Piney Ridge Elementary School



Hello Piney Families!

We hope you and your family are finding time to enjoy this beautiful fall season! As we wrap up the first marking period, we wanted to share a few updates with you.
Report cards will be sent home on November 11th. As we begin a new marking period, I wanted to share an important update about how we recognize student achievement.
While regular school attendance is important, we will no longer recognize perfect attendance. We know that students sometimes need to miss school due to illness, medical appointments, or family circumstances, and we want families to feel comfortable making the best decisions for their child's health and well-being. Instead, we will continue to encourage positive attendance habits while celebrating the many ways students grow and succeed throughout the year.
We are also excited to continue recognizing academic excellence through Principal's Honor Roll for students in grades 3-5. Students earn this distinction by receiving straight A's and O's on their report card. At the end of the year, students who earn Principal's Honor Roll during Quarters 1, 2, and 3 will be invited to a special celebration in recognition of their hard work, dedication, and achievement.
Thank you for your continued partnership and support. We wish you and your family a safe, happy, and relaxing Thanksgiving.

Sincerely,
Brie Bower and Morgan Pratt

November 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!

Brie Bower, Principal

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



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 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. PTA Paint Night
November 11- Veterans Day celebrations, PTA Mtg.
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

Piney Ridge Elementary School PTA
everychild. onevoice.

Upcoming PTA Meetings:
11/11
12/9

PTA Events:
11/5- Family Paint Night
11/13- World Kindness Day
11/23-24- Thanksgiving Pie Collection
11/24- Chick-Fil-A Fundraiser Night

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.

Piney Ridge Elementary School

NURSE

Information from Mrs. Yetman



Outdoor Recess
Students will be outdoors for recess as long as it is not:
- below 32 degrees
- pouring rain
-thunderstorms
P. E. will also be outside when possible. Please dress your children appropriately for colder weather.
Students who are excused from P.E. do not participate in recess but they do sit outside during their recess time and play with chalk, read, games, and legos.
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 your child to help with allergies.

Piney Ridge Elementary School

SCHOLASTIC

BOOK FAIR!

COMING SOON!

Fair Dates and Times:

November 16 - November 20, 2026

Family night: November 18, 2026

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 "Share the Fair" by bringing money to the box in the Media Center, donating online, or donating change from book purchases.

Credit cards visit the website/ QR code below to load funds to an e-wallet account that kids can use at the fair.

*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

We NEED you!

Sign up to volunteer for this beloved tradition:

https://tinyurl.com/3khkfbm3

Checks made to: PRE

Cash accepted

As of 7/1/26

Book Fair is tax exempt!

Want to volunteer without using the website?
Contact Renee Cross at RNCROSS@carrollk12.org or 410-751-3535

Happy reading, Renee Cross & Kim Sands

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

Piney Ridge Elementary School

Book Fair Buying Schedule

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:15-9:45					Winebrunner
9:45-10:15	Schneeman	Mills	Belfont		
10:15-10:45	Baldwin 1st*		Cubillo	Coquia	
10:45-11:15	Keiffer		Walters		
11:15-11:45		Day		Special Program	
11:45-12:15	Bailey	Reda	Marion		
12:15-12:45					Foley
12:45-1:15		Yokay	Griffiths		
1:15-1:45	Pre-K	Reed	Albina		
1:45–2:15	Restock Order	Laughman		Oates	
2:15–2:45		Baldwin (Kinder)		Liberto	
2:45–3:15			Mason		
3:15–3:40			Knox 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.

Credit cards visit the website/ QR code below to load funds to an e-wallet account that kids can use at the fair.

*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

We NEED you!

Sign up to volunteer for this beloved tradition:

https://tinyurl.com/3khkfbm3

PRE American Education Week

November 16- 20



Parents/guardians are invited to visit classrooms during American Education Week. Recommended times to visit are listed below. Please note that Friday, 11/20 is an early dismissal day. The schedule is different on this day.

- No younger siblings
- No photos or recording permitted
- Please bring identification
- Grandparents need written permission from guardians to attend

Pre K

9:30-11:00
12:15- 1:00

Special Areas 2:15 - 2:45

Kindergarten

9:30-10:15
11:45- 1:45

Special Areas 1:45 - 2:45

First Grade

9:15- 11:15
12:15- 1:15

Special Areas 2:45 - 3:45

Second Grade

9:15- 11:15
1:45- 3:15

Special Areas: 12:45- 1:45

Third Grade

9:15- 11:15
2:15 - 3:15

Special Areas: 11:15- 12:15

Fourth Grade

11:15 - 12:15
1:45- 3:15

Speical Areas: 10:15- 11:15

Fifth Grade

10:15- 11:45
1:15- 3:15

Special Areas 9:15-10:15

Piney Ridge Elementary School

Birth to Kindergarten Program

Supporting Young Children and Families from Birth to Kindergarten

Do you have questions or concerns about your child's development or learning?

The Birth to Kindergarten Program connects Carroll County families with early intervention, evaluations, preschool special education services, and other supports for children from birth through age five.

👶 Birth to Age 3
The Carroll County Infants and Toddlers Program (CCITP) provides early intervention services for eligible children under age 3. Services and evaluations are provided at no cost to families when determining eligibility.

Referral:
📞 410-876-4437
🌐 Online Infant & Toddler Referral

🧒 Ages 3–5
Child Find helps identify children who may be eligible for preschool special education and related services.
If you have concerns about your child's development or learning, you do not need to wait for someone else to recommend a referral.

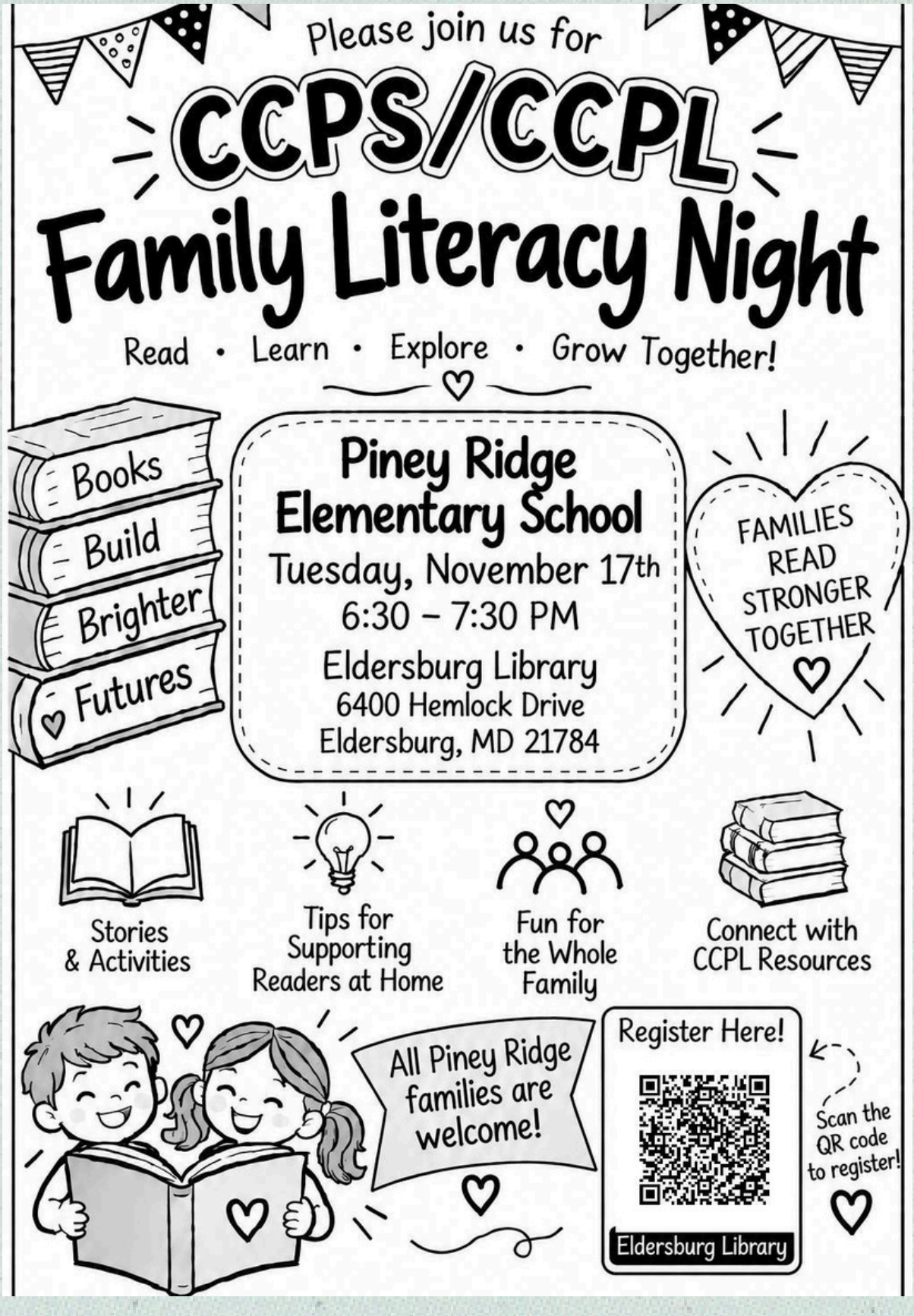
Referral options:
🌐 Online Child Find Referral
📞 410-876-4437
📧 BirthtoKindergarten@carrollk12.org
🌐 Learn More
Visit the Birth to Kindergarten Program webpage for information about services, supports, referrals, and resources:

Carroll County Public Schools — Birth to Kindergarten Program

Questions?
Birth to Kindergarten Program
📞 410-876-4437
📧 BirthtoKindergarten@carrollk12.org

Piney Ridge Elementary School

KEEP READING



Piney Ridge Elementary School

🔢 5 EASY WAYS TO PRACTICE MATH AT HOME- Part 2

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. Play Math Games
Use dice, playing cards, board games, or dominoes to practice counting, addition, subtraction, multiplication, and strategy.
Try: "Who has more? How many more?"

🧱 2. Build & Create
Use blocks, LEGOs, or household objects to explore shapes, patterns, measurement, and spatial reasoning.
Try: "Can you build something with four sides? How many different shapes can you make?"

🌳 3. Measure the World
Measure objects around your home or outside using rulers, tape measures, or even nonstandard units.
Try: "How many inches long is the table? Let's estimate first!"

🧺 4. Sort & Organize
Have your child sort laundry, toys, pantry items, or collections by color, size, shape, or another attribute.
Try: "How many different ways could we sort these?"

💭 5. Ask "How Do You Know?"
The best math practice often comes from talking about thinking—not just getting the right answer.
Ask:

- How did you figure that out?
- Can you solve it another way?
- Can you estimate first?
- How do you know your answer makes sense?

⭐ 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!

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

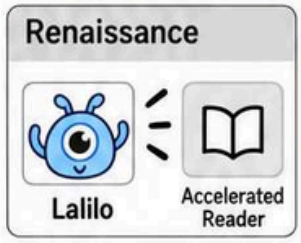
Find the Renaissance app tile.

Renaissance

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

4

Launch Lalilo from Renaissance.



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.

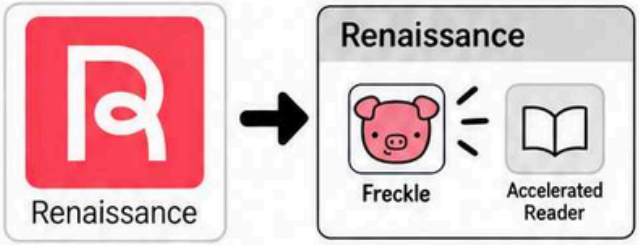
Step-by-Step Home Login Instructions

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!

November 2026

BREAKFAST

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
2 Hot Breakfast Entree Variety of Breakfast Breads Variety of Cereal 100% Fruit Juice Variety of Fruit	**3** Election Day	**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
9 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
16 Hot Breakfast Entree Variety of Breakfast Breads Variety of Cereal 100% Fruit Juice Variety of Fruit	**17** Hot Breakfast Entree Variety of Breakfast Breads Variety of Cereal 100% Fruit Juice Variety of Fruit	**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
23 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** Thanksgiving Holiday	**27** Thanksgiving Holiday
30 Hot Breakfast Entree Variety of Breakfast Breads Variety of Cereal 100% Fruit Juice Variety of Fruit	***Condiments:*** • *Syrup* • *Cream Cheese* • *Grape Jelly* • *Margarine*			

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% Millk

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CCPS FOOD SERVICES



November 2026

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
2 Entree Choices • Deep Dish Cheese Pizza • Popcorn Chicken with Buttermilk Biscuit • Crispy Chicken Salad Grab and Go Combo Featured Sides • Corn • Smart Crackers Fruit and Vegetable Bar	**3** Election Day	**4** Entree Choices • French Toast Sticks with Sausage Patty • Pizza Crunchers • Crispy Chicken Salad Grab and Go Combo Featured Sides • Tater Tots Fruit and Vegetable Bar	**5** Entree Choices • Grilled Cheese Sandwich • Hamburger on a Roll • Cheeseburger on a Roll • Crispy Chicken Salad Grab and Go Combo Featured Sides • Tomato Soup Fruit and Vegetable Bar	**6** Entree Choices • Cheese Pizza • Pepperoni Pizza • Pork BBQ Sandwich • Crispy Chicken Salad Grab and Go Combo Featured Sides • Steamed Broccoli Fruit and Vegetable Bar
9 Entree Choices • Chicken Nuggets with Soft Pretzel Rod • Three Cheese Calzone • Chef Salad Grab and Go Combo Featured Sides • Crinkle Cut French Fries • Baked Beans Fruit and Vegetable Bar	**10** Entree Choices • Nachos Grande • Mini Pizza Bagels • Chef Salad Grab and Go Combo Featured Sides • Corn Fruit and Vegetable Bar	**11** 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	**12** Entree Choices • Roasted Turkey with with Dinner Roll • Thanksgiving Chicken Nuggets with with Dinner Roll • Chef Salad Grab and Go Combo Featured Sides • Mashed Potatoes with with Gravy • Sweet Potatoes • Green Beans • Cornbread Stuffing • Sauerkraut • Chocolate Chip Cookie Fruit and Vegetable Bar	**13** Entree Choices • Cheese Pizza • Pepperoni Pizza • Popcorn Chicken with with Dinner Roll • Chef Salad Grab and Go Combo Featured Sides • Steamed Carrot Coins Fruit and Vegetable Bar
16 Entree Choices • Homestyle Chicken Tenders with with Dinner Roll • Cheeseburger on a Roll • Chicken Caesar Salad Grab and Go Combo Featured Sides • Baked Beans Fruit and Vegetable Bar	**17** Entree Choices • Walking Taco • Corn Dog • Chicken Caesar Salad Grab and Go Combo Featured Sides • Corn Fruit and Vegetable Bar	**18** Entree Choices • Chicken Nuggets with with Dinner Roll • Mozzarella Cheese Sticks with Marinara Dipping Sauce • Chicken Caesar Salad Grab and Go Combo Featured Sides • Savory French Fries • Steamed Broccoli Fruit and Vegetable Bar	**19** Entree Choices • Pizza Crunchers • Chicken Patty on a Roll • Chicken Caesar Salad Grab and Go Combo Featured Sides • Green Beans Fruit and Vegetable Bar	**20** Entree Choices • Cheese Pizza • Pepperoni Pizza • Pretzel Bites & Cheese • Chicken Caesar Salad Grab and Go Combo Featured Sides • Crinkle Cut French Fries Fruit and Vegetable Bar
23 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	**24** Entree Choices • Beef Quesadilla ★ • Popcorn Chicken with with Dinner Roll • Crispy Chicken Salad Grab and Go Combo Featured Sides • Corn Fruit and Vegetable Bar	**25** Entree Choices • French Toast Sticks with Sausage Patty • Garlic Cheese Pizza • Crispy Chicken Salad Grab and Go Combo Featured Sides • Crispy French Fries Fruit and Vegetable Bar	**26** Thanksgiving Holiday	**27** Thanksgiving Holiday
30 Entree Choices • Homestyle Chicken Tenders with Buttermilk Biscuit • Chicken & Cheese Quesadilla • Southwest Chicken Salad Grab and Go Combo				

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% Millk

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CCPS FOOD SERVICES

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.

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, 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.