

News Release: PGCPS Students Perform During Annual White House Holiday Tours

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For Immediate Release

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UPPER MARLBORO, MD – The Symphonic Band and Chamber Orchestra of the Thomas G. Pullen K-8 Creative and Performing Arts Academy performed at the White House today under the direction of Paul Hatton, band director, and Dana Shieh, orchestra director.

Comprised of sixth-, seventh-, and eighth-grade students, both the band and orchestra performed a repertoire of seasonal music specifically selected for their two-hour performances during the annual White House holiday tours. The students were invited to perform after a nation-wide selection process.

After the performances, students participated in a public tour of the White House, which was decorated to reflect the theme “A Children’s Winter Wonderland” to celebrate the pureness that the holidays bring as seen through the eyes of children.

The mission of the K-8 Creative and Performing Arts program at Thomas G. Pullen is to provide a climate that enables all students to reach their academic and artistic potential. The school accomplishes this mission by providing top-quality instruction, a positive school atmosphere, and an orderly environment. Instruction supports the belief that the integration of academic and artistic training will strengthen character, clarify judgment, and refine sensitivity.

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Prince George’s County Public Schools (PGCPS), one of the nation’s 20th largest school districts, has 201 schools and centers, more than 133,000 students and nearly 20,000 employees. The school system serves a diverse student population from urban, suburban and rural communities located in the Washington, DC suburbs. PGCPS is nationally recognized for college and career-readiness programs that provide students with unique learning opportunities, including dual enrollment and language immersion.