

March 4, 2022

Top News

Graduation Rate Increases Amid Ongoing Pandemic



The PGCPS four-year Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate increased by 1.5 percentage points to nearly 78 percent for the 2020-21 academic year with 10 schools registering a graduation rate of more than 90 percent.

According to data released from the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), the high school dropout rate fell to a five-year low with gains among several student groups, including a 4 percentage point-increase for Hispanic students. There were also increases among English language learners and students who come from families with low-income.

[Read More](#)

Reading Across PGCPS!



For Dr. Seuss' birthday and Read Across America Day, a love of literature and creativity were in full swing! At Frances Fuchs Early Childhood Center, students and staff engaged in several activities including crazy hats, pajama day, and a superhero/book character day.

Alternative Schools Update



PGCPS is redesigning and enhancing its alternative school programs. Proposed enhancements will increase opportunities for academic, behavioral and socioemotional support through innovative programming, expansion of Career and Technical Education courses and more.

[Learn More](#)

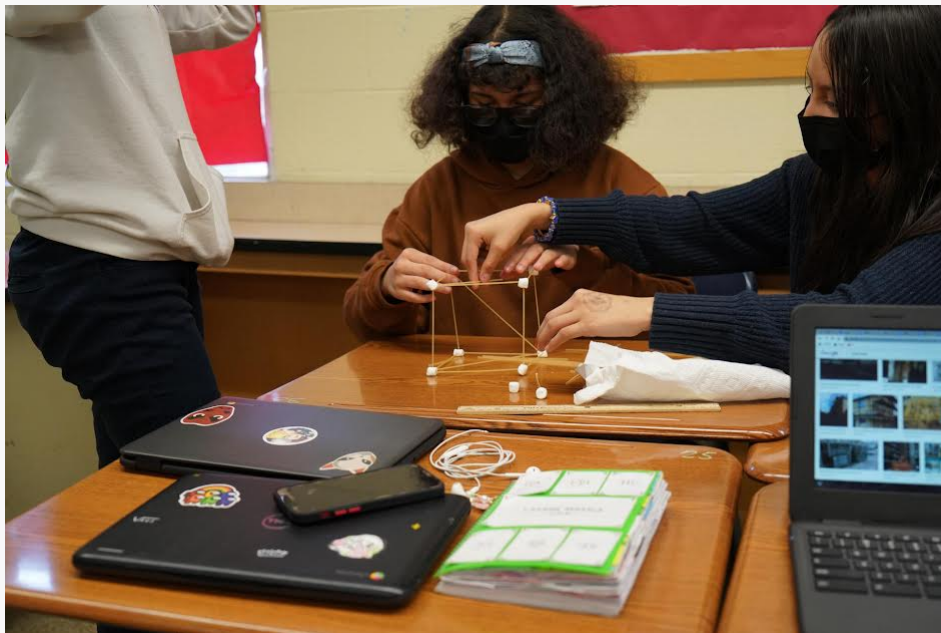
Help Elect #TeamPGCPS as State Board of Education Teacher Member!



Two PGCPS educators, [Shawn Mitchell](#) of DuVal High School and [Cashana Morrison](#) of Robert R. Gray Elementary School are candidates for the [Maryland State Board of Education Teacher Member!](#) The election will occur next week, March 7-13 and anyone with an active Maryland teaching certificate is eligible to cast one vote.

Eligible voters will receive voting instructions and a unique code sent to their email address on file in the MSDE Educator System. The individual with the most votes will win the election and have their name forwarded to the Governor for appointment to the Maryland State Board of Education.

Thomas Johnson Middle School STEM Program Honored



Thomas Johnson Middle School won the International Technology and Engineering Education Association (ITEEA) award as an international STEM School of Excellence. This is the third time the school has received the award!

[See Program In Action](#)

Growing Our Own: Students Commit to #TeachWithUs



As part of the “Grown Our Own” initiative, the PGCPSS Recruitment and Retention team along with the Office of Professional Learning and Learning met with Academy of Health Sciences teacher prep students to discuss continuing their studies as college education majors

Get Involved: International Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) Day

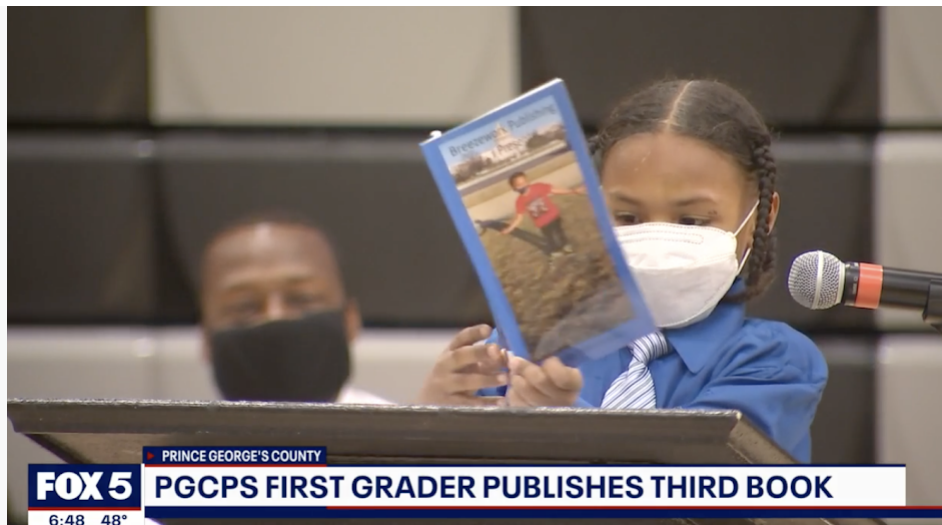


March 11 is International SEL Day, intended to raise awareness about the importance of social and emotional learning (SEL).

Explore the SEL Day Toolkits to learn about the different ways you can join with national and global communities to celebrate! Also, check out the Social Media Toolkit and get ready to post your #SELday activities on Twitter and other social media platforms. Let's put PGCPs at the top of the leaderboard by earning as many Badges as we can to show what we are doing to promote SEL.

Spotlight

First Grade Student Author Honored!



Andrew Jackson Academy and the local community honored student Dekari Holland who at just seven years old is the author of three books!

WATCH

#PGCPS Proud: Crossland HS Culinary Arts



Tune in to DCW50 on March 20 and 27 to see Crossland High School culinary arts students along with instructors Chef Muriel Homesack and Chef Adrian Stewart showcase their talents!

Announcements

REMINDER: March 7 — Instructional Day

The Prince George's County Board of Education approved changes to the 2021-22 school calendar in January that included making March 7 a regular instructional day for students.

Monday is a duty day for all employees except for those on approved leave.

[Please visit the PGCPSS website](#) to view the updated calendar.

Taking Applications for the Christa McAuliffe Award



The Christa McAuliffe Award recognizes excellence in teaching in honor of the educator who lost her life in the 1986 Space Shuttle Challenger explosion. McAuliffe taught in Prince George's County Public Schools for several years about a decade earlier. The award is presented annually to a teacher who shares the mark of distinction that McAuliffe achieved for the teaching profession.

[Complete an Application](#)

ICYMI: In Case You Missed It

Register: 2022 Spring Pre-Retirement Virtual Conference



The 2022 Spring Pre-Retirement virtual conference will be on Saturday, March 12. The conference is recommended for employees within three to five years of retirement. Space is limited and registration is required. Additional details and the online registration form can be found on the web page.

[Learn More](#)

Excellence in Education Foundation Scholarships



The Excellence in Education Foundation for PGCPS, Inc. is accepting applications for the 2021-22 scholarship program for graduating seniors. The **deadline to apply is March 18.**

[Apply Now](#)

Become an Ally Partner for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness



The Ally Partners Program is the McKinney Vento Program (MVP) office's new initiative to eliminate generational poverty and homelessness in Prince George's County. Through this program, interested adults in our schools, community-based organizations and county agencies that assist families and youth will receive training on how to become a trusted point of contact for students experiencing homelessness. Learn more and register to attend a Zoom meeting on April 8 at 1 p.m.

[Learn More](#)

Free Online Tutoring for Students



We are excited to partner with TutorMe to provide academic support to students in the form of tutoring! TutorMe is an online tutoring platform that connects students to live tutors, 24 hours a day in over 300 subjects, right from their home.

Students using the TutorMe platform can communicate with live tutors using a virtual whiteboard, audio/video chat, and screen sharing. TutorMe has an extensive background check process for its tutors and a system for regularly monitoring sessions for quality and safety.

Please review the virtual learning best practices document below to support proper usage of the program:

[Virtual Learning Best Practices](#)

- **How to connect with a [Live Tutor](#) to help with a subject**
- **How to upload a paper to get feedback with the [Writing Lab](#)**

How to Access TutorMe:

1. [Log into Clever](#) using your student login.
2. Click the TutorMe icon.
3. Receive tutoring!

Log Into Clever

Summer Opportunities for Students at Six Flags



Six Flags America is hiring students for its 2022 season, including [lifeguards](#), ride operators, cashiers and more. Interested applicants may take advantage of the park's pre-season Hiring Fairs with opportunities to apply, interview and get hired on the spot. Candidates who are offered and accept positions during these events will receive two bonus 2022 one-day admission tickets for friends and family to the park.

Learn More

#TeamPGCPS Papparazzi

Cherry Simpelo, M.Ed.
@CherrySimpelo

Read Across America Day 2022
Mrs. Simpelo's Kindergarten
COLUMBIA PARK ES



Lewisdale Elementary
@Lewisdale10ms

As educators, we are experiencing some of the toughest days we've ever faced. It's important to be reminded just how valuable school staff are! The administration did just that this week with a special lunch treat from @panerabread! Thank you Principal @MsHaith and AP @ApCanty!



Allenwood ES @EsAllenwood - Mar 2

@pgcps Allenwood Elementary celebrated National Read Across America Day by having County Executive Angela Alsobrooks read a book entitled Change Sings, by Amanda Gorman, to our students. #SEEusROAR #ReadAcrossAmericaDay



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COMMENTS AND IDEAS: communications@pgcps.org