



Celebrating Hispanic Heritage: Nominate a #TeamPGCPS Hero!



For Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept. 15 - Oct. 15), we proudly recognize the diverse tapestry of Hispanic heritage and invaluable contributions of Hispanic Heroes (Héroes hispanos) in the PGCPS community! Do you know a teacher or staff member who deserves recognition? [Nominations](#) will be accepted through 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 22.

TOP NEWS

Plug In: Digital Learning in the Classroom



Students should bring charged devices to school daily to access digital textbooks and course materials online. A limited number of print copies of textbooks will be available for use at each school.

New COVID-19 Vaccination and Testing Policies for Students and Athletes



Beginning the week of September 27, schools will begin random pool testing of students regardless of symptoms and vaccination status. Expanding our testing capacity to cover asymptomatic students will further protect the PGCPS community at large. Parents and guardians are required to provide consent prior to testing. Additionally, proof of vaccination for all student-athletes over age 12 will be required for participation in all sports. Unvaccinated individuals will be required to undergo weekly testing starting the week of October 18.

Student-athlete vaccination and testing — In light of recent incidences of COVID-19 exposure and cases among various teams, proof of vaccination for all student-

athletes over age 12 will be required for participation in all sports.

The deadlines to provide proof of full vaccination are Friday, October 15 for fall sports; Friday, November 12 for winter sports; and Friday, January 14 for spring sports. If the individual participating in fall sports is not vaccinated, they will be required to undergo testing, starting the week of October 18th.

Transportation Updates



We are still experiencing a school bus driver shortage which is causing delays. Our transportation team is working overtime to recruit and hire qualified, full-time drivers. For new drivers, the training process does take time. There are new drivers in the pipeline now and we will get them on the road as soon as they complete training.

While we examine new avenues to improve operations, we encourage families to drive or carpool children to school when possible. Middle and high school students may ride [TheBus, operated by Prince George's County](#), for free with their student ID. Our team is also working with schools to better manage the pickup and dropoff process.

To manage the current shortage, bus routes and assignments may be adjusted, resulting in new bus assignments, increased ride times and more students sharing bus routes. Please check [Infofinder](#) to learn about potential changes to your child's bus route. For additional assistance, please use the Stopfinder app, the [Transportation Resolution System](#) or the transportation hotline at 301-952-6570 in operation daily from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Learn How We Are Keeping Schools Safe



The health and safety of students and staff is our top priority. Our prevention strategies include universal masking in school buildings and widespread vaccination. [Learn more](#) about our safety strategy including masks and PPE, cleaning and disinfection protocols, air quality, quarantines and more.

[View FAQs](#)

Technology Device Reminders



Please be reminded of proper handling of PGCPS-issued technology devices. Chromebooks should be used and stored on a flat surface. Please avoid eating or drinking near your computer to prevent any damage. Do not use

unapproved accessories or place foreign objects into the ports. Avoid placing anything on the keyboard before closing the lid or placing heavy objects on top of the device. We are excited that technology will continue to play a large role in the educational process. For questions or concerns about your device, please contact your school for support.

Student Meals



Student meals are free for all this school year, including [virtual learners!](#) Families are still encouraged to complete the [meal benefit application](#), which determines eligibility for the Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer Program (P-EBT) and more. View [menus](#).

Immunization Clinics



Don't forget about routine immunizations for back to school! The Prince George's County Health Department is hosting clinics to bring students up to date on vaccinations. Students with an appointment for routine immunizations may also receive a COVID-19 vaccination on site.

[View Upcoming Clinics](#)

Schedule a COVID-19 Vaccine



Students ages 12 and over are encouraged to receive a free COVID-19 vaccine ahead of the return to school. Parental consent is required for vaccination. Parents/guardians are welcome to accompany their child to clinics, but are not required to do so. Students must bring completed consent forms to be vaccinated.

[View Upcoming Clinics](#)

Watch — Back-to-School Recap



**More of
this
week's
stories**



- Listen: CEO Dr. Monica Goldson on Supporting Undocumented Students
- PG13 Episode 2: "Gametime"

- **Board of Education Meeting: Thursday, Sept. 23**
- **Seeking Nominees for Blueprint for Maryland's Future Oversight Panel**

[View More Stories](#)

QUICK LINKS

- [2021-2022 School Calendar](#)
- [Student Meals](#)
- [SchoolMAX Family Portal](#)
- [Fall Learning Information](#)
- [Bus InfoFinder](#)
- [Registration/Enrollment](#)
- [PGCPS-TV](#)
- [Vendor Managed Child Care](#)

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