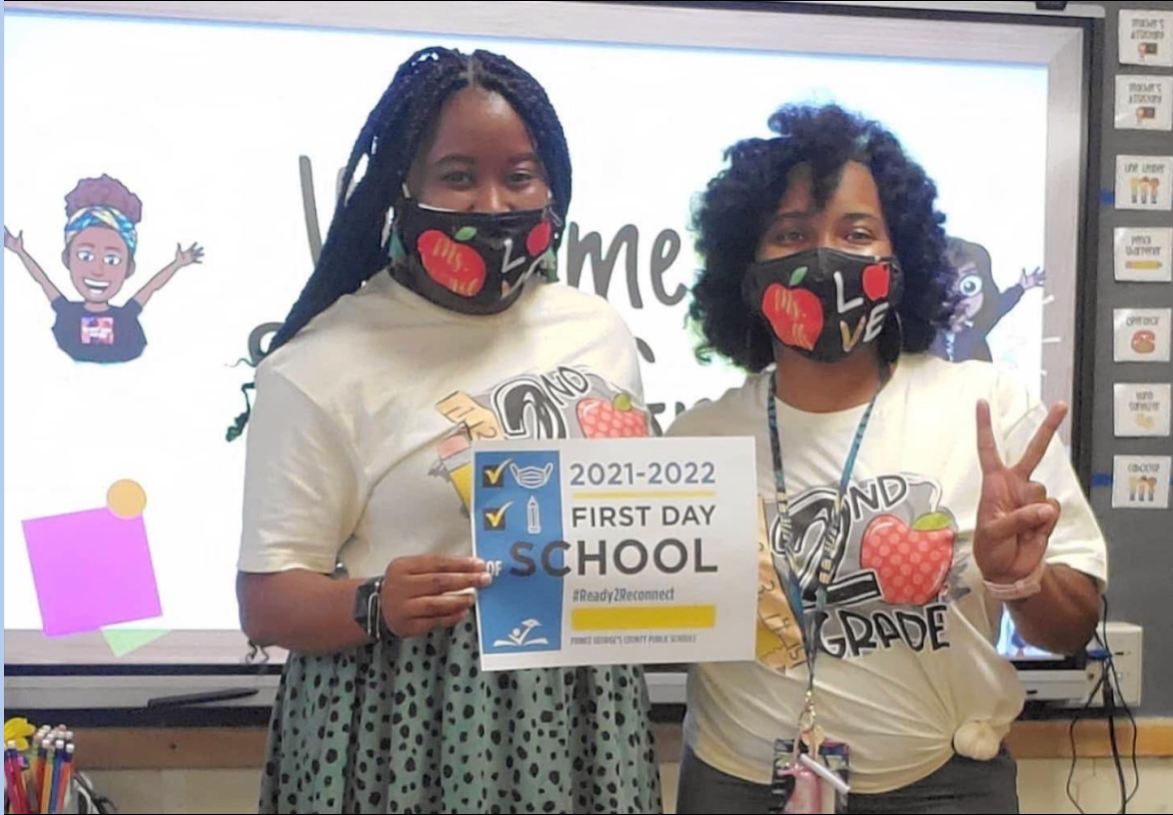
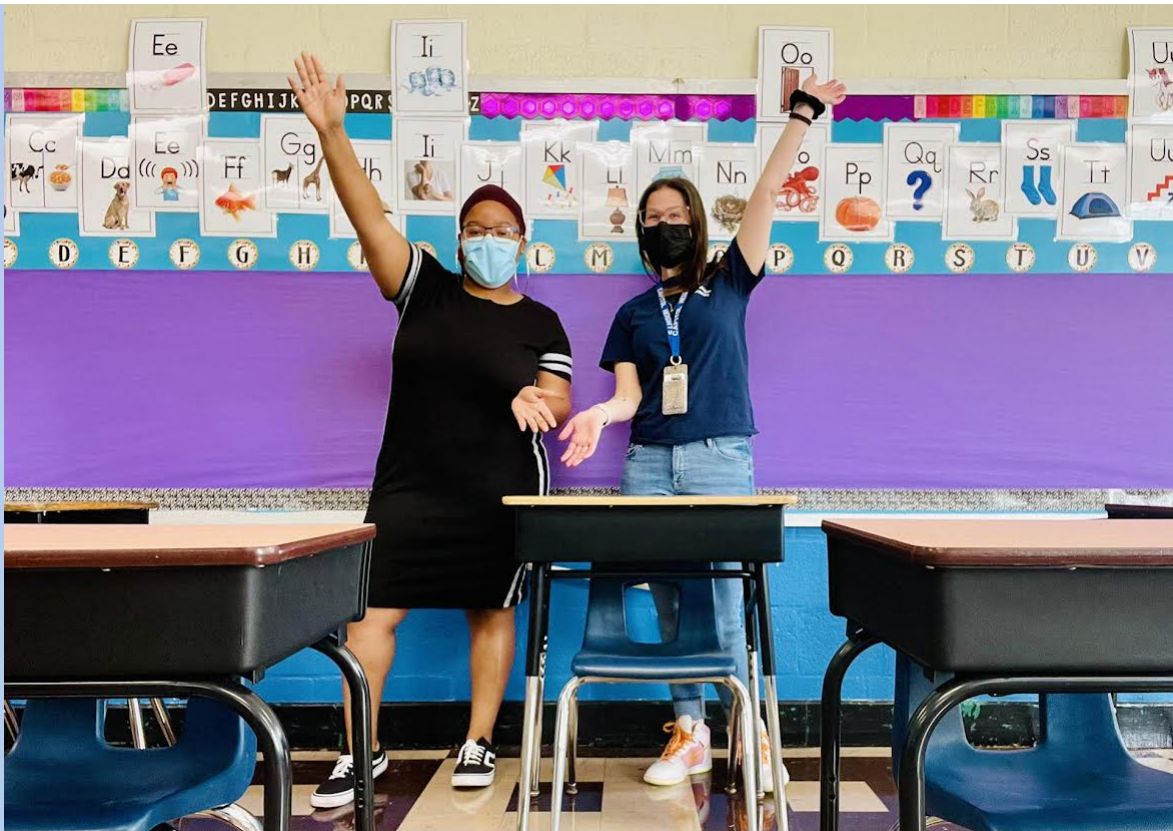


September 15, 2021



GET THE SCOOP

Second Week of School: Let's Go!



Last week, together we welcomed more than 130,000 students back to school! Whether our students are learning in-person or virtual, let make this year our best year yet!

Update: COVID-19 Testing for Staff without Proof of Vaccination

Weekly COVID-19 testing for unvaccinated employees will begin Monday, Sept. 20. PGCPS is working with the Prince George's County Health Department, Capital Diagnostics and CIAN Diagnostics.

Employees should allow adequate time for testing and travel before reporting to work. **If an employee misses the PGCPS-provided testing on Monday, they must be tested for COVID-19 at a certified site, such as an urgent care facility or pharmacy, prior to reporting for work.**

Weekly testing is required for any employee without proof of vaccination. If an employee becomes fully vaccinated at a later date, they should provide proof of vaccination to their supervisor or principal.

Please note that we are awaiting additional guidance regarding the White House announcement on mandatory vaccinations for some public school employees.

For additional information on the employee vaccination and testing policy, please visit the [Staff Portal](#).

Testing schedule

School-Based Staff

Testing will be conducted from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. at all schools. A pre-registration link will be sent by email from the testing vendor.

Bus Drivers and Attendants

Testing will be conducted at all bus lots every Monday from 5:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

Central Office Staff

Testing will be conducted from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. at four hub sites:

- Bonnie F. Johns Educational Media Center (Room 107), Landover;
- Green Valley Administrative Offices (auditorium), Temple Hills;
- Howard B. Owens Science Center (enter through back door), Greenbelt; and
- Sasscer Administration Building (Room 129), Upper Marlboro.

Central office staff may receive a test at any of the hub sites. A pre-registration link will be sent by email from the testing vendor. Proof of testing will be provided.

Tech Tips from Our Technology Training Team (T3)!



Plug into on-demand resources and ideas to support instructional and district initiatives with resources from the PGCPs technology training team!

[View](#) a pre-recorded webinar to learn at your own pace.

[Get tips](#) on communicating with parents and families in SchoolMessenger.

[Make the most](#) of your first 10 days in a 1:1 classroom with these resources.

[View and register](#) for more training opportunities or visit the [T3 website](#) to access tutorials and templates on a variety of topics.

Hispanic Heritage Month: Nominate a #TeamPGCPS Hero!



For Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept. 15 - Oct. 15), we proudly recognize the diverse tapestry of Hispanic heritage in the PGCPSS community and the invaluable contributions of Hispanic Heroes (Héroes hispanos) across the school district! Nominate a colleague who deserves recognition! [Nominations](#) will be accepted through 5 p.m on Wednesday, Sept. 22.

Let's Knock Attendance Out of the Park

In an effort to improve chronic absenteeism rates across schools we are launching a systemwide competition, **Let's Knock Attendance Out of the Park**. Schools with the most improved and/or lowest chronic absenteeism rate will be recognized at the end of each quarter with a congratulatory banner to display!



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**MOST IMPROVED CHRONIC
ABSENTEEISM RATE**

**LOWEST CHRONIC
ABSENTEEISM RATE**

2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

#PGCPSPROUD: IN THE SPOTLIGHT

International High School at Langley Park teacher Keishia Thorpe is a finalist for the [Global Teacher Prize 2021!](#) A champion



for change whose caring goes way beyond the classroom, Thorpe is the founder of the Hope Beyond Distance Foundation and Food4Change, which offers support services to immigrant students and their families.

[Read more.](#)

Nominate a colleague who makes you #PGCPS Proud by sending their name, office/school, photo and a brief description (100 words or less) to communications@pgcps.org. Submissions may be edited for length, clarity or grammar.

Benefits Services: Our Focus is You

Mark Your Calendars: Open Enrollment 2022

Open Enrollment is October 11-27. Look for more information in the coming weeks!

Start Saving with Flexible Spending Accounts (FSAs)

Did you know **Flexible Spending Accounts (FSAs)** offer significant tax savings? As a pre-tax benefit, the money contributed to these accounts is deducted from paychecks before taxes are calculated. In some cases, tax savings can be significant. Use the FSA calculator to find out how much!

PGCPS offers two FSAs to help save money on medical costs and childcare:

- **Healthcare Flexible Spending Account** – contribute up to \$2,750 per year
- **Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account** – contribute up to \$2,500 per year if married and filing separate income tax returns, or up to \$5,000 per year if single or married and filing joint income tax returns

Decide how much to contribute to one – or both – FSAs and opt in during Open Enrollment (Oct. 11-27).

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Return to Work Guidelines

BACK TO WORK GUIDELINES

for 2021 -2022

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

Show Your #PGCPSpride: Zoom Background



#PGCPSproud

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

September is Suicide Prevention Month

[Learn](#) more about suicide risk factors, warning signs and how to help. If you or someone you know is suicidal, get help immediately via 911, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK or the Crisis Text Line (text "HOME" to 741741).



Prince George's County Memorial Library System

The Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) is offering online resources to assist teachers this school year. Visit the [Teacher Resources](#) site to request a demonstration.

**Get Tickets! PGCPs Alumni Reunion and Comedy Jam on
September 17**

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS ALUMNI REUNION COMEDY JAM AND COMPETITION

SO YOU THINK YOU'RE FUNNY



**HOSTED BY: JOE CLAIR FEATURING
COMEDIANS MIKE BROOKS AND
DAVE CARTER**

SEPTEMBER 17, 2021

6 P.M. - SIP AND MINGLE

7 P.M. - SHOWTIME

BOWIE CENTER FOR THE
PERFORMING ARTS

TICKETS:

GENERAL ADMISSION \$25

VIP EXPERIENCE \$50

(LIMITED AVAILABILITY)

WWW.PGCPS.ORG/ALLIANCE



MEET THE CONTESTANTS

JUSTIN RUSSET
OXON HILL HS
CLASS OF 2007

KURT MCFARLANE
HIGH POINT HS
CLASS OF 1992

APRIL SHANNON
FORESTVILLE HS
CLASS OF 1998

MICHAEL "KOOKYE" JONES
CROSSLAND HS
CLASS OF 2009

JAHMEL 'BEADY' HAYNES
SUITLAND HS
CLASS OF 1991



SPONSORED BY THE EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION FOUNDATION FOR PGCPS, INC.,
GOLD STREET AND NEXT LEVEL ENTERTAINMENT



Get ready for a fun and funny night at the **Prince George's County Public Schools Alumni Reunion and Comedy Jam** on Friday, Sept. 17, 6 p.m. at the Bowie Center for the Performing Arts with host Joe Clair and comedians Mike Brooks, Dave Carter and the five finalists who will compete in the "So You Think You're Funny" competition.

This is one even you do not want to miss!

[Purchase Comedy Jam Tickets](#)

ICYMI: In Case You Missed It

Administrative Procedures and Board Policy Update

The Administrative Directive System is dedicated to assisting employees in the effective and consistent performance of their duties.

The [updated Administrative Procedures and Board Policies](#) are below:

- [Administrative Procedure 0102](#) - Culturally Responsive Schools and Central Offices
- [Administrative Procedure 4126](#) - Employee Use of Social Media
- [Administrative Procedure 4185](#) - Workplace Bullying
- [Administrative Procedure 5116](#) - Grade Change Authorization and Appeals
- [Administrative Procedure 5121.1](#) - Grading and Reporting for Elementary Schools, Early Childhood Through Grade Five
- [Administrative Procedure 5121.2](#) - Grading and Reporting for Middle Schools, Grade Six Through Grade Eight
- [Administrative Procedure 5121.3](#) - Grading and Reporting for High Schools, Grade Nine Through Grade Twelve
- [Administrative Procedure 5143](#) - Bullying, Harassment, or Intimidation
- [Administrative Procedure 6150](#) - Educational Requirements and Options in Secondary Schools
- [Administrative Procedure 6161](#) - Textbooks
- [Administrative Procedure 10101](#) - Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook.

All [Administrative Procedures](#) and [Board Policies](#) are available on the PGCPs website.

Training Opportunities for Employees on Suspecting and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect

Learn to identify child abuse, common indicators and how to best respond to child maltreatment in today's virtual world. Register below.

September 27
3:30 – 4:30pm

Register

September 28
3:30 – 4:30pm

Register

September 29
4:30 – 5:30pm

Register

September 30
4:30 – 5:30pm

Register

STAY CONNECTED

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

COMMENTS AND IDEAS: communications@pgcps.org