

# Garrett County Public Schools 2024-25 Academic Calendar



**Building Strong Partnerships:**  
Fostering Education and Collaboration  
Among Garrett County Schools,  
Families, and Communities



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Superintendent of Schools  
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## From the Superintendent

Dear Families and Staff Members,

I am delighted to extend a warm welcome to the 2024-25 school year. As the Superintendent of Schools, I am thrilled to be a part of a community that is dedicated to providing the best education possible to all students.

In recent years, GCPS has implemented many positive changes that will continue to benefit our students and staff. We have invested in new technology to enhance the learning experience and are providing more opportunities for our students to succeed. Our pre-kindergarten programs have expanded to include a three-year-old program, support systems have broadened, and high school accelerated learning opportunities have grown significantly.

As we step into a new academic year, I want to emphasize the crucial role that each and every one of you plays in our school community. Our schools are not just buildings, they are the heart and soul of our communities. By uniting our efforts, we can continue to provide challenging, relevant educational initiatives and expand learning opportunities for all.

I want to personally express my heartfelt gratitude to all students, parents, staff, and community members for your support and commitment to our schools. Your dedication is the driving force behind our success, and I am truly excited about the opportunities that lie ahead as we embark on another fruitful year together.

Sincerely,

Dr. Brenda E. McCartney  
Superintendent of Schools



## About GCPS

Welcome to Garrett County Public Schools! We are committed to providing our students with a high-quality education that prepares them for success in an ever-changing world. With a dedicated team of educators and staff, we strive to create a safe and supportive learning environment where students can reach their full potential. From our innovative curriculum to our extracurricular activities and athletics, we offer many opportunities to help our students grow academically, socially, and personally. We believe that every student can achieve greatness, and we are here to help them every step of the way. Join us in our mission to empower our students and create a brighter future for our community.

# GCPS Teacher of the Year

Garrett County Public Schools named Ms. Kaitlyn Bolyard the 2024-25 Teacher of the Year. Ms. Bolyard is a Special Education teacher at Yough Glades Elementary. She has taught for 9 years and has been in her current position for 4 years. Ms. Bolyard received her Master's Degree in Special Education from California University of Pennsylvania (2020) and a Bachelor's in Elementary Education from Frostburg State University (2014).

She coordinates special education services for her school and implements Specially Designed Instruction. She works to promote inclusion practices and increase acceptance of students with disabilities. Ms. Bolyard facilitates professional development by focusing on inclusion practices and providing specially designed instruction at the school and county levels. She is the head coach of the Yough Glades Unified Bocce team and a Lead Special Education Teacher for GCPS.

Dr. Chelsie Manges, Director of Special Education, commends Ms. Bolyard, stating, "Ms. Bolyard is an exceptional teacher who consistently exceeds expectations to provide her students with the support they need to succeed. Her dedication to advocating for students with disabilities is unparalleled, and she tirelessly ensures they have access to the resources they need to thrive."

Dr. Brenda McCartney added, "Ms. Bolyard is a shining example of the dedication and passion our teachers bring to their classrooms daily. Her commitment to her students and her profession is truly inspiring, and we are honored to have her represent GCPS as our Teacher of the Year."

Ms. Bolyard will go on to compete for the Maryland State Teacher of the Year, which should be announced in October. For information about all GCPS Teachers of the Year, please visit [www.gcps.net/TOY](http://www.gcps.net/TOY).



*Pictured left to right: Dr. Nicole Miller, Chief Academic Officer; Dr. Brenda McCartney, Superintendent; Mrs. Anne Ross, Principal; Mrs. Dawna Ashby, Director of Elementary Education; Ms. Kaitlyn Bolyard, GCPS 2024-25 Teacher of the Year; Dr. Chelsie Manges, Director of Special Education; and Ms. Katherine Landen, Assistant Principal.*

## Join the GCPS community today!

### Student Enrollment:

Garrett County Public Schools is enrolling students for the 2024-25 school year in grade levels Pre-K 3-year-old through 12th-grade.



### Employment Opportunities:

Are you considering other employment opportunities? There has never been a better time to apply to join GCPS! Wages continue to increase annually; benefits include health, dental, vision, mental health, and more; maternity/paternity leave; tuition reimbursement; and a state pension are just some of the perks of full-time employment with GCPS.

### Partner with us:

Do you, your organization, or your business have opportunities to share with GCPS or ways that we could help you? Consider becoming one of our community partners! Contact your local school or Public Relations Office to begin a partnership with GCPS today.

# Student Transportation

## Student Transportation

School bus transportation plays a critical role in the education of our nation's students and is the direct link between a neighborhood and the classroom. More than 25 million children ride the school bus every school day. Here are tips to keep our children safe at the bus stop.

## Getting Ready for School

- Have your children put everything they carry in a backpack or school bag so they won't drop things along the way.
- Encourage them to wear bright, contrasting colors to be more easily seen by drivers.
- Make sure children leave home on time to arrive at the bus stop before it is due, ideally at least five minutes early. Running after or in front of a bus is dangerous.

## Walking to the Bus Stop

- Walk young children to the bus stop or encourage children to walk in groups. There is safety in numbers; groups are easier for drivers to see.
- Practice good pedestrian behavior: walk on the sidewalk, and if there is no sidewalk, stay out of the street. If you must walk in the street, walk single-file, face traffic, and stay as close to the edge of the road as you can.
- Stop and look left, right, and left again if you must cross the street. Do the same thing in driveways and alleys. Exaggerate your head turns and narrate your actions so your child knows you are looking left, right, and left again.

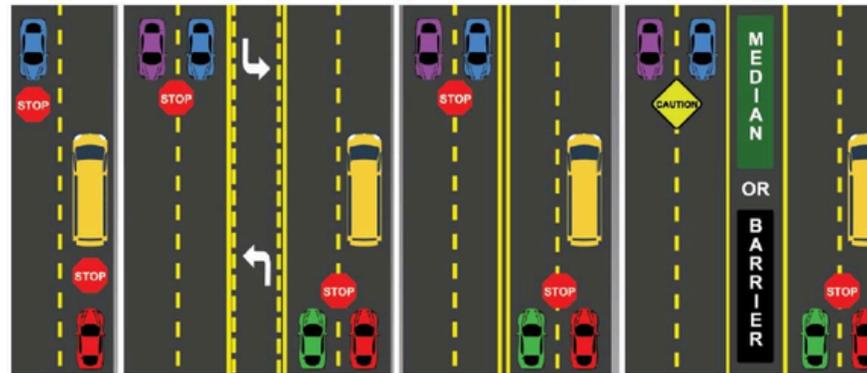
## At the Bus Stop

- Have children wait in a location where the driver can see them while driving down the street. Try to avoid waiting in a house or car.
- Do not let children play in the street. Playing with balls or other toys that could roll into the street is also dangerous.

**Maryland schools  
are back in session.**



**Remember what to do when a  
school bus stops for passengers!**



**Two Lane:**  
Vehicles  
traveling  
in both  
directions  
**MUST  
STOP.**

**Two Lane  
with  
Center  
Turn  
Lane:**  
Vehicles  
traveling  
in both  
directions  
**MUST  
STOP.**

**Multi-  
Lane:**  
Vehicles  
traveling  
in both  
directions  
**MUST  
STOP.**

**Divided  
Highway:**  
Vehicles  
behind  
bus **MUST  
STOP.**  
Vehicles  
traveling  
in the  
opposite  
direction  
**USE  
CAUTION.**



**MARYLAND CENTER for SCHOOL SAFETY**

## Getting On and Off the Bus

- Warn children that if they drop something getting on and off the bus, they should never pick it up. Instead, they should tell the driver and follow the driver's instructions.
- Remind children to look to the right before they step off the bus.
- If you meet your child at the bus stop after school, wait on the side where the child will be dropped off, not across the street. Children can be so excited to see you after school that they dash across the street and forget the safety rules.

## Mobile Devices

Cell phones and other electronic devices are often permitted on the school bus as long as:

- They are in backpacks or other holders, keeping hands free to use handrails while boarding and departing the bus.
- Sound is muted or headphones, ear buds, or similar devices are used.
- Content does not violate the law or school district policy and procedures.
- Use does not create a distraction for the driver.

## Rules and Regulations

An integral part of the educational process is getting children to and from school safely. The safety of children going to and from school, whether on foot or by bus, is a responsibility shared by many people. The Board of Education, superintendent, staff, drivers, and school bus contractors are fully committed to doing so and request the full cooperation of students and parents with this initiative. The safety of students traveling to and from their homes to the bus stop and while waiting at the stop is the responsibility of parents and students. The bus is considered an extension of the school and riding a school bus is a privilege, not a right. Therefore, all Garrett County Public Schools discipline policies apply. Failure to comply with regulations may result in a revocation of this privilege.

**JULY 2024**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

**SEPTEMBER 2024**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

# August 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 Board of Education Meeting - DREC	14	15	16	17
18	19 School Secretaries and Counselors return	20	21	22	23	24 SAT Testing
25	26 Teacher Workday	27 Teacher Workday	28 Staff Development/ Professional Day	29 Staff Development/ Professional Day	30 Staff Development/ Professional Day	31



**August Focus: Working Together to Prevent Underage Drinking**

**Character Traits of the Month: Self-Discipline and Control**

# Food & Nutrition Services

## Meal Benefit Application

Individuals should complete a meal benefit application via LINQ Connect within the first thirty (30) days of school to qualify for free or reduced meals for the coming school year and avoid paying for meals. Families may apply anytime during the school year if their income changes during the school year.

**ALL** families are **STRONGLY ENCOURAGED** to fill out an application for each student, regardless of their desire to consume school meals or not. Funding for GCPS from other federal and state programs also depends on these applications. Additional benefits include but are not limited to, Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) program, school athletic and activity fees, internet access, SAT/ACT/AP Fees, and College Application Fees.

SCAN  
ME



**LINQ Connect**  
ONLINE PORTAL

## Meal Purchases

All cafeterias in Garrett County Public Schools have computerized Point of Sale. To pay for purchases, students enter their Personal Identification Numbers (PIN) and proceed to the cashier. Students pay for purchases using cash or using money placed "On Account." If a student cannot remember their PIN, the cafeteria staff will be able to give it to them. Please help your child to learn this number and teach them that they should not share the number with anyone, as it is access to their account.

Students who properly enter their number when purchasing their meal move more quickly through the service line.

Parents have the option of sending cash or checks with their student(s) for deposit. However, we strongly encourage parents to monitor, view, and fund students' accounts by logging on to the [LINQ Connect Portal](#). We encourage parents to also monitor their child's cafeteria activity and account balances throughout the year. Using this tool to do so makes it easier than ever.

Depositing funds on account will allow students to purchase breakfast, lunch, or any a la carte item.

[www.gcps.net/food-nutrition](http://www.gcps.net/food-nutrition)

## Benefits of placing money "On Account"

- **Safe** - the PIN ensures only one student can access the account
- **Convenient** - money cannot be lost or forgotten in the morning rush
- **Fast** - cafeteria lines move more quickly, so there's plenty of time to eat
- **Monitored** - see the secure account balance anytime on the [LINQ Connect Portal](#)
- **Peace of Mind** - the auto replenish feature on the [LINQ Connect Portal](#) ensures money for meals is always there for the student



AUGUST 2024						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

# September 2024

OCTOBER 2024						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> Suicide Prevention Month	<b>2</b> Labor Day - Schools Closed	<b>3</b>  First Student Day - 3-Hour Early Dismissal	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> Grandparents' Day International Literacy Day	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Board of Education Meeting - NGMS	<b>11</b> Patriot Day	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> ACT Testing
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Constitution Day IT Professionals Day	<b>18</b> Staff Development 3-hour early dismissal	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Hispanic Heritage Month 9/15-10/15	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b>  First Day of Autumn	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
				Rosh Hashanah 2-4		



**PLAY HARD**  
LIVE CLEAN.

September is Library Card Sign-up Month; **September Focus:** Safe Storage of Prescription Medicines; **Character Traits of the Month:** Self-Discipline and Control

# Safety on Campus

## Emergency Preparedness

Garrett County Public Schools (GCPS) is prepared to effectively and efficiently respond to many emergency/crisis situations that may impact students, staff, and parents/guardians.

A system-wide plan, the GCPS Emergency Response Plan, as well as emergency/crisis plans, individually prepared for each school, learning center, and administrative building, enables GCPS to respond to and manage many emergencies/crises. The system-wide GCPS Emergency Response Plan is a living document, continually reviewed and updated to ensure its effectiveness.



Each year, schools update their emergency/crisis plans, which are then reviewed and approved by the Manager of Safety and Security. Schools must practice various fire, evacuation, and lockdown drills throughout the year.

Each location establishes a chain of command composed of school administrators and staff who receive basic and enhanced levels of emergency/crisis preparedness training, conducted by the Safety and Security Manager or other trainers as deemed appropriate.

## IN AN EMERGENCY TAKE ACTION



### HOLD! In your room or area. Clear the halls.

#### STUDENTS

Clear the hallways and remain in room or area until the "All Clear" is announced  
Do business as usual

#### ADULTS

Close and lock the door  
Account for students and adults  
Do business as usual



### SECURE! Get inside. Lock outside doors.

#### STUDENTS

Return to inside of building  
Do business as usual

#### ADULTS

Bring everyone indoors  
Lock outside doors  
Increase situational awareness  
Account for students and adults  
Do business as usual



### LOCKDOWN! Locks, lights, out of sight.

#### STUDENTS

Move away from sight  
Maintain silence  
Do not open the door

#### ADULTS

Recover students from hallway if possible  
Lock the classroom door  
Turn out the lights  
Move away from sight  
Maintain silence  
Do not open the door  
Prepare to evade or defend



### EVACUATE! (A location may be specified)

#### STUDENTS

Leave stuff behind if required to  
If possible, bring your phone  
Follow instructions

#### ADULTS

Lead students to Evacuation location  
Account for students and adults  
Notify if missing, extra or injured students or adults



### SHELTER! Hazard and safety strategy.

#### STUDENTS

Use appropriate safety strategy for the hazard

#### Hazard

Tornado  
Hazmat  
Earthquake  
Tsunami

#### Safety Strategy

Evacuate to shelter area  
Seal the room  
Drop, cover and hold  
Get to high ground

#### ADULTS

Lead safety strategy  
Account for students and adults  
Notify if missing, extra or injured students or adults

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## Standard Response Protocol

### Information for Parents and Guardians

Our school has adopted The "I Love U Guys" Foundation's Standard Response Protocol (SRP). Students and staff will be training, practicing, and drilling the protocol.

### Common Language

The Standard Response Protocol (SRP) is based on an all-hazards approach as opposed to individual scenarios. Like the Incident Command System (ICS), SRP utilizes clear common language while allowing for flexibility in protocol.

The premise is simple - there are five specific actions that can be performed during an incident. When communicating these, the action is labeled with a "Term of Art" and is then followed by a "Directive." Execution of the action is performed by active participants, including students, staff, teachers, and first responders. The SRP is based on the following actions: Hold, Secure, Lockdown, Evacuate, and Shelter.



**833-MD-B-SAFE**

**SEPTEMBER 2024**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

**NOVEMBER 2024**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

# October 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	<b>1</b> Nat'l Principal Month National Arts & Humanities Month National Bullying Prevention Month	<b>2</b> National Custodian Day	<b>3</b> Board of Education Meeting - DREC Progress Reports - 1st Grading Period* <b>Rosh Hashanah 2-4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> SAT Testing
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Staff Development - 3-Hour Early Dismissal	<b>11</b> Autumn Glory - Schools Closed <b>Yom Kippur 11-12</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Columbus Day Indigenous Peoples' Day	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Boss's Day	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>National School Lunch Week October 14-18, 2024</b>						
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> United Nations Day	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> ACT Testing
<b>Red Ribbon Week October 23-31, 2024</b>						
<b>National School Bus Safety Week October 21-25, 2024</b>						
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Halloween 	1	2
<b>Red Ribbon Week October 23-31, 2024</b>						



**October Focus: Vaping...You CAN Quit; October is I Can Swim Month;**  
**Character Traits of the Month: Responsibility and Dependability**

\*Dates may be adjusted due to inclement weather days.

# Graduation Requirements

## Garrett County Graduation Requirements

1) Students must earn 23 credits as follows:

- English—4 credits
- Fine Arts (Art, Music, Theater, Chorus, or Band)—1 credit
- Mathematics (Algebra & Geometry plus two additional math credits)—4 credits
- Physical Education—0.5 credit
- Health—1 credit
- Social Studies (U.S. & World Histories, Government)—3 credits
- Science (Biology, Earth Science, Fundamentals of Physical Science)—3 credits
- Technology Education—1 credit
- Financial Literacy course—1 credit

Choice—

- University System of Maryland Completer—two years of same world language and Algebra II
- State Approved Career/Tech Program—3+ credits
- Electives—2 credits

2) Competency—as demonstrated by meeting all current MSDE testing requirements (found in the Student Educational Planning Guide)

3) Student Service—75 hours

4) Hands-on CPR and Environmental Literacy credits are embedded in other courses



## Test Requirements

High School students are required to successfully meet all current requirements on the MCAP assessments in English/Language Arts and Mathematics, the Government End of Course Assessment, and the Biology End of Course Assessment. Test results must appear on the student's transcript before the student can be awarded a diploma.

## Career Clusters

The courses of study for Garrett County high schools are organized into four career and academic clusters: Arts & Human Services, Business Management & Finance, Engineering & Technology, and Life Sciences & Natural Resources. Specialization is secondary to the purpose of providing a sound, fundamental basis of skills and abilities in the core subjects. However, specialization is made to acquire job entry skills, exploration, enrichment, or career advancement or preparation. Consequently, all students will select at least one of the approved career paths within the area of their special interest. Each career path is designed to meet at least one of the following program applications: (1) A State-approved Career and Technology Program; (2) Two credits of Advanced Technology; (3) Language and Mathematics programs qualifying for entrance to the University System of Maryland.

## Student Service Learning

Students must show they are "making a difference through actions of caring for others through personal contact, indirect service, or civic action, either in the school or in the community." Garrett County students begin to acquire 75 service learning hours in grade 6.

Outlined below is the service learning criteria for current 6th-12th grade students:

- Middle School - total embedded hours will equal 50:
  - Grade 6 - 20 hours
  - Grade 7 - 10 hours
  - Grade 8 - 20 hours
- High School - total embedded hours will equal 5 in Social Studies; 5 hours in Health, and Independent Projects in grades 9-12 will total 15 hours, for a total of 25 hours.

Hours over 75 are considered recognition hours.



## Work Ethic Diploma

The concept for a regional Garrett County Work Ethic initiative was brought to the Garrett County Chamber of Commerce by employers that felt students were not completing high school with the soft skills needed to be successful employees. With the input of area educators, business leaders, and post-secondary representatives, standards were developed to measure work ethics in students. The Work Ethic Program is designed to:

- Supply Garrett County employers with skilled workers
- Produce an emerging workforce prepared to face the challenges of a global marketplace
- Be a filter for hiring and selecting candidates that have demonstrated knowledge, skills, abilities, and commitment to work
- Reinforce the value of positive work ethics and commitment to successful employment
- Recognize a common, identifiable metric for work habits
- Develop and improve the soft skills of Garrett County students
- Business Benefits and Obligations

## USDE Federal Pell Grant Program:

# SCAN ME



OCTOBER 2024						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

DECEMBER 2024						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

# November 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	31  Halloween	1 Academic Writing Month Native American Heritage Month	2 SAT Testing
3 Daylight Saving Time Ends	4	5 Election Day - GCPS Closed	6 End of the 1st Grading Period*	7	8 National STEM Day	9
10	11 Veterans Day  Staff Development - 3-Hour Early Dismissal	12 Board of Education Meeting - NGMS	13 Report Cards - 1st Grading Period*	14	15	16
National School Psychology Week November 11-15, 2024						
17	18	19	20 National Education Support Professionals Day	21	22 Substitute Educator Appreciation Day	23
American Education Week November 18-22, 2024						
24	25	26	27 3-Hour Early Dismissal	28  Thanksgiving GCPS Closed	29 GCPS Closed	30



**November Focus: Narcan Saves Lives**  
**Character Traits of the Month: Caring and Giving**

\*Dates may be adjusted due to inclement weather days.

\*\*May be used as a make-up day.

# GCPS Foundation

## About the GCPS Foundation

Garrett County is a unique place in Maryland and the country. Here, atop the mountains, our children grow up and can hike in several state parks and enjoy spectacular waterfalls, rivers, and forests.

However, since we are less populated than much of the state and our weather patterns are so diverse, the County often lacks sufficient funding for the school system's many needs. Through the GCPS Foundation, it is hoped that part of this disparity can be reduced, that the efforts of our outstanding staff can be assisted, and that our children are afforded the full and rich education they deserve.

The Foundation was created in honor of Dr. Wendell Teets, who served as superintendent of schools from 1997 to 2011. The GCPS Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization dedicated to enhancing experiences and programs for preschoolers through 12th graders in all Garrett County Public Schools.

The Garrett County Public Schools Foundation operates as a three-part organization as follows:

1. To receive and disburse non-restricted funds that supplement curricular, co-curricular, and extra-curricular programs in Garrett County Public Schools.
2. To serve as a conduit for gifts to specific programs, and to provide all donors, promptly, with receipts.
3. To collect and disseminate information on other Garrett County foundations that serve the needs of the county's students.

*The GCPS-F is a 501(c)3 charitable foundation. All contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.*

[www.gcps.net/foundation](http://www.gcps.net/foundation)

The Garrett County Public Schools Foundation serves as a means of complementing educational resources, channeling funds into existing accounts, and disseminating information on how best to contribute to the supplemental needs of Garrett County Public Schools. Donations may be made as designated assistance to specific programs or undesignated for needs to be determined by the Foundation's Board of Directors.



## Donate

### Mail a Donation:

Include your name, address, and phone number, along with your donation (please do not send cash) and designation, if applicable, to:

**Garrett County Public Schools Foundation**  
PO Box 11  
Oakland, MD 21550



*Please feel free to send email inquiries about GCPS-F to [tcarrmagyar@yahoo.com](mailto:tcarrmagyar@yahoo.com).*

## Lunch Angel Fund

The Lunch Angel Fund program allows the community to help provide short-term assistance to families in need by covering negative lunch account balances for students who may not qualify for a free or reduced-price lunch but still might have trouble paying for a meal every day. Donors may designate a specific school, or GCPS will allocate the donation equally to children with negative meal balances. To donate, please utilize the Foundation contact information above (be sure to make a Lunch Angel Fund designation). For additional information, please contact the GCPS Food & Nutrition Services Department at 301-334-8918 or [food.services@gcps.net](mailto:food.services@gcps.net).

NOVEMBER 2024						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAVEDAY
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

JANUARY 2025						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAVEDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

# December 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Special Education Day Thanksgiving Monday - GCPS Closed	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> SAT Testing Pearl Harbor Day
Inclusive Schools Week December 5-9, 2024						
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Staff Development 3-Hour Early Dismissal Board of Education Meeting - DREC	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Progress Reports - 2nd Grading Period*	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> ACT Testing
Inclusive Schools Week Dec 5-9, 2024						
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 3-Hour Early Dismissal	<b>21</b>  First Day of Winter
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> GCPS Closed	<b>24</b> Christmas Eve - GCPS Closed	<b>25</b>  Christmas Day, Hannukah Begins - GCPS Closed	<b>26</b>  Kwanzaa Begins - GCPS Closed	<b>27</b> GCPS Closed	<b>28</b> 
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> GCPS Closed	<b>31</b> New Year's Eve - GCPS Closed	<b>1</b> Kwanzaa Ends, New Year's Day - GCPS Closed	<b>2</b> Hanukkah Ends, GCPS Reopens	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>



**December Focus: Celebrate Safely**

**Character Traits of the Month: Caring and Giving**

**ASSESSMENTS:** 12/4/24-1/22/25 Winter Administration - High School  
ELA 10, Algebra I (Pearson) and High School End of Course (EOC)  
Government and LS MISA (Cognia).

\*Dates may be adjusted due to inclement weather days.



# GCPS Benchmarks



## GCPS

- Highly rated schools: four-star average systemwide.
- 2024 Cool Schools Dunk raised over \$47,000 for GCPS Unified Sports.
- F.I.R.S.T. Robotics team 1629 - GACO was inducted into the Hall of Fame and won the Innovation and Control Award at the FIRST Chesapeake District Championship.
- Students from all elementary schools participated in the Unified Bocce Competition.

## Accident Elementary

- Created a Barn Mural.
- Added twin lambs to the growing schoolyard.
- Countywide Unified Bocce Runner-up.

## Broad Ford Elementary

- Implemented a new HOUSE program and inducted every student and staff member into one of six houses to enhance our PBIS program.
- Students earned over 575,000 PawPoints for demonstrating positive behaviors.
- The Bears House of Courage was the 2023-2024 HOUSE Champions.
- Implemented a One School, One Book Program where all students and families read two chapter books about Humphrey.
- Started the Girls on the Run program for grades 3 - 5.

## Crellin Elementary

- The CES Robotics Team, the Crellin Techy Coconuts, won the Ellen Pitt-Nairn Team Spirit Award at the FIRST Lego League Challenge.
- Crellin Elementary was recognized at the Harkin on Wellness Symposium at the Harkin Institute in Des Moines, Iowa, for being one of the best programs in the country working to improve the wellbeing of students.
- Five lambs were born at Crellin, and one playful goat, Jimmy, moved in.
- A new wildflower garden has been planted, and beehives are now set up in the orchard.
- A school-wide Steel Drum Concert was held, and for the first time, Kevin Martin led the kindergarten, first, and second-grade student bands.

## Friendsville Elementary

- The Mountain Laurel Garden Club partnered with FES by applying for different grants for planting projects at the school. These projects have offered not only natural beautification, but also ecological benefits to the students and the property.
- Partnered with Trout Unlimited to raise trout, monitor water quality, and release them in the spring in our native Youghiogheny River.
- Collaboratively completed activities with the Maryland Extension Office that encouraged students and families to explore that support lifelong health.
- Students explore the traditions of the area by tapping and collecting maple sap to make maple syrup.

## Grantsville Elementary

- Rylee Doerr - District 7 winner of "If I were Mayor" essay contest.
- Raised \$4,304.97 for the Great Strides Walk for Cindy's Fund #Team Wyatt.
- 1st Elementary Unified Bocce Champions (local and state winner).

## Route 40 Elementary

- Community Service Participation: Pint-Size Heroes Blood Drive, Kids Heart Challenge, Coins for Caring to benefit Route 40 Families.
- Held 2nd annual "The Long Stretch" 5K race to benefit local *Girls on the Run* programs.
- Updated the natural playground area in partnership with the University of Maryland Extension Office.

## Swan Meadow School

- first public charter school with a classical curriculum and heritage focus for Swan Meadow Heritage Charter School. Swan Meadow plans to make the charter transition in the 2025-2026 school year.
- shopping spree to purchase food for the local Maryland Food Bank - 20th year.
- students also do the St. Jude Children's Hospital Math-A-Thon each spring to help support the families whose children are diagnosed with cancer.



## Yough Glades Elementary

- Kaitlyn Bolyard was named the GCPS Teacher of the Year 2024-25.
- Implemented a special education inclusion model in order to promote acceptance, patience, and inclusion among special needs students and their peers.
- Conducted a needs assessment to identify assets and barriers.

## Northern Garrett Middle

- Northern Garrett Middle School Students Place Second in the Mars Innovation Challenge and attended the George Washington University for the Human to Mars Summit.
- Rebecca Breneman received national recognition for pioneering innovative classroom strategies while driving high expectations and student achievement.
- Five students represented Northern Middle School at the Maryland History Day competition at UMBC sponsored by the Maryland Humanities Council. They joined over 500 middle and high school students from across the state in showcasing their original documentary films, exhibits, and websites that reflect a year's worth of historical research on the National History Day theme "Turning Points in History."

## Northern Garrett High

- JROTC Field Trip to Washington DC/Arlington Cemetery.
- Girls Volleyball WestMAC Champions.
- Tennis CO-REGIONAL CHAMPIONS!!!! The Northern Huskies tied for WestMAC Champions at the Regional tournament held at Mountain Ridge.
- Lydia Nelson won the Gold Medal in the 1600-meter run at the MD State Track and Field Championships.

## Southern Garrett High

- Southern Lady Rams Basketball Team - State Runner Up. Carly Wilt won the 2024 Top Player Award for the MPSSAA Girls Basketball State Championships.
- Stock Market Game teams finish 6th and 7th out of 611 Teams nationwide.
- JROTC Archery finished first and Air Rifle finished second in the South Brunswick Classic.
- Miranda Martin wins 1st place in fiction and 2nd place in poetry at the Young Authors' Contest 2024.
- College Board AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award for the sixth consecutive year.

DECEMBER 2024						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

FEBRUARY 2025						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

# January 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31 New Year's Eve	<b>1</b> New Year's Day - Schools Closed Kwanzaa Ends Board Appreciation Month	<b>2</b> Hanukkah Ends Schools Reopen	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Board of Education Meeting - NGMS	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Staff Development - 3-Hour Early Dismissal	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>  Martin Luther King Jr. Day - GCPS Closed**	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> End of the 2nd Grading Period*	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Professional Day (workday, floating) - Three-hour early student dismissal	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Parent/Teacher Conf - Schools Closed Report Cards - Elementary Only*	<b>31</b> Report Cards - Secondary Only*	<b>1</b> Black History Month Children's Dental Month Heart Awareness Month Library Lover's Month



**January Focus: Move More and Eat Better in the New Year**  
**Character Traits of the Month: Fairness, Justice, and Equality**

**ASSESSMENTS:** 1/8/25-2/18/25 ACCESS for ELLs and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs (primary window) Grades K-12.  
 1/27/25-3/7/25 NAEP: English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics.  
 Select students in grades 4 and 8.

\*Dates may be adjusted due to inclement weather days.  
 \*\*May be used as a make-up day.

# Pre-K3, Pre-K4, Kindergarten

## Pre-Kindergarten for 3-year-olds

Our PK3 program is designed to provide your child with a nurturing and developmental learning environment. With a hands-on learning and socialization focus, your child will be well-prepared for the rest of their educational journey.

Enrollment in this program requires that your child be three years old by September 1st of the school year and be a resident of Garrett County. We encourage parents to apply as early as possible in an effort to secure a spot for their child (watch for the application period notice for the 2025-26 year).

Our experienced and dedicated teachers are excited to welcome your child to our program and provide them with a strong foundation for their future academic success. PK3 classes are currently offered at four different schools, serving both the northern and southern areas of the county. Take advantage of this excellent opportunity for your child by enrolling in our Pre-Kindergarten 3-year-old program today!



## Pre-Kindergarten for 4-year-olds

Our PK4 program is specifically designed to provide a constructive and educational environment for your child. By focusing on hands-on learning, socialization, and creativity, your child will develop a strong foundation for their future academic success.

At GCPS, we're proud to offer a unique opportunity for families with 4-year-olds. PK4 is an universal program. EVERY child who applies to our PK4 program will be offered a seat in one of our classrooms. We believe that every child deserves access to quality early childhood education, and we're committed to making that a reality.

Our experienced and dedicated teachers are passionate about helping your child reach their full potential. With small class sizes and individualized attention, we're able to provide a personalized learning experience that meets your child's unique needs. From reading and writing to math and science, we'll help your child build the skills they need to succeed.

Enrollment in our PK4 program is open to all 4-year-olds who are residents of Garrett County. We encourage parents to apply as early as possible to secure a spot for their child. PK4 is currently offered at six different schools, serving both the northern and southern areas of the county. Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity for your child by enrolling in our PK4 program today and give them foundational skills for a lifetime!

[www.gcps.net/enrollment](http://www.gcps.net/enrollment)

## Kindergarten for 5-year-olds

Our top-notch kindergarten program is designed to provide a nurturing and educational environment for your child, ensuring they are prepared for a successful academic journey.

Enrollment in our program requires that your child be five years old by September 1st of the school year and be a resident of Garrett County. By enrolling your child in our Kindergarten program, you'll be giving them the gift of a lifetime - a solid foundation for their future academic and personal success.

Our experienced and dedicated teachers are passionate about helping your child grow and develop, both academically and socially. From reading and writing to math and science, we provide a well-rounded education that will prepare your child for the challenges of the future.

Don't wait - enroll your child in our Kindergarten program today and give them the best possible start to their educational journey!



**to Enroll with GCPS!**

JANUARY 2025						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

MARCH 2025						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

# February 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	<b>1</b> Black History Month Children's Dental Month Heart Awareness Month Library Lover's Month
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
Groundhog Day	National School Counseling Week February 3-7, 2025					ACT Testing
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> International Day of Women and Girls in Science Board of Education Meeting - DREC	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>  Valentine's Day Staff Development 3-Hour Early Dismissal	<b>15</b> School Resource Officer/School Safety Employee Appreciation Day
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>  Presidents' Day - Schools Closed**	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
					Cool Schools Dunk ^	
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Progress Reports - 3rd Grading Period*	<b>1</b> Music In Our Schools Month National Nutrition Month Women's History Month



**February Focus: Meth Can Break a Heart. Choose Life.**  
**Character Traits of the Month: Trustworthiness, Honesty, and Sincerity**

**ASSESSMENTS:** 2/19/25-3/4/25 ACCESS for ELLs and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs (Make Up Window) Grades K-12  
 2/18/25-4/18/25 Maryland School Survey: Grades 5-11 and Instructional staff.

\*Dates may be adjusted due to inclement weather days.  
 \*\*May be used as a make-up day.  
 ^Date tentative at the time of calendar printing

# Assessment Programs

## Participation

All students have a legal right to be included to the fullest extent possible in all statewide and countywide assessment programs and to have their assessment results be a part of Maryland's accountability system entitled the **Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP)**. MCAP assessments provide information to educators, families, and the public on student progress toward proficiency on the Maryland state content standards.

The **Maryland Integrated Science Assessment (MISA)** is administered to students in grades 5 and 8. The science assessment is administered in March and requires approximately four hours of testing. The **Life Science Maryland Integrated Science Assessment (LS MISA)** is an end-of-course (EOC) exam. The LS MISA EOC exam will be incorporated into the student's course grade and will count for 20% of the final course grade. The student is not required to pass the EOC exam as a separate graduation requirement. However, students must successfully earn course credit once the exam grade is incorporated into the final grade. The test is administered in January, May, and during summer to all students completing the approved Biology course. The assessment requires approximately four hours of testing.

The **Government High School Assessment** is an end-of-course exam. The Government EOC exam will be incorporated into the student's final course grade. The exam will count for 20% of the final course grade. The student is not required to pass the EOC exam as a separate graduation requirement. However, students must successfully earn course credit once the exam grade is incorporated into the final grade for the course. The test is administered in January, May, and during summer to all students completing the designated Government course. The assessment requires approximately four hours of testing.

**MCAP English/Language Arts and Mathematics** are given in grades 3–8. In high school, MCAP is given in Algebra I, Geometry or Algebra II, and English grade 10. The assessments are directly connected to the Maryland College and Career Standards taught at each grade level. Graduation requirements and College and Career Readiness status are tied to the MCAP assessments and set by MSDE. The math assessment requires approximately four hours of testing and the English five hours.

The **MCAP Social Studies 8** assessment measures student knowledge of U.S. History from 1763-1890 and students' ability to: Evaluate the credibility of the sources by considering the authority, origin, type, context, and corroborative value of each source. Identify credible, relevant information contained in the sources. Construct arguments using claims and evidence from multiple sources. The assessment requires approximately four hours of testing.

**Dynamic Learning Maps® (DLM®) assessments** are designed for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities in ELA and Mathematics (grades 3-8 and high school) and in Science (grades 5, 8, and high school) for whom general state assessments are not appropriate, even with accommodations. Students who take DLM alternate assessments are instructed and assessed on Essential Elements. Essential Elements are grade-level-specific expectations about what students with the most significant cognitive disabilities should know and be able to do.

## 2024-2025 Assessments



**Garrett County Public Schools (GCPS) has achieved an average four-star rating across all schools for the 2023-24 school year. This achievement is a testament to the commitment of GCPS towards providing students with the best possible education. The dedication and hard work put in by the school system to achieve these high ratings is commendable. Such high ratings give confidence to parents that their children would receive a top-notch education at GCPS.**



*Garrett County Public Schools enrollment for the 2023-24 school year totaled 3,455 students.*

**FEBRUARY 2025**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

**APRIL 2025**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

# March 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
23	24	25	26	27	28	<b>1</b> Women's History Month National Nutrition Month Music in Our Schools Month
<b>2</b> Read Across America Day	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Maintenance Worker and Employee Appreciation Day	<b>8</b> SAT Testing
National School Breakfast Week March 3-7, 2025						
School Social Work Week March 2-8, 2025						
<b>9</b> Daylight Saving Time Begins	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Board of Education Meeting - NGMS	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Pi Day	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>  St. Patrick's Day	<b>18</b> World Social Work Day	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>  First Day of Spring	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>  Maryland Day	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>		Staff Development 3-Hour Early Dismissal			



**March Focus:** Get Your Plate in Shape for National Nutrition Month  
**Character Traits of the Month:** Courage and Facing Challenges

**ASSESSMENTS:** 3/3/25-3/21/25 Science (MISA) Grades 5 & 8 (Pearson)  
 3/3/25-4/25/25 SAT School Day Administration  
 3/10/25-5/16/25 DLM Alternate Assessments: Grades 5, 8, 11 (Science),  
 Grades 3-8 and 11 (ELA and Mathematics)

\*\*May be used as a make-up day.

# Community Involvement

## Parent Community Involvement

Garrett County Public Schools recognizes that a student's education is a responsibility held jointly by the school, family, and community. Only through cooperative, collaborative, and supportive efforts can our mission of schooling be achieved for all students. Through these efforts, we can enhance the quality of life in our community and contribute to its development.

GCPS will encourage and invite parents to participate in the education of their students by:

1. Affording opportunities for input into the decision/policy-making process,
2. Inviting parents and parent groups to participate in Board of Education meetings,
3. Naming parents to serve on standing and ad hoc committees,
4. Encouraging activity in these five major types of parent involvement:

- Communication between home and school on programs and student progress;
- Learning activities at home;
- Basic obligations of families, parenting skills, and home conditions to support learning;
- Volunteer opportunities; and
- School decision-making, including governance, committee work, and parent organizations.

Parents may also serve on various advisory committees. These committees meet periodically throughout the school year on a defined schedule or as needed.



*Student and coaches participate in the 2024 inaugural Elementary Unified Bocce Tournament.*

## School Improvement Teams

GCPS encourages the participation of parents and others in the community in the education of students through involvement in school decision-making. To this end, the Board of Education directs the Superintendent to establish a School Improvement Team (SIT) in each public school in Garrett County. The function of the SIT will be to actively assist in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of the educational program at each school.

Membership on the SIT is to include school staff, parents, and community members (including a representative of the Parent-Teacher Association or other parent organizations). The tenure of membership on the SIT is left to the discretion of each school.



*Left: Accident Elem. students participate in the Husky Pup STEAM CAMP 2024*

## School Visitations

GCPS encourages visitations in our schools by patrons and the public. These visits can and should serve students primarily as a constructive vehicle for both school personnel and the visitors. To ensure that the program of all students is kept in major focus during this process, visitors are asked to observe the following procedures when visiting schools:

1. Ring the bell for clearance through the school's security. Sign the appropriate sheet at the principal's office to receive an identification label authorizing your presence in the building (Valid ID required).
2. Relate to the principal, or his/her designee, where and/or why you want to visit in order to ensure that the activities of interest are scheduled at a proper time and location.
3. Refrain from interrupting the instructional process in any way.
4. If you have questions relative to the teaching observed insofar as purpose, content, methodology, etc., you should air these questions at a mutually agreeable, private conference period with the teacher. If your concern is urgent in nature, the principal may be available to give some immediate understanding of the situation. If your concern persists, a parent-teacher-principal conference should be requested relative to the problem.
5. The best approach for parents and school personnel is to always keep conferences child-centered. Follow the belief that we all have the best interests of students in mind.
6. Unauthorized visitors or disruptive behavior on the part of visitors will be addressed by school personnel to ensure the educational rights of all students.



*Left: Southern High School Students pose with their trophy for winning the 2023-24 GCPS Envirothon*

**MARCH 2025**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

# April 2025

**MAY 2025**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	<b>1</b> National Autism Awareness Month April Fools' Day National Volunteer Month End of the 3rd Grading Period*	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>  Paraprofessional Appreciation Day	<b>4</b>  School Librarian Appreciation Day	<b>5</b>  ACT Testing Robotics Week
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> World Health Day	<b>8</b> Board of Education Meeting - DREC Report Cards - 3rd Grading Period*	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Staff Development 3-Hour Early Dismissal	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>  Passover Begins
National Assistant Principal Week April 7-11, 2025						
National Robotics Week April 5-12, 2025						
<b>13</b>  Palm Sunday	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>  Tax Day	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>  Good Friday - Schools Closed	<b>19</b>
Passover April 12-20, 2025						
<b>20</b> Easter Sunday  Last Day of Passover	<b>21</b> Easter Monday - GCPS Closed**	<b>22</b>  Earth Day School Bus Driver Appreciation Day	<b>23</b>  Administrative Professionals Day	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>  Arbor Day	<b>26</b> Prescription Takeback Day  Student Arts Fair
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b> School Principal's Day First Day of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Mental Health Awareness Month	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>



**April Focus: Marijuana & Youth: A Bad Combination; April is School Library Media Month; Character Traits of the Month: Respect and Courtesy**

**ASSESSMENTS:** 4/7/25-5/30/25 Spring Administration (Pearson) MCAP English Language Arts (ELA): Grades 3-8 and 10. MCAP Mathematics: Grades 3-8, Algebra I, Algebra II, and Geometry. 4/28/25-5/30/25 Spring Administration (Cognia) High School End of Course (EOC) Government and LS MISA.

\*Dates may be adjusted due to inclement weather days.

\*\*May be used as a make-up day.

# Health Services

## Immunizations

All students enrolling/enrolled in the Garrett County Public Schools must provide documentation of immunity or age-appropriate immunizations using the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene form #896, "Maryland Immunization Certificate," or computer-generated documentation completed by their healthcare provider or by the local health officer.

A school principal or other person in charge of a school may not knowingly admit a student to, or retain a student in, a preschool program through the twelfth grade of the school who has not furnished evidence of age-appropriate immunizations against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, poliomyelitis, measles (rubeola), rubella (German measles), mumps, Hepatitis B, and Varicella (chickenpox) and Meningitis.

To attend 7th grade, students must show proof of a single dose of Tdap and Meningococcal vaccines.

## Administering Medicines to Students

In general, the administration of medication to students while they are in school is discouraged. Treatment schedules that allow doses to be given at times other than during school hours are preferred and encouraged. However, when in the opinion of the prescribing health care practitioner, it is necessary for the best interest of the student that medication be given during school hours. Such medication may be administered according to school system procedures. Written orders from the authorized prescriber and written parental consent for the administration of prescription medication must accompany the medication to be administered. (Medication order forms are available at the schools or on the GCPS website.) The medication must be brought to the school by the parent/guardian and be in the original prescription container. Only the authorized prescriber may direct the school to discontinue the medication.

## Comprehensive Health Screening

Garrett County Public Schools, in cooperation with the Lions Club, will provide vision and hearing screening to the following students: Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten, First, Eighth, and new students and referrals.

Screening procedures will include the following —

1. Informing staff and parent/guardian in advance of dates, times, and procedures.
2. Accepting referrals from a teacher/principal/counselor and/or from a parent/guardian.
3. Documentation of screening results on SR5.
4. Reporting of students who failed screenings to parents/guardians and the Department of Student Services.

## Tobacco-Free School Environment

Garrett County Public Schools recognizes that tobacco use in any form poses a serious health threat to community members. The school system also recognizes the importance of preventing youth tobacco use by endorsing healthy role models in a tobacco-free environment. Therefore, the sale or use of tobacco in any form, including e-cigarettes, is prohibited on Board of Education owned/leased property (buildings, grounds, and vehicles) at all times by anyone.



*Above, school nurse Anna Anderson from Broad Ford is assisting a student.*

## Play Hard, Live Clean

Play Hard Live Clean (PHLC) is a campaign started by the Garrett County Drug-Free Communities Coalition based on research demonstrating that if a young person arrives at age 21 without smoking, abusing alcohol, or using drugs, they are virtually certain never to do so. PHLC encourages youth to make good choices by recognizing and rewarding them for certain positive lifestyle accomplishments from kindergarten through graduation.

### PHLC for Elementary School

In the elementary schools in Garrett County, all students are invited to complete three challenges to earn either a gold, silver, or bronze medal. The challenges relate to physical activity, healthy eating, and mindfulness. If students complete one of the challenges, they are awarded a bronze medal; 2 challenges earns a silver medal; and 3 challenges earns a gold medal. Every student who has participated annually is recognized with a certificate at fifth grade graduation.

### PHLC for Middle School

All middle school students are invited to complete four challenges, each of which is designed to motivate students to practice selected healthy lifestyle behaviors with the longer-term goal of turning them into habits. The focus of the middle school challenges is on physical activity, fruits and vegetables, water, and kindness. The campaign is implemented as a competition for participation between classes and schools. PHLC shirts are awarded to the classroom with the highest participation per challenge per school. At the end of the school year, the middle school with the highest overall cumulative participation receives recognition.

### PHLC for High School

The PHLC campaign at the high school level is administered almost entirely online. High school students register and complete a pre-survey followed by monthly activities that participants earn points for completing. The monthly activities provide education and reinforcement about positive health choices. Prizes are awarded monthly to random students who complete activities. Scholarships are also awarded to a senior at each high school and selection is partially based on cumulative points.

**APRIL 2025**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

**JUNE 2025**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

# May 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	<b>1</b> School Principal's Day First Day of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Mental Health Awareness Month	<b>2</b>  School Lunch Hero Day	<b>3</b>  SAT Testing
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>  Cinco de Mayo	<b>6</b> Progress Reports - 4th Grading Period* Teacher Appreciation Day	<b>7</b> National School Nurse Day	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
		Teacher Appreciation Week May 5-9, 2025				
		National Nurses Week May 6-12, 2025				
<b>11</b>  Mother's Day	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
National Nurses Week May 6-12, 2025		Board of Education Meeting - NGMS				Armed Forces Day
<b>18</b>  National Speech Pathologist Day	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>  Memorial Day - Schools Closed	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>  High School Graduation Ceremonies
		Staff Development - 3-Hour Early Dismissal				



**May Focus:** Keep asking. Keep talking. Prevent underage drinking.

**Character Traits of the Month:** Cooperation and Teamwork

**ASSESSMENTS:** 5/5/25-5/30/25 Social Studies 8

\*Dates may be adjusted due to inclement weather days.

# Hickory

## Hickory Environmental Educational Center

Hickory Environmental Education Center fulfills the environmental learning requirement for Garrett County Public Schools' students. All students in grades K through Eighth visit Hickory twice each year. High school students in Environmental Science, Biology, Chemistry, Earth Science, and Physical Science complete lessons at Hickory once each semester. Hickory Environmental Education Center is located on 77 wooded acres behind Northern Middle/High Schools, as part of the Northern Garrett Educational Complex. Hickory includes a nature hall with animal exhibits, a 68-seat planetarium, dorms, and trails. Hickory Environmental Education Center was awarded the 2019-20 Maryland Green Center status for the 4th time (2007, 2011, and 2015 previously) by the Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education (MAEOE) and is now a Sustainable Green Center.



Above: Students feed a turtle in the Nature Hall of the Hickory Environmental Educational Center.

## Nature Hall

Hickory's Nature Hall includes live animals, as well as many animal mounts. Science teacher Mrs. Rebecca Kenyon-Sisler uses the nature hall exhibits, experiments, trails, and demonstrations to fulfill the environmental literacy requirements for each GCPS student.



Above: Students on a field trip to the Hickory Environmental Educational Center receive a lesson from Mr. Jason Shank,

## Planetarium

Hickory's planetarium is a 68-seat tilted dome with a Spitz 1024 starball system and a Warped Media full-dome digital display. Students learn earth and space science from Mr. Jason Shank, administrator/planetarium teacher, and hopefully develop an interest in astronomy and the night sky.

**MAY 2025**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

**JULY 2025**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

# June 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b>  National Safety Month	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>  Three-Hour Early Dismissal*	<b>6</b> D-Day Students' Last Day/ Three-Hour Early Dismissal* End of the 4th Grading Period*	<b>7</b>  SAT Testing
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>  Teachers' Last Day Professional Day*	<b>10**</b>  Board of Education Meeting - DREC	<b>11**</b>	<b>12**</b>	<b>13**</b>  Report Cards 4th Grading Period*	<b>14</b>   Flag Day ACT Testing
<b>15</b>  Father's Day	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>  Juneteenth	<b>20</b>  First Day of Summer	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	1	2	3	4	5



**June Focus:** Save face. Don't use smokeless tobacco.  
**Character Traits of the Month:** Self-Discipline and Control

\*Dates may be adjusted due to inclement weather days.  
 \*\*May be used as a make-up day.

# Specialized Programs

## CTE Programming

### MISSION

The mission of the Garrett County Career & Technology Programs is to provide education for all students that prepare them for high-skill and high-wage jobs in a technologically advanced, global society. The CTE programs are designed to prepare students for employment, further training, or both. The overall impact of the CTE programs, Career Development system, and School-to-Careers work-based learning opportunities are to improve preparation for technical and other careers, expanded career opportunities, provision effective development for all students, and the expansion of regional access to post-secondary education, further training, and employment for all students.

### WHAT MAKES US SPECIAL?

Our Career Technology programs are a fully integrated part of our comprehensive high school educational system. These programs are available to all students who choose them regardless of race, sex, age, color, religious belief, national origin, or handicapping condition. Students enter career and technology programs through the elective process in the same manner as they do for other electives. Career and technology programs should be of such quality that training will enable students to enter entry-level employment and/or further education. Career and technology education will contribute to a student's general education and by doing so enable the student to better cope with the demands of the workforce as well as the demands of living. We are currently working on new certification and credential opportunities to enhance our existing programs, and are always looking to add new opportunities for our students where possible.

## Robotics

### ADVOCATING AND PRACTICING STEM IN GARRETT COUNTY

The F.I.R.S.T. Robotics Competition (FRC) Team 1629 - the Garrett Coalition or GaCo for short, is composed of students from Northern and Southern Garrett High Schools who build robots for competition. More importantly, they advocate and practice STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) in our community. Our mission is to provide each student in Garrett County with the catalyst required to develop skills that are essential to be successful in STEM.

The team's ultimate goal is to achieve the vision of F.I.R.S.T. - "To transform our culture by creating a world where science and technology are celebrated and where young people dream of becoming science and technology leaders."

We do this by creating an environment for our students to be mentored by STEM professionals and forming partnerships with other organizations to achieve common goals and objectives. Our most effective method of evangelizing youth for STEM is something inspiring in itself.



## Title I

### Title I Overview

Title I is a federal program designed to provide support to students, Pre-K to 5, in the areas of Reading and Math. Supplemental funding is made available to qualifying schools according to Free and Reduced Meal (FARMS) eligibility.

### Title I Mission

Parents, families, educators, and community members work together as partners, sharing the accountability and desire to improve the achievement of all students.

### Underlying Principles

To achieve our mission, we embrace these principles:

- Parents, families, educators, and communities are mutually accountable for increasing parental involvement in student achievement. This is a shared responsibility monitored and reported yearly to the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE).
- Schools maintain a welcoming environment.
- Ongoing training is provided by the local system to enable parents and educators to be full partners.
- Schools respond to the needs of our diverse parents, families, and communities.



JUNE 2025						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

# July 2025

AUGUST 2025						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	1	2	3	4  Independence Day	5
6	7	8  Board of Education Meeting - NGMS	9	10	11	12  ACT Testing
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1	2



July Focus: Be Active!

**ASSESSMENTS:** 7/21/25-8/1/25 Summer Administration for ELA 10 and Algebra I (Pearson) High School End of Course (EOC) Government and LS MISA (Cognia).

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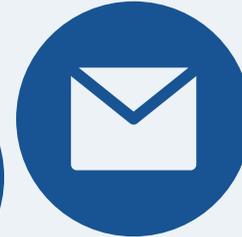
Garrett County  
Public Schools



301.334.8900



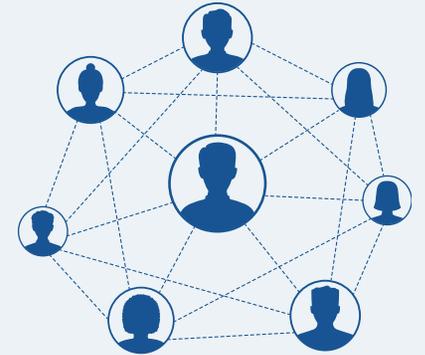
770 Dennett Road  
Oakland, MD 21550



public.info@gcps.net



www.gcps.net



JULY 2025						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAUNDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

SEPTEMBER 2025						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAUNDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

# August 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9 Book Lovers Day
10	11	12 Board of Education Meeting - DREC	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						



August Focus: National Immunization Month  
 Character Traits of the Month: Self-Discipline and Control



**GCPS Switchboard**  
301.334.8900  
301.334.7621 - Fax  
**IT Helpdesk**  
888.285.7254

# Directory

## Elementary - Northern Area

**Accident Elementary** [PK3-5th Grades]  
Jessica Fratz, Principal  
301.746.8863

**Grantsville Elementary** [PK3-5th Grades]  
Tracie Miller, Principal  
301.895.5173

**Friendsville Elementary** [PK4-5th]  
James Friend, Principal  
301.746.5100

**Route 40 Elementary** [PK3-5th Grades]  
Jacqueline Hawkins,  
Principal  
301.689.6132

## Elementary - Southern Area

**Broad Ford Elementary** [PK3-6th Grades]  
Rachel Wise, Principal  
Zachary Krisher and  
Mitchell Hall,  
Assistant Principals  
301.334.9445

**Swan Meadow School** [K-8th Grades]  
Erica Foley,  
Teaching Principal  
301.334.2059

**Yough Glades Elementary** [PK4-5th Grades]  
Anne Ross, Principal  
301.334.3334

**Crellin Elementary** [K-5th Grades]  
Dana McCauley, Principal  
301.334.4704

## Northern Educational Complex

David Yoder, Principal  
NGMS 301.746.8165 - NGHS 301.746.8668

**Northern Garrett Middle** [6th-8th Grades]  
Tony Lancianesse,  
Assistant Principal  
301.746.8165

**Northern Garrett High** [9th-12th Grades]  
Brian Schilpp,  
Assistant Principal  
301.746.8668

### Hickory Environmental Center

Jason Shank,  
Assistant Principal  
301.746.8461

## Secondary Southern Area

**Southern Garrett High** [7th-12th Grades]  
Ryan Wolf, Principal  
Steve Skipper and Miranda Gallager  
Assistant Principals  
301.334.9447

## Central Office - South

### Office of the Superintendent

Brenda McCartney, Superintendent  
Karen Brewer, Executive Assistant  
301.334.8901

Michael Bittinger, Manager of Safety & Security  
301.334.7986

Mark Greene, Manager Communications/Public Relations  
301.334.8931

### Finance

Gloria Smith, Director  
Robyn Bagley, Finance Clerk  
301.334.8923

### Human Resources/Certification

Jane Wildesen, Director  
Angela Flanigan, Manager  
Rebecca Sleeman, Generalist  
301.334.8929

### Technology and Cybersecurity

Jeff Gank, Director  
Tyler Rodeheaver, IT Technician  
301.334.8900 ext. 1361

### Student Services

John Hummel, Director  
Lindsey Strubin, Pupil Personnel Worker  
Rebecca Aiken, Nurse Manager  
301.334.8900 ext. 8955

Sloane Howe, Administrative Assistant  
301.334.8926

### System Operations

Richard Wesolowski, Director  
Ronald Bray, Supervisor of Transportation  
Scott Germain, Supervisor of Food & Nutrition Services  
Matt Zimmerman, Coordinator of Maintenance  
Larry Carr, Manager of Operations  
Mindy Durst, Operations Administrative Assistant  
301.334.8907

Cheryl Nesselrodt, FNS Administrative Assistant  
301.334.8918

Missi Nesselrodt, Maintenance Administrative Assistant  
301.334.7650

## Central Office - North

### Chief Academic Officer

Nicole Miller  
Glenna Whetsell, Administrative Assistant  
301.334.8936

### Elementary Education

Dawna Ashby, Director  
Tonya Sanders-Manges, Administrative Assistant  
301.334.8927

### Secondary Education

Paul Edwards, Director  
Cathy Dom, Administrative Assistant  
301.334.8913

### Resource Center

Chuck Trautwein, Computer Resource Teacher  
301.334.8909

### Supervisors of Instruction

Candy Maust, Elementary  
301.334.7656

Amy Warnick, Secondary  
301.914.1362

### Special Education

Chelsie Manges, Director  
Brooks Elliott, Coordinator of Special Programs  
Doug Copeland, Deneice Crites, Melissa Davis, and  
Susie Henline - IEP Coordinators  
Dawn Eichorn, Administrative Assistant  
301.334.7653

### Title I

Janet Gregory, Coordinator  
301.334.8900 ext. 8956



**Full Staff Directory**  
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# Recognitions of Students, Staff, and Programs in Garrett County





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**Dennett Road Educational Complex**

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