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PGCPS Express: #PGCPS1stDay on Monday!

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August 28, 2020



Get the Scoop

#PGCPS1stDay on Monday!

More than 136,500 students will be eager to meet teachers and new classmates on the **first day of school**, Monday, Aug. 31. Whether you are kicking off the new school year from your classroom, home or office, this year will be our best yet.

All week long, teachers and staff have been working diligently to get students and families ready for **#PGCPS1stDay** by distributing school supplies, Chromebooks and textbooks.

Many teachers and staff have also started the school year by showing off their **virtual classrooms!** Check out the bitmoji classrooms below and view more [here](#).



Alessandra Napoleon, Instrumental Music Teacher at Apple Grove, Allenwood and Princeton elementary schools is ready to groove!



Angel P. Johnson, Kindergarten Teacher at Seat Pleasant Elementary, set up a bright and colorful virtual space for young learners.

Virtual Learning Platform Options

Teachers have the option of connecting with students using **PGCPS Zoom or Google Meet**. The Technology Training Team (T3) has developed a [useful site](#) that provides training opportunities, in-depth information and resources to include these digital tools.

PGCPS Zoom is our preferred online platform due to the "waiting room" and "mute all" features. To safeguard the learning environment, all teachers must utilize the "waiting room" option. Only known persons should be granted access.

Additionally, Zoom has the ability to run usage reports which helps to verify attendance. All instructional staff have access to Zoom and should only access this application through the Staff Portal (Applications). PGCPS has licensed Zoom accounts where district settings have been enabled to increase the ability to protect staff and students. **The public version of Zoom should never be used for instruction or any PGCPS-related matters.**

Staff also have the option of using Google Meet, which allows interaction with students using chat, reactions, or even closed captions. Educators should always launch their sessions with students using the Meet link in Google Classroom. Later in the fall, Google will release several new features. View [this graphic](#) to see which new features will be enabled in the G Suite for Education version.

Whether using PGCPS Zoom or Google Meet, students should join through Clever. Teachers may connect through Clever as well. Please refer to the T3 site for more information and guidance on Clever.

Team PGCPS Keeps Growing!

Last week, more than **700 new educators** participated in the Professional Educator Induction Program (PEIP). In addition to a special [video](#) presentation by CEO Dr. Monica Goldson, new teachers received guidance and training designed to assist them in developing their skills and understanding in implementing curricula and programs required by the school system.

In recent months, PGCPS has welcomed **new employees to the leadership ranks** and embraced others in new roles:

Dr. Judith White, Chief Academic Officer
Dr. Kara Miley-Libby, Strategic Initiatives Officer
Trinell Bowman, Associate Superintendent.

Elizabeth Faison, Acting Associate Superintendent
 Dr. Kristi L. Holden, Director, Office of Professional Learning and Leadership (OPLL)
 Claude Charles, Director, Technology Applications/Business Support
 Jinghong Gao, Director, Student Applications
 Sheena Hardy, Instructional Director, Area 1/Elementary
 Raven Hill, Associate Superintendent, Communications & Community Engagement
 Myron McNair, Advisor, Employee and Labor Relations
 Amana Simmons, Hearing Administrator
 Dr. Raquel Talley, Evaluation Supervisor
 Jason Washington, Director, Public-Private Partnerships (P3) Program
 Erica White, Associate General Counsel, Legislative Programs
 Ingrid Williams-Horton, Director, Community Schools
 Dr. Andrew Zuckerman, Innovation Officer

This fall, **19 schools will welcome new leaders** — some first-time administrators while others are new to their school communities:

Lisa Faulkner-Jones, Bladensburg High School
 Joseph Kautzer, Bowie High School
 Hope Albritton Smedley, Carmody Hills Elementary
 Teresa Bey, Carrollton Elementary
 Sheree Savoy, Central High School
 Ronald Miller, Chesapeake Math and IT Charter-South Elementary
 Renee Hall-McNeil, Clinton Grove Elementary
 James Spence, Dora Kennedy French Immersion
 Brian Baudoin, Glenarden Woods Elementary
 Sharone Anderson Davis, Glenridge Elementary
 Richard McKee, Hyattsville Elementary
 Chanita Stamper, Hyattsville Middle School
 Pattie Barnes, John Hanson Montessori
 Kimberly Ford, Largo High School
 Courtney Aldridge, LEGENDS Public Charter School
 Robynne Prince, Martin Luther King Jr. Middle School
 Evelyln Quinones, Mary Harris "Mother Jones" Elementary
 Cynthia Rodgers, Phyllis E. Williams Elementary
 Dr. Ronald Hollis, Suitland High School

In the Spotlight

PGCPS Spotlight: CEO Scholarship Award Recipients



It is with great pride that we announce the **2020 CEO Employee Scholarship Program recipients**. This program is an annual employee scholarship award that provides scholarships to employees for continuing education pursuits at Loyola University Maryland.

Full-Tuition Master's Scholarship Recipients

Ilesha Caisey, International High School at Langley Park; **Amy Lahlou**, Dora Kennedy French Immersion; **Szeman Chang**, Lewisdale Elementary

Half-Tuition Master's Scholarship Recipients

Roslyn Hamilton, Oxon Hill High School; **Addie McNeil**, Mattaponi Elementary; **Ashley Meeder**, William Hall Academy

Master of Arts in Teaching Enrollment Grant Recipients (\$1,000)

Sonya Anyaka and Erica Leake, Apple Grove Elementary; **Autumn Ellison**, Kingsford Elementary; **Celisa Glasper**, CMIT Academy North; **Gabrielle Glover**, Robert Frost Elementary; **Melissa Griffith**, Tulip Grove Elementary; **Duane Harper**, Thomas Johnson Middle School; **Zainab Nicholas**, CMIT Academy South; **Cherish Williams**, Langley Park-McCormick Elementary; **Rebecca Starosta**, Carrollton Elementary; **Peace Ainerua**, Accokeek Academy; **Megan Higgenbotham**, Greenbelt Middle School; **Renee Battle**, Oxon Hill Middle School; **Twinda Harvey**, Perrywood Elementary; **Allison Gibson and Terrance Sellman**, Rogers Heights Elementary; **Emelda Guin-Allen**, William Wirt Middle

School; **Sarah Bailey**, Whitehall Elementary; **Charese Plater**, Barnaby Manor Elementary; **Rhonda Urlin-Knights**, Dr. Henry A. Wise Jr. High School

Nominate a colleague who makes you #PGCPSproud 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

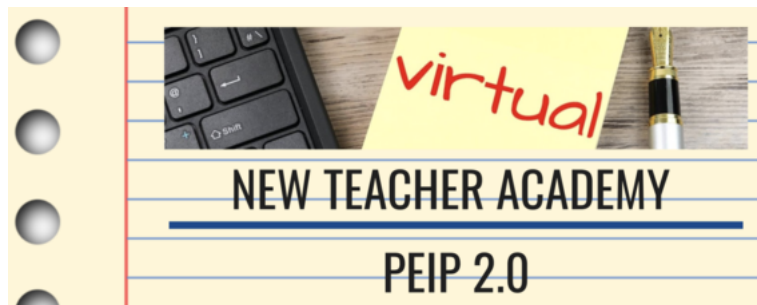
Are You Staying #HealthyPGCPS?



[Learn more](#) about the **Employee Wellness Program** and stay focused on your well-being this fall by joining a virtual fitness class, wellness webinar or a weight loss challenge.

Announcements

New Teacher Academy Goes Virtual



New to PGCPS? Join the [New Teacher Academy](#) and develop your skills and understanding in implementing curricula and programs required by the school system.

This year's theme "Unlocking Your Teaching and Learning Potential" will focus on Framework for Teaching by Charlotte Danielson. The series targets first- through third-year teachers who want to advance the teaching and learning experience in their classroom. However, all teachers are welcome to attend. Sign up now in [MyPPS](#).

Calling All Teachers: Share Your Distance Learning Best Practices



Do you have advice on making the most of the distance learning experience with students? This fall, we will highlight **distance learning stars** each week on PGCPS social media. More details on the way!

Deadlines Extended: SafeSchools, Social and Emotional Learning

The deadline to complete mandatory **SafeSchools training modules** has been extended to Tuesday, Sept. 8. [Start trainings now!](#)

The deadline for teachers to complete **Social Emotional Learning modules** is now Friday, Sept. 11.

Parent "Opt-Out" Information

With the continuation of distance learning at home, there have been questions about students being viewed or heard during live lessons without parental consent. While we would expect all students to be engaged and participants, parents may "opt-out," meaning they may request that their child is not seen or heard during live lessons.

Parents who wish to opt-out must complete an electronic ["opt-out" form](#). For parents who permit their child to be seen and heard during lessons, no further action is required.

ICYMI: In Case You Missed It

Share Your Input: Policy Development

Two Board of Education policies are open for public comment. The deadline to submit comments is 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 1. Please send feedback to testimony@pgcps.org.

- Click [here](#) to provide comment on **draft Prohibition of Systemic Meal Shaming Practices Policy**.
- Click [here](#) to provide comment on **draft Student Appeals of Disciplinary Action Policy**.

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COMMENTS AND IDEAS: communications@pgcps.org



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