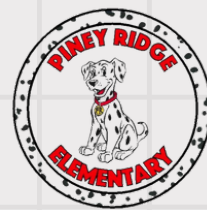


Piney Ridge Elementary School



Dear Families,
Welcome to a new school year!



As the new principal of Piney Ridge, I am honored to join this incredible school community and excited to begin a wonderful year of learning, growth, and connection together. It is already clear that this is a special place filled with caring people who want the very best for our children.

The start of a school year brings a sense of excitement and possibility. New classrooms, new friendships, and new opportunities to learn and grow are waiting for our students. Our staff has been working hard to prepare for their arrival, and we cannot wait to welcome everyone back.

At Piney, we believe that strong relationships are the foundation of a successful school year. I look forward to getting to know each of your children and partnering with you to support their learning, celebrate their successes, and help them navigate challenges along the way.

Thank you for welcoming me into your school community. I am honored to serve as your principal and look forward to a wonderful year together.

See you soon!

Warmly,
Brie Bower

Brie Bower, Principal

Morgan Pratt, Assistant Principal
& 504/ADA Bld. Coordinator



August 2026

6315 Freedom
Ave Sykesville,
MD 21784

Voice
(410)751-3535

Fax
(410)751-3539

School Hours:
9:15 – 3:45

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



Need to contact an
administrator?
A teacher?
Check the
[Staff Directory!](#)

Bus Riders

Important
Transportation
Reminders

- Prior to the start of the school year, please visit your bus stop with your child in preparation for the first day of school.
- Remember that busses tend to run a few minutes late the first few weeks of school as we get into our dismissal routines.
- Students will have a colored tag on their backpack with their bus number. Please do not remove this tag.
- PreK students will have a red luggage tag on their backpack in addition to the colored bus tag. Please make sure this tag stays on your child's backpack.
- PreK and K students need to have a parent/guardian present at the bus stop in the PM.



Walker Procedures *NEW*

New this year

- Students who walk to and from school will follow different procedures.

Walking to school (AM):

- Students can be dropped off at the normal location- Door 6, "The North Entrance".

Walking home from school (PM):

- Students who walk home from school will be dismissed with the third wave (our last wave of students).
- Parents/guardians will pick up their students at door 12- "The Tunnel".

REMINDERS

- Bring your ID.
- Students will only be dismissed to those who have permission to pick up (not emergency contacts).
- Once students are picked up by their adult, they are in their care/supervision.
- Parents and guardians should not park to pick up a "walker". You will be asked to join the car line.



Piney Ridge Elementary School

Piney Ridge Elementary Car Rider Drop-Off and Pick-Up Procedures



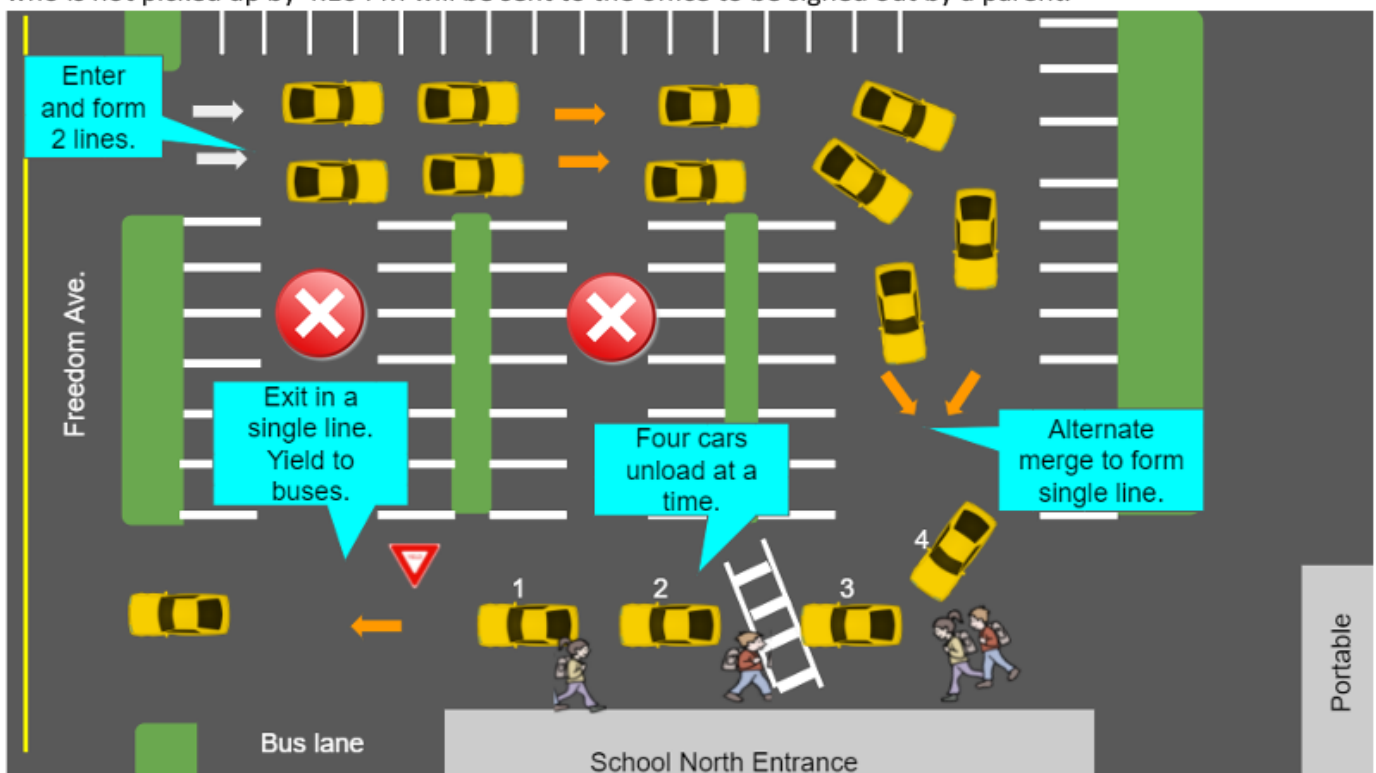
AM Drop-Off

- Arrive no earlier than 8:45 AM.
- Vehicles enter through the northernmost entrance to the parking lot and form two parallel lines.
 - Do not "skip the line" by dropping students off in other areas of the parking lot.
- Prior to reaching the drop-off area, the lines will merge into a single line of vehicles.
- 4 Cars will pull up to the drop-off area. 2 cars will stop past the crosswalk, 2 will remain behind the crosswalk.
- Students exit vehicles and enter the north door of the building.
 - Parents remain inside the vehicle if possible.
 - Children should have backpack and other belongings ready so that they can exit the vehicle promptly.
 - If a child exits the passenger side door, he/she is to cross in front of their own vehicle.
 - Refrain from long "good-bye" routines while in the drop-off area. Except for our youngest children, most students should be able to get out of the vehicle independently.
- After dropping off, vehicles exit in a single file line toward Freedom Ave. Yield to buses in the bus lane.
- Students who arrive after 9:10 AM are to be signed in at the main office. Students who are not in their classrooms by 9:15 AM are marked tardy.

PM Pick-Up

The traffic pattern is the same as AM Drop-Off.

- Dismissal begins at 3:45 PM.
- Parents/family members must have ID ready and prepared to show to staff. After verifying ID, the staff member will call into the building to for your child to come to the door.
- If a child needs to enter a passenger side door, he/she is to cross in front of their own vehicle.
- Please ensure students' seat belts are buckled prior to driving away. Yield to buses in the bus lane. Any child who is not picked up by 4:10 PM will be sent to the office to be signed out by a parent.



Piney Ridge Elementary School



Important Information for PRE Families

- Car rider and walker procedures- please see previous pages
- Same day dismissal changes must be emailed to preattendance@carrollk12.org no later than 2:00 PM.



[CCPS Important Dates Linked HERE](#)

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.

Piney Ridge Elementary School



Important PRE Dates

August 15-Class lists available on Home Access

August- 27- Back to School Night (see flyer)

August 28- Open House (see flyer)

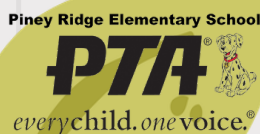
August 31- First Day of School

September 1-3 Hearing & Vision Screening

September 7- Labor Day (Schools Closed)

Need more information?

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



Fall PTA Event List Coming Soon

Upcoming PTA Meetings:

9/10

10/7

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.

August 2026



Piney Ridge Elementary Lunch

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

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

September 2026

Piney Ridge Elementary Lunch

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	1	2	3	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

Entree Choices

- Spaghetti with Meatsauce with Garlic Knot
- Mozzarella Cheese Sticks with Marinara Dipping Sauce
- Chef Salad
- Grab and Go Combo

Featured Sides

- Green Beans
- Fruit and Vegetable Bar

Entree Choices

- Pizza Crunchers
- 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

7	8	9	10	11
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Labor Day

Entree Choices

- Walking Taco
- Deep Dish Cheese Pizza
- Chicken Caesar Salad
- Grab and Go Combo

Featured Sides

- Corn
- Fruit and Vegetable Bar

Entree Choices

- Chicken Nuggets with Dinner Roll
- Pretzel Bites & Cheese
- Chicken Caesar Salad
- Savory French Fries
- Grab and Go Combo

Featured Sides

- Steamed Broccoli
- Fruit and Vegetable Bar

Entree Choices

- Macaroni and Cheese with Soft Pretzel Rod
- Hot Dog
- Corn Dog
- Chicken Caesar Salad
- Grab and Go Combo

Featured Sides

- Green Beans
- Fruit and Vegetable Bar

Entree Choices

- Cheese Pizza
- Pepperoni Pizza
- Chicken Patty on a Roll
- Chicken Caesar Salad
- Grab and Go Combo

Featured Sides

- Steamed Carrot Coins
- Fruit and Vegetable Bar

14	15	16	17	18
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Entree Choices

- Deep Dish Cheese Pizza
- Orange Chicken over Rice
- Crispy Chicken Salad
- Grab and Go Combo

Featured Sides

- Steamed Broccoli
- Fruit and Vegetable Bar

Entree Choices

- Nachos Grande
- Popcorn Chicken with Dinner Roll
- Crispy Chicken Salad
- Grab and Go Combo

Featured Sides

- Corn
- Fruit and Vegetable Bar

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
- Pork BBQ Sandwich
- Crispy Chicken Salad
- Grab and Go Combo

Featured Sides

- Baked Beans
- 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

21	22	23	24	25
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Entree Choices

- Homestyle Chicken Tenders 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
- Garlic Cheese Pizza
- Southwest Chicken Salad
- Grab and Go Combo

Featured Sides

- Steamed Broccoli
- Fruit and Vegetable Bar

Entree Choices

- Chicken Nuggets with Dinner Roll
- Cheese Tortellini with Marinara Sauce with Garlic Cheesy Twiz-Stik
- Southwest Chicken Salad
- Grab and Go Combo

Featured Sides

- Green Beans
- Fruit and Vegetable Bar

Entree Choices

- Cheese Pizza
- Pepperoni Pizza
- Corn Dog
- Southwest Chicken Salad
- Grab and Go Combo

Featured Sides

- Mixed Vegetables
- Fruit and Vegetable Bar

Piney Ridge Elementary School



Piney Ridge Elementary School

Thursday, August 27- Back to School Night

(Parents/Guardians)

PreK Families will receive separate information from Ms. Garofolo

4:00-4:30 Instrumental Music with Mr. Dundore (Grades 4 & 5 only)

4:30-5:15 Whole School Information (In the Cafeteria)

5:25-6:10 Session 1 (Classroom Information)

6:15- 7:10 Session 2 (Classroom Information)

Parents only need to attend 1 classroom session per child

Friday, August 28 - Open House

(Students- come see your classroom!)

2:00-2:30 PreK and Kindergarten Open House

3:00-3:30 Grades 1-5 Open House

3:30-4:00 Popsicles with Principals

Piney Ridge Elementary School



CARROLL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS LEGAL NOTICES IN PUBLICATIONS

Carroll County Public Schools (CCPS) is required to include one or more legal notices in publications and handbooks. A Notice of Non-discrimination is required in publications for distribution. In addition, the ADA Accessibility Statement is required in all publications pertaining to events to which the general public, including parents/guardians, is invited.

The following statement should be included in all publications:

NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

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The following statement about program accessibility should be used in advertisements, brochures and flyers publicizing events to which the general public, including parents/guardians, is invited:

ADA ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT

Carroll County Public Schools (CCPS) does not discriminate on the basis of disability in employment or the provision of services, programs or activities. Persons needing auxiliary aids and services for communication should contact the Communications Office at 410-751-3020 or publicinfo@carrollk12.org, or write to Carroll County Public Schools, 125 North Court Street, Westminster, Maryland 21157. Persons who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, may use Relay or 7-1-1. Please contact the school system at least one (1) week in advance of the date the special accommodation is needed.

Information concerning the Americans with Disabilities Act is available from the Director of Facilities Management, (410) 751-3177, or the Communications Officer, (410) 751-3020, 125 North Court Street, Westminster, Maryland 21157.