

News Release: PGCPs PREPARES TO WELCOME NEARLY 129,000 STUDENTS FOR THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

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For Immediate Release

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UPPER MARLBORO, MD – The sounds of school bells will soon ring again at Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS), as the district welcomes students back on Tuesday, August 25, 2015 for the first day of school.

United by ensuring outstanding academic achievement for all students, nearly 19,000 PGCPS employees will help welcome new and returning students to the 2015-2016 school year.

Prince George's County Board of Education Members will visit schools to welcome students, parents, and staff ([click here \(http://www1.pgcps.org/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=214263\)](http://www1.pgcps.org/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=214263) to view the schedule). Dr. Kevin M. Maxwell, Chief Executive Officer for Prince George's County Public Schools, and special guests will tour schools throughout the day at select sites below.

School Tour Schedule:

Arrival Time	Site	Address
6:15 a.m. – 7:15 a.m.	Annapolis Road Academy/ International High School at Langley Park	5150 Annapolis Road Bladensburg, MD 20710
7:15 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	Annapolis Road Academy Alternative High School	5150 Annapolis Road Bladensburg, MD 20710
9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	Largo High School	505 Largo Road Upper Marlboro, MD 20772
9:30 a.m. - 10:15am	International High School at Largo	505 Largo Road Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

10:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	Kenmoor Early Childhood Center	3211 82nd Avenue Landover, MD 20785
11:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	Edward M. Felegy Elementary School	6110 Editors Park Drive Hyattsville, MD 20782
12:30 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.	Buck Lodge Middle School	2611 Buck Lodge Road Adelphi, MD 20783

New features and highlights for the 2015-16 school year include:

Increased Enrollment*

After nearly a decade of decline, PGCPs is expected to continue the trend of meaningful growth in the number of students enrolled in the school system. For the 2015-16 school year the district will enroll just under 2,000 new students, bringing the total number of students to 129,000.

Two New International High Schools

PGCPs will welcome the inaugural class of students at two new high schools. The International High School at Langley Park and the International High School at Largo High School, will use an innovative model designed specifically to meet the needs of English Language Learners, one of the fastest growing student populations in the district.

New Literacy Coaches

PGCPs introduced its comprehensive strategic plan in school year 2014-15, and this year moves it into the implementation phase, with the introduction of six new literacy coaches. These coaches will partner with teams at schools to help improve literacy skills for the district's most struggling learners.

Friday Night Lights

During the summer, crews made a number of major improvements to athletic facilities at 10 schools. Crews completed stadium lighting projects at Dr. Henry A. Wise and Gwynn Park High Schools to accompany the installation of new turf fields.

Immunizations

Federal and State guidelines mandate age appropriate immunizations for every child between the grades of Pre-K to 12. New school immunizations are required for the 2015-2016 school year for students entering kindergarten, Grade 1, Grade 7, and Grade 8. These new vaccination requirements are in addition to the current school immunization requirements.

Students Entering Kindergarten and Grade 1 must receive:

Two Chickenpox Vaccines (Varicella Vaccines)

Students Entering Grades 7 and 8 must receive:

One Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis Vaccine (Tdap Vaccine)

One Meningitis Vaccine (Meningococcal Vaccine)

For more information on the first day of school, including information about bus routes, click **here** (<http://www1.pgcps.org/backtoschool/>), or visit: <http://www1.pgcps.org/backtoschool/> (<http://www1.pgcps.org/backtoschool/>).