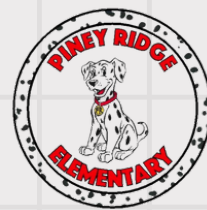


Piney Ridge Elementary School



Hello Piney Families!



It's hard to believe we're already heading into October! Our students have made wonderful progress since the start of the year. Routines are in place, students are settling into learning, and our classrooms are buzzing with activity. Thank you for helping us start the year so successfully. We appreciate your continued partnership! SRIP Informational Night is October 13 for parents and guardians who would like to learn more about this specific way we are supporting our students. Our first parent-teacher conference night is October 29, providing a more personal opportunity to celebrate progress, discuss goals, and connect with your child's teacher. As fall weather arrives, please be sure your child is prepared for outdoor recess and activities. Labeling jackets and sweatshirts is also a big help in getting lost items back to their owners.

We're looking forward to a great October together!

Sincerely,
Brie Bower and Morgan Pratt

Brie Bower, Principal

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



**October
2026**

6315 Freedom
Ave Sykesville,
MD 21784

Voice
(410)751-3535

Fax
(410)751-3539

School Hours:
9:15 – 3:45

preattendance@
carrollk12.org



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

 PINEY RIDGE
STANDS UP
against
BULLYING
OCTOBER 19TH–23RD
SPIRIT WEEK



MONDAY

Put bullying to rest—
Wear pajamas.



TUESDAY

Stomp out Bullying—
Wear crazy socks
with your favorite shoes.



WEDNESDAY

Unity Day—
Wear orange.



THURSDAY

Piney Sticks Together—
Wear Piney attire
or red and black.



FRIDAY

Team up against Bullying—
Wear your favorite
sports team jersey.



Piney Ridge Elementary School



Important Information for PRE Families

- Same day dismissal changes must be emailed to preattendance@carrollk12.org no later than 2:00 PM.
- Free and Reduced Meal Information linked below

Meal Benefits



[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

October 13- SRIP Regional Night @ Century High School
October 15- Early Dismissal for students (1 PM dismissal)
October 16- No school for students (Professional Development for teachers)
October 20- Bus driver and Bus Assistant Appreciation Day
October 29- Parent- teacher conferences
November 3- Election Day- Schools Closed
November 4- Early dismissal for students (1 PM dismissal) End of Marking Period
November 5- Q2 begins
November 12- Fall Picture Retakes
November 16- 20 Book Fair
November 17- Literacy Night at Eldersburg Library
November 18- Parent-teacher conferences
November 20- Early dismissal for students (1 PM dismissal)
November 25- Early dismissal for students (1 PM dismissal)
November 26, 27- Schools Closed for Thanksgiving Break

Need more information?

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



Volunteers

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.

Any school volunteers must complete CCPS Volunteer Training at least 7 days prior to volunteering in the school.

When visiting for lunch:
-Visitors must sign in and out in the front office. Parents/guardians are not permitted to attend recess.

Upcoming PTA Meetings:

10/7

11/11

PTA Events:

10/2- Family Dance

10/13- Fun Run

10/14- Fun Run Rain Date



Piney Ridge Elementary School



Information from Mrs. Yetman

Restricted Activities and School

-Please remember to send a note in with your child if they are unable to participate in PE for the day. Please also note that if your child cannot participate in PE, they cannot participate in recess, or field day. They will attend class/recess. If it is longer than 3 days, a Doctor's note is requested. Notes will be circulated to the P. E teachers and recess monitors.

-Crutches/Wheelchairs/ Splints/Casts: Students must have a note from the doctor when using any of the above, a parent note is acceptable until they are seen by a doctor for use of and diagnosis. Students with braces/splints will not be allowed to participate in PE/Recess due to the risk of further injury or cleared by a physician.



Energy Drinks

Most energy drinks have lots of sugar and caffeine — sometimes as much caffeine as in 1 to 3 cups of coffee. Too much sugar can lead to dental cavities and weight gain.

Excessive caffeine can have damaging effects to the kidneys, heart and gastrointestinal tract. It may cause immediate effects of headaches and behavior “crashes”.

More information can be found at <https://KidsHealth.org>

Popular Energy Drinks and amount of caffeine include:

- Alani-200mg a can
- Celsius 200mg a can
- Red Bull 80mg-198mg a can, 27grams sugar
- Monster 160mg a can, 54 grams sugar
- Rockstar 160mg a can, 63 grams sugar

As you can see, Energy drinks are not appropriate for the Elementary level age. Soda and ice tea should only be given as a treat at home as well.

Water is always the best choice for hydration. Piney Ridge is asking that students refrain from bringing any energy drinks, caffeinated drinks and sugary drinks for health reasons but also due to spills.



Food & Allergies

Piney Ridge Elementary School has many children with severe, possibly life-threatening food Allergies. We also have children with chronic medical conditions that prohibit them from eating anything not provided by their parent.

Our policy has always been the following and follows CCPS Student Services Policy:

- *No sharing/trading of food items
- *Non-food rewards in classrooms
- *No food Birthday celebrations including not allowing to purchase ice-cream or treat at lunch for your child's entire class or sending in goodie bags of candy/food.
- *No candy/food items for holidays, including Halloween and Valentines

Piney Ridge Elementary School



 5 EASY WAYS TO PRACTICE MATH AT HOME- Part 1

MATH

Math is everywhere!

You don't need worksheets or flashcards to help your child become a stronger mathematician. Everyday activities provide opportunities to count, compare, estimate, measure, problem-solve, and explain thinking.



1. Go Grocery Shopping

Have your child compare prices, count items, estimate the total cost, or determine how much change you should receive.

Try: "Which costs more? How much more?"



2. Cook Together

Let your child measure ingredients and explore fractions while following a recipe.

Try: "If we double the recipe, how much flour will we need?"



3. Practice With Money

Give your child a small budget when shopping or let them count coins and bills.

Try: "You have \$10. What could you buy? How much would you have left?"



4. Talk About Time

Ask your child to read clocks and calculate how much time has passed or remains.

Try: "The movie starts at 6:30 and lasts 90 minutes. What time will it end?"



5. Use Math in the Car

Look for numbers, estimate distances, or calculate how much farther you need to travel.

Try: "We've traveled 15 miles and have 8 miles to go. How far will we travel altogether?"

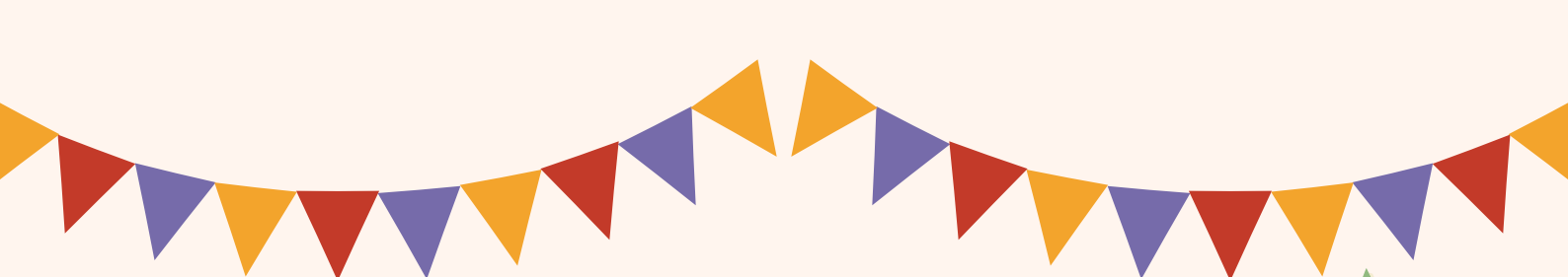


★ Remember:

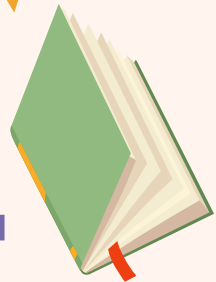
Math doesn't have to feel like homework!

A few minutes of meaningful math conversations during everyday activities can help your child develop confidence, problem-solving skills, and a deeper understanding of mathematics.

Look for math. Talk about math. Do math together!



CCPS REGIONAL SRIP NIGHT



Join us to gain a deeper understanding of the MSDE
PreK - 3 Literacy Policy, including a review of Student
Reading Improvement Plans and supports provided by
CCPS.



OCTOBER 13TH
5:30-6:30 PM
CENTURY HIGH SCHOOL





Let's Learn with Lalilo!

A Parent Guide for Home Use

Reading Confidence Grows Here!



Log in to Clever first to access Lalilo at home.

Because our school uses Clever Single Sign-On (SSO), your child does not need a separate class code or standard login page.



Step-by-Step Home Login Instructions

1



Go to Clever.com.

Open a web browser, go to Clever.com, and click "Log in as a student."

2



Sign in to Clever.

Have your child log in using their standard school credentials (such as their Clever Badge QR code or their school email/password).

3

Find the Renaissance app tile.



After your child logs in to Clever, have them find and click the Renaissance app tile on their dashboard.

4

Launch Lalilo from Renaissance.

Renaissance



Lalilo



Accelerated Reader

Click the Lalilo icon within the Renaissance app. This will instantly log your child into their personal Lalilo dashboard.

About Lalilo



Lalilo
(Learning to Read)

Lalilo is an interactive, game-based reading program designed for early learners (typically Grades K-2). It provides personalized practice in phonics, letter-sound knowledge, blending, and foundational reading skills. Lalilo adapts to each student's needs to help build confidence and independence as a reader.



Every child can become a confident reader!

Tips for Success at Home



Let them work independently.

Lalilo adapts to your child's level. If they get stuck, it's okay! The program will provide support and adjust the activities.



Keep sessions short.

Schools typically recommend 15 to 20 minutes per day for the most effective practice.



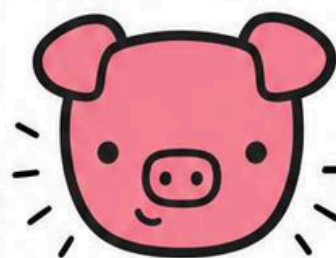
Use the audio tools.

Encourage your child to click the speaker icon to hear directions, sounds, and words.



Practice Today for a Brighter Tomorrow!





Let's Grow with Freckle!

A Parent Guide for Home Use

Read
Think
Learn
Do More!



Log in to Clever first to access Freckle at home.

Because our school uses Clever Single Sign-On (SSO), your child does not need a separate class code or standard login page.



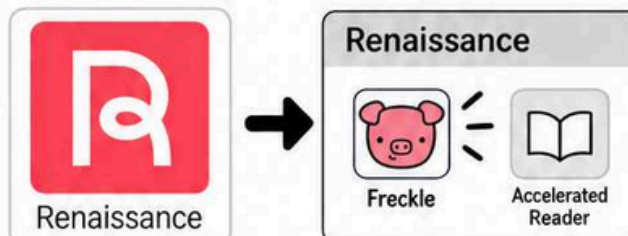
Step-by-Step Home Login Instructions

1 Go to Clever.com.



Open a web browser, go to Clever.com, and click "Log in as a student."

2 Find the Renaissance app and launch Freckle.



After your child logs in to Clever, have them find the Renaissance app icon. Click the icon and then launch Freckle within the app. This will instantly log your child into their personal Freckle dashboard.

About Freckle



Freckle ELA (Reading to Learn)



Leveled Reading Library

Offers hundreds of fiction and nonfiction passages across grades K–12 at each student's reading level.



Targeted Skills Practice

Provides short passages and questions for grades 1–8 focusing on reading comprehension, language conventions, and literature.



Word Study

Helps students build phonics and spelling skills through customized word sorting and patterns.



Teacher Controls

Allows educators to assign specific standards or let students navigate independent, adaptive pathways.



Student Incentives

Rewards correct answers with virtual coins and badges so students can customize digital avatars.

Tips for Success at Home



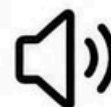
Let them work independently.

Freckle is fully adaptive. If you answer questions for your child, the software will become too difficult for them. It is perfectly okay if they get stuck or get answers wrong—that is how the AI learns their exact reading level.



Keep sessions short.

Schools typically recommend a maximum of 15 to 30 minutes per day for ELA screen time to avoid burnout and eye strain.



Utilize audio tools.

Remind your child to look for the speaker icon on the screen to hear directions or passages read aloud.



Small Steps Make Big Progress!





MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
		Condiments: • Syrup • Cream Cheese • Grape Jelly • Margarine	1 Hot Breakfast Entree Variety of Breakfast Breads Variety of Cereal 100% Fruit Juice Variety of Fruit	2 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	8 Hot Breakfast Entree Variety of Breakfast Breads Variety of Cereal 100% Fruit Juice Variety of Fruit	9 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	15 Hot Breakfast Entree Variety of Breakfast Breads Variety of Cereal 100% Fruit Juice Variety of Fruit	16  Schools Closed
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	22 Hot Breakfast Entree Variety of Breakfast Breads Variety of Cereal 100% Fruit Juice Variety of Fruit	23 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	29 Hot Breakfast Entree Variety of Breakfast Breads Variety of Cereal 100% Fruit Juice Variety of Fruit	30 Hot Breakfast Entree Variety of Breakfast Breads Variety of Cereal 100% Fruit Juice Variety of Fruit

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.

Milk Choices: Nonfat Milk , Low Fat Milk , Nonfat Chocolate Milk , Nonfat Strawberry Milk , Whole Milk , 2% Milk

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LUNCH

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

5 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	6 Entree Choices • Nachos Grande • Mini Pizza Bagels • Chef Salad Grab and Go Combo Featured Sides • Corn Fruit and Vegetable Bar	7 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	1 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 • Crinkle Cut French Fries Fruit and Vegetable Bar	2 Entree Choices • Cheese Pizza • Pepperoni Pizza • Roasted Vegetable Pizza • Pork BBQ Sandwich • Crispy Chicken Salad • Steamed Broccoli Grab and Go Combo Featured Sides • Steamed Broccoli Fruit and Vegetable Bar
12 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	13 Entree Choices • Stuffed Crust Cheese Pizza • Stuffed Crust Pepperoni Pizza • Corn Dog • Chicken Caesar Salad Grab and Go Combo Featured Sides • Curly Fries • Dutch Waffle Fruit and Vegetable Bar	14 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	15 Entree Choices • French Toast Sticks with Sausage Patty • Pizza Crunchers • Chicken Caesar Salad Grab and Go Combo Featured Sides • Tater Tots • Vanilla Grahams Fruit and Vegetable Bar	16  Schools Closed
19 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	20 Entree Choices • Nachos Grande • Popcorn Chicken with Dinner Roll • Crispy Chicken Salad Grab and Go Combo Featured Sides • Corn Fruit and Vegetable Bar	21 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	22 Entree Choices • Pizza Crunchers • Pork BBQ Sandwich • Crispy Chicken Salad Grab and Go Combo Featured Sides • Baked Beans Fruit and Vegetable Bar	23 Entree Choices • Cheese Pizza • Pepperoni Pizza • Cheesesteak Sub • Crispy Chicken Salad Grab and Go Combo Featured Sides • Green Beans Fruit and Vegetable Bar
26 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	27 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	28 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	29 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	30 Entree Choices • Batty Chicken Nuggets with Dinner Roll • Cheese Pizza • Pepperoni Pizza • Southwest Chicken Salad Grab and Go Combo Featured Sides • Mixed Vegetables • Chocolate Sundae Ice Cream Cup

Fruit and Vegetable Bar: Applesauce, Blueberries, Cinnamon Applesauce, Fresh Apples, Diced Pears, Fresh Pears, Chilled Peaches, Bananas, Fresh Grapes, Fresh Carrots, Cucumber Coins, Tossed Salad, Coleslaw, Spicy 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, Nonfat Strawberry Milk, Whole Milk, 2% Milk

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

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.

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The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Director of Human Resources, 125 North Court Street, Westminster, Maryland 21157, (410) 751-3070.

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.