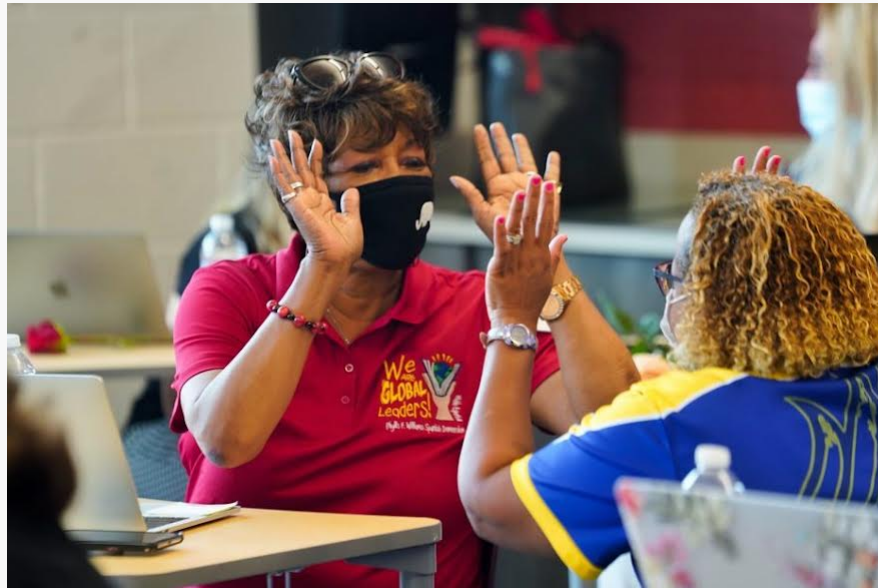


October 5, 2021

Top News

National Principals Month: Celebrating Our School Leaders



Through unprecedented challenges, our school leaders step up, show up and come through when it matters most! For National Principals Month, we share our gratitude for your critical role leading school communities and for being a guiding light during these times.

Save Time with New Canvas Resources!



Teachers using [Canvas](#) can access courses with sample modules that organize student and teacher resources, including engagement features like assignments, quizzes, and discussions. Within modules, most instructional materials for the content areas have already been integrated into Canvas for you! Additional modules will be released throughout the year. Visit the T3 Canvas site for additional information.

Feedback Wanted: Staff Portal



We are working to improve the PGCPSS Staff Portal to provide the news, features and resources that you need! Take this two-minute survey to share your thoughts by Friday, Oct. 15.

[Staff Portal Survey](#)

Thank You, Custodians!



For National Custodial Workers Recognition Day (Saturday, Oct. 2), we applauded all #TeamPGCPSS custodians for their hard work keeping schools

and offices clean, safe and well maintained!

Talented and Gifted Educators Earn State Honor



Five Talented and Gifted educators received Maryland Educators of Gifted Students (MEGS) MEGGY Awards for exemplary commitment and contribution to the field of gifted and talented education!

Lauren Kelleher — Kenmoor Middle School
Eveyln Policarpio — Benjamin Tasker Middle School
Jennifer Pierson — Heather Hills Elementary School
Joyce Parks — Walker Mill Middle School
Dr. Lynn Parsons — Accokeek Academy

Teachers Recognized by Maryland Chamber Foundation



High school teachers Eric Hines (Laurel), Sheena Hutchinson (Laurel), Dennis Poe (Croom) and Victoria Lee (Charles H. Flowers) completed the Maryland Chamber Foundation's Teacher Externship Program, which pairs educators with top companies that provide hands-on experience in industries related to the subjects they teach.

PGCPS Hall of Fame Gala Tickets on Sale



The Excellence in Education Foundation for PGCPS will host the **3rd Annual Hall of Fame Gala on Friday, Oct. 22, 6 p.m.** at the MGM National Harbor Hotel. TV/radio personality and Surrattsville High School alum Taylor Thomas will emcee the gala, which will also feature musical performances by Kindred the Family Soul. Event proceeds will go towards student scholarships and academic program enhancements.

Gala Tickets

Meet #TeamPGCPS "Hispanic Heroes!"



For Hispanic Heritage Month, we are proudly recognizing the diverse tapestry of Hispanic heritage and invaluable contributions of Hispanic Heroes (Héroes hispanos) in the PGCPS community! Thanks to the Office of Interpreting and Translation (OIT) for leading this effort. Head over to the [PGCPS en español](#) Facebook page to meet our heroes and sheroes.

Language Access & Parent-Teacher Conferences: Monday, Oct. 11

With parent-teacher conferences approaching, please make note of language access resources to support communication with parents who are not native speakers of English.

PGCPS Interpreter Bank: Video language support on virtual platforms

Professional interpreters are available by request from schools to support language access on virtual platforms on Parent-Teacher Conference Day. Interpreters will be assigned to schools based on availability for a variety of conference structures, including grade-level teams, teacher clusters and designated language-specific Zoom rooms.

Students, family members and other staff are not permitted to interpret for parent meetings, consistent with federal language access regulations.

Language Link: Third-party phone calls or audio bridge on virtual platforms

Connect with a Language Link interpreter by phone for parent teacher conferences. Follow these instructions for third-party phone calls to be connected with an interpreter.

Language Link interpreting services can also be bridged to support language access via audio on virtual platforms, such as Zoom, Google Meet, and WebEx for parent teacher conferences. Follow these instructions to connect audio interpreting services to a virtual platform via conference bridge.

Language Link phone number and school codes are not to be distributed to parents/guardians. The service is for PGCPS staff to facilitate outbound calls for telephonic interpreting. When a parent/guardian who is not a native speaker of English contacts the school and needs assistance, take their name and phone number and call them back via Language Link with an interpreter by phone.

For more information, contact the Office of Interpreting and Translation at interpreter@pgcps.org.

New! Administrative Assistant and Secretary Academy



The Offices of Professional Learning and Leadership and Employee Performance are excited to announce the 2021-2022 application process for the inaugural Administrative Assistant and Secretary Academy.

Questions? Contact [Nicole Wall](#) in the Office of Professional Learning and Leadership (301-749-5238, x45515) or Dr. [Michael Brooks](#) in the Office of Employee Performance (301-952-6240, x41633). The application deadline is Friday, Oct. 15.

[Learn More](#)

"Teacher Talk" Webinars



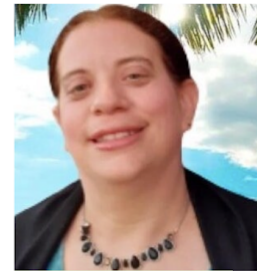
Keishia Thorpe
Moderator and
English Teacher
International High School
@ Langley Park



Amity Pope
Mentor Teacher
Office of Professional
Learning & Leadership



Keishia Thorpe
Health and Physical Education Teacher
International High School
@ Langley Park



Jodi Favazza
Special Education Resource Teacher
Phyllis E Williams
Spanish Immersion Elementary School

Hear from your peers on a variety of topics in education! [Register](#) to listen live to a future webinar.

Oct. 21: Community Schools and Parent Engagement

Nov. 17: Importance of Art and Technology in Education

Dec. 15: Dismantling the School to Prison Pipeline

Nominate a colleague who makes you #PGCPS Proud by sharing their name, office/school, photo and a brief description (100 words or less) to communications@pgcps.org.

Benefits Services: Our Focus is You

Virtual Benefits Fair Information Sessions

Attend a [virtual benefits information session](#) with healthcare providers during Open Enrollment. Two live sessions will be available on each date at noon and 5 p.m. Sessions will be recorded and available for viewing on demand.

Oct. 7: Davis/CareFirst Vision

Oct. 12: Kaiser Permanente Medical

Oct. 14: CareFirst Medical

Oct. 19: MetLife Supplemental Life and Long Term Disability

Oct. 21: Health Equity/WageWorks FSA

Oct. 26: CVS/Caremark

Oct. 28: INOVA EAP

Open Enrollment is October 11-27

We are keeping things simple for Open Enrollment 2022. If you do not make changes, your current benefits will remain the same in 2022. The only exception will be if you participate in the Flexible Spending Accounts (FSAs) which requires you to re-enroll each year.

SafeSchools Mandatory Training Modules

SafeSchools training modules are mandatory for all staff. The training modules are designed to ensure that every employee has the necessary information to establish and maintain a positive, respectful, safe, healthy and lawful culture in which staff share the responsibility for a safe and supportive school environment that contributes to excellence in education. **Round 2 sessions are due by Wednesday, Oct. 15.** [Start trainings now!](#)

Family Support Group for Youth

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) PG is a non-profit grassroots organization dedicated to improving the lives of those impacted by mental illnesses in Prince George's County. NAMI's support groups follow a structured model to give participants the opportunity to be heard and to get what they need. [Learn more.](#)

October Celebrations

PGCPS will celebrate the following commemorations in October:

- **Breast Cancer Awareness Month** – Wear pink (Oct. 19)
- **Bullying Prevention Awareness Month** – Wear orange (Oct. 20)
- **Domestic Violence Awareness Month** – Wear purple (Oct. 21)

Share how your school or office celebrates by sending photos to communications@pgcps.org.

ICYMI: In Case You Missed It

Return to Work Guidelines

You can find [Back to Work Guidelines](#) available in the Staff Portal. Questions should be directed to your supervisor and division chief.

Show Your #PGCSPride: Zoom Background



Download a virtual background in the [Staff Portal](#) for use during online instruction or meetings!

STAY CONNECTED

SOCIAL MEDIA [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#)

PGCPS LINKS [Main Website](#) | [Human Resources](#) | [Payroll](#) | [Hotline](#)

COMMENTS AND IDEAS: communications@pgcps.org