepperoni Pizza</li> <li>• French Toast Sticks with Sausage Patty</li> <li>• Crispy Chicken Salad Grab and Go Combo</li> </ul> <p>Featured Sides</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tater Tots</li> </ul> <p>Fruit and Vegetable Bar</p>
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<p><b>15</b></p> <p>Entree Choices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chicken Nuggets with Dinner Roll</li> <li>• Three Cheese Calzone</li> <li>• Chef Salad Grab and Go Combo</li> </ul> <p>Featured Sides</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crinkle Cut French Fries</li> <li>• Baked Beans</li> </ul> <p>Fruit and Vegetable Bar</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>Entree Choices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Walking Taco</li> <li>• Mini Pizza Bagels</li> <li>• Chef Salad Grab and Go Combo</li> </ul> <p>Featured Sides</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Corn</li> </ul> <p>Fruit and Vegetable Bar</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>Entree Choices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pizza Crunchers</li> <li>• Spaghetti with Meatsauce with Garlic Knot</li> <li>• Chef Salad Grab and Go Combo</li> </ul> <p>Featured Sides</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green Beans</li> </ul> <p>Fruit and Vegetable Bar</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>Entree Choices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mozzarella Cheese Sticks with Marinara Dipping Sauce</li> <li>• Teriyaki Chicken over Rice with Dinner Roll</li> <li>• Chef Salad Grab and Go Combo</li> </ul> <p>Featured Sides</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Steamed Broccoli</li> </ul> <p>Fruit and Vegetable Bar</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>Entree Choices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Holiday Chicken Nuggets with Dinner Roll ★</li> <li>• Cheese Pizza</li> <li>• Pepperoni Pizza</li> <li>• Chef Salad Grab and Go Combo</li> </ul> <p>Featured Sides</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crinkle Cut French Fries</li> <li>• Steamed Carrot Coins</li> </ul> <p>Fruit and Vegetable Bar</p>
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<p><b>22</b></p> <p>Entree Choices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Homestyle Chicken Tenders with Dinner Roll</li> <li>• Cheeseburger on a Roll</li> <li>• Chicken Caesar Salad Grab and Go Combo</li> </ul> <p>Featured Sides</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baked Beans</li> <li>• Vanilla Ice Cream Cup</li> </ul> <p>Fruit and Vegetable Bar</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>Entree Choices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• French Toast Sticks with Sausage Patty</li> <li>• Deep Dish Cheese Pizza</li> <li>• Chicken Caesar Salad Grab and Go Combo</li> </ul> <p>Featured Sides</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Corn</li> </ul> <p>Fruit and Vegetable Bar</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>Have a great Winter Break!</p>  <p>Winter Break</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>Have a great Winter Break!</p>  <p>Winter Break</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p>Have a great Winter Break!</p>  <p>Winter Break</p>
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<p><b>29</b></p> <p>Have a great Winter Break!</p>  <p>Winter Break</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>Have a great Winter Break!</p>  <p>Winter Break</p>	<p><b>31</b></p> <p>Have a great Winter Break!</p>  <p>Winter Break</p>	<p><i>Milk Choices:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nonfat Milk</li> <li>• Low Fat Milk</li> <li>• Nonfat Chocolate Milk</li> </ul>
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