



DISTRICT 9 SCHOOL NEWS YOU CAN USE!

CHANDRAI "CJ" JACKSON-SAUNDERS | PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION | DISTRICT 9



Dear District 9 Community,

District 9 School News You Can Use is a newsletter created to keep District 9 residents informed about the work, priorities, and progress of our schools.

My name is Chandrai "CJ" Jackson-Saunders, and I am honored to serve as your recently appointed representative to the Prince George's County Board of Education for District 9. I am a retired educator and Nationally Certified School Psychologist with more than 35 years of experience supporting students, families, and school communities.

Throughout my professional life, I have worked to strengthen PreK-12 education by advancing early academic intervention, improving special education systems, and promoting student mental health and well-being as essential foundations for learning. As a longtime resident and active community member in Prince George's County, I understand the strengths and opportunities within District 9 and remain deeply committed to ensuring that every student – regardless of zip code, background, or circumstance – has access to high-quality instruction, safe learning environments, and meaningful pathways to college, career, and civic success.

I look forward to working in partnership with families, educators, and community stakeholders as we continue building strong schools and expanding opportunities for every student in District 9.

[Press Release: Chandrai "CJ" Jackson-Saunders, M.Ed., CAGS, NCSP, Appointed as District 9 Representative to the PGCBOE](#)

DISTRICT 9 SCHOOLS

Accokeek Academy

Baden Elementary

Brandywine Elementary

Clinton Grove Elementary

CMIT Academy South
Elementary Public Charter

CMIT Academy South
Middle High Public Charter

Ft. Washington Forest Elementary

Francis T. Evans Elementary

Frederick Douglass High

Gwynn Park High

Gwynn Park Middle

Imagine Andrews
Public Charter

James Madison Middle

Marlton Elementary

Mattaponi Elementary

Melwood Elementary

Non-traditional Program South

Rosaryville Elementary

Stephen Decatur Middle

Surrattsville High

Waldon Woods Elementary

William S. Schmidt
Outdoor Education Center

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH SPOTLIGHT

2026 Theme | Leading the Change: Women Shaping a Sustainable Future

PGCPS: JESSICA JACKSON

Jessica Jackson, our Professional School Counselor, is worthy of honor for her dedication to supporting the social, emotional, and academic well-being of our scholars. She builds strong relationships with students, staff, and families, creating a supportive school community. Her compassion, advocacy, and commitment ensure every child, parent, and staff feels valued, heard, and supported.



COMMUNITY: KATHY MASON



Kathy Mason is a visionary in the field of sustainable agriculture and architecture whose work is helping shape a more environmentally conscious future for Prince George's County. As the founder of Marcellus Farms, she brings together sustainable living and agriculture, combining modern design principles with environmentally responsible farming practices. Drawing on her background in Building Construction and Urban & Regional Planning, Mason creates spaces that thoughtfully connect people, land, and the built environment while reimagining how communities can live and thrive in harmony with the land and strengthen local agriculture across the county.

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PG COUNTY RESIDENTS WANT THIER TAX \$ TO WORK FOR SCHOOLS & SCHOLARS

FIRST: Strong classroom instruction must remain the top priority. Every school deserves qualified teachers and the classroom support necessary to provide stable, high-quality learning environments for students.

SECOND: Student well-being remains essential to academic success. The budget discussions include coental health, school safety, and the social needs of our students.

THIRD: Prince George's County must continue implementing the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, Maryland's major education reform initiative. This requires sustained investments in early childhood education, teacher development, and programs designed to strengthen literacy, mathematics achievement, and college and career readiness.

FOURTH: The school system is experiencing rising operational costs, including transportation, utilities, and employee benefits. Responsible budgeting requires making sure these pressures do not divert resources away from classrooms and students.

FINALLY: Accountability is critical. Families deserve confidence that every dollar invested in education produces measurable benefits for students and strengthens our schools. As the District 9 Board of Education member appointed by the County Executive and unanimously confirmed by the County Council, I will continue working closely with county leadership to ensure our schools receive the resources they need while maintaining strong oversight of how those resources are used.

Stay Connected..

I welcome hearing directly from District 9 families about your concerns and ideas. Your input helps ensure that the decisions we make reflect the needs of the community we serve.



STATE SUPERINTENDENT ANNOUNCES CHAIR OF PGCPS SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH COMMITTEE

State Superintendent of Schools Dr. Carey M. Wright has appointed Dr. James C. Bell, Jr., a member of the State Board of Education, to chair the superintendent search committee for Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS), alongside Jennifer Avelar and Gordon L. Sampson, both appointed by Governor Wes Moore.

Dr. Shawn Joseph will continue serving as Interim Superintendent through June 30, 2026, following his June 2025 appointment by County Executive Aisha N. Braveboy. Under state law, the County Executive must select a superintendent between February 1 and June 1 from three candidates recommended by the search committee, with the Board of Education finalizing the appointment by June 30, subject to State Superintendent approval.

The search committee includes one State Board member appointed by the State Superintendent and two Prince George's County residents appointed by the Governor; the State Superintendent designates the chair.

PRESS RELEASE HERE: <https://news.maryland.gov/msde/pgcps-search-committee/>



YOUR OPINION, PLEASE:
The Search for the Superintendent of Prince George's County Public Schools
(Click Here)

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MARCH | APRIL CALENDAR

COFFEE & COURAGEOUS CONVERSATIONS
with **CJ SAUNDERS**
PRINCE GEORGE'S BOARD OF EDUCATION
DISTRICT 9 BOARD MEMBER



9:00 AM TO 11:00 AM

APRIL 4, 2026

MCDONALD'S SWAN CREEK
996 E SWAN CREEK RD
FORT WASHINGTON, MD, 20744

APRIL 25, 2026

MCDONALD'S STUART LANE
8905 STUART LN
CLINTON, MD 20735

Join District 9 Board of Education Member Chandrai "CJ" Jackson-Saunders for Courageous Conversations —an open community dialogue about our schools. Your voice, questions, and ideas matter as we work together to strengthen education across Prince George's County.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
cj.jacksonsaunders@pgcps.org
301.952.6115

MARCH | APRIL ACADEMIC CALENDAR

IMPORTANT UPDATE:

Friday, March 27, 2026 will now be a full day of school for all students. PGcps has already scheduled makeup days for March, May, and June. On March 24, the Maryland State Board of Education will decide whether to grant PGcps a waiver. Based on that decision, the PGcps Board of Education will choose a path forward during the March 26, 2026 Board Meeting.

Monday, March 30, 2026 – Monday, April 6, 2026
Spring Break/Easter Holidays – Schools Closed for Students & Teachers

Thursday, April 30, 2026
[3rd Quarter Report Cards Released ONLINE](#)

MARCH | APRIL BOE MEETINGS

Thursday, March 26, 2026
BOE Business Meeting – [AGENDA](#)
7:00 PM (ET) OPEN SESSION

Wednesday, April 8, 2026
BOE Parent Community Advisory Council
7:00 PM (ET) [VIRTUAL MTG](#)

Monday, April 13, 2026
BOE Audit Committee Meeting
6:00 PM (ET) [VIRTUAL MTG](#)

Tuesday, April 14, 2026
BOE Policy & Governance
Committee Meeting
5:00 PM (ET) [VIRTUAL MTG](#)

Thursday, April 16, 2026
BOE Work Session – [AGENDA HERE](#)
5:30 PM (ET)

Monday, April 20, 2026
BOE Academic Achievement
Committee Meeting
5:30 PM (ET) [VIRTUAL MTG](#)

Tuesday, April 21, 2026
BOE Disability Issues Advisory Board
6:00 PM (ET) [VIRTUAL MTG](#)

Wednesday, April 22, 2026
BOE Operations, Budget & Fiscal Affairs
Committee Meeting
5:30 PM (ET) [VIRTUAL MTG](#)

Thursday, April 23, 2026
BOE Business Meeting – [AGENDA](#)
7:00 PM (ET) OPEN SESSION

Wednesday, April 29, 2026
BOE Climate Change Action Plan
Ad Hoc Committee
4:30 PM (ET) – [VIRTUAL MEETING](#)

To Participate in April 23rd BOE OPEN SESSION: [REGISTER HERE](#)

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AROUND THE DISTRICT...



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IMAGE 1: Join me in honoring the more than 400 Safety & Security Professionals whose daily work keeps students and school communities safe. The celebration included scholarships sponsored by The Hotel at the University of Maryland, The Lucian Company, and Safeway of Brandywine.

IMAGES 2 & 3: Reading with children is one of the most powerful ways we can support their learning and spark their imagination. I was grateful for the opportunity to celebrate Read Across America with the students at Easterseals and share in the joy that books bring to young readers. Moments like these remind us that encouraging a love of reading early helps children build confidence, curiosity, and a lifelong path of learning.

YOUTH SUMMER JOBS & INTERNSHIPS

Students ages 14-22 can apply for paid work opportunities through the county. Prince George's County Summer Youth Enrichment Program
[APPLY OR LEARN MORE: HERE](#)

CAREER TRAINING & WORKFORCE PROGRAMS

Students and young adults can access internships, job training, and certification programs.
[EMPLOY PRINCE GEORGE'S WEBSITE: HTTPS://WWW.EMPLOYPG.ORG](https://www.employpg.org)

SCHOLARSHIPS & FINANCIAL AID RESOURCES

Students preparing for college can search for scholarships and financial aid programs.
[MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION WEBSITE:HTTPS://MHEC.MARYLAND.GOV](https://mhec.maryland.gov)

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AROUND THE DISTRICT...



IMAGE 4: Board Member Jackson-Saunders hosts constituents at District 27 Night in Annapolis

IMAGE 5: BM Jackson-Saunders speaks before members of the Prince George's County Council

IMAGE 6: BM Jackson-Saunders meeting with the Baden Community at the Community's Rural Tier Meeting.

IMAGE 7: BM Jackson-Saunders joins County Executive Braveboy at PGCPS Advocacy Day in Annapolis!

IMAGE 8: BM Jackson-Saunders joins Governor Wes Moore at D9 School Ft. Washington Forest Elementary School



DISTRICT 9 OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS IN OUR COMMUNITY

Students across District 9 have access to a wide range of opportunities beyond the classroom, including youth employment programs, internships, tutoring resources, scholarships, and leadership development initiatives. Families are encouraged to explore these programs and take advantage of the opportunities available throughout Prince George's County.

2026 SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY!

Deadline to Submit: May 22, 2026

Applicant must be an incoming freshman, continuing and/or transfer student at an accredited 2-year or 4-year institution in the United States. For a complete list of requirements, please visit the NEF scholarship website.

APPLY TODAY!

sgrnationaleducationfund.org/scholarships

SIGMA GAMMA RHO SCHOLARSHIP: Applicants for awards must be incoming freshmen, continuing and/or transfer students at an accredited 2-year or 4-year institution in the United States. They must be planning to enroll in undergraduate or graduate courses of study. The minimum cumulative G.P.A. for a scholarship award is 2.5. Recipients will be selected on the basis of financial need, academic and personal merit, as well as demonstrated involvement within their respective community.

[SGR SCHOLARSHIP LINK HERE](https://sgrnationaleducationfund.org/scholarships)

LINK: LEAP SCHOLARSHIP

Scholarships to HELP you Succeed.

Apply for a LEAP Forward, Inc. scholarship by April 4th.

www.leapforwardsscholarship.org

DELEGATE JAMILA WOODS
DISTRICT 26 | PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

LEGISLATIVE SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship is awarded to students from District 26 who currently attend or are planning to attend one of the many outstanding colleges or universities in Maryland

- Live in Prince George's County, District 26
- Have completed the FAFSA form
- Currently attend or plan to attend a college in Maryland

Scan for Application Link!

APPLICATIONS ARE DUE BY APRIL 30

Delegate Jamila Woods invites District 26 students to apply for the 2025 Legislative Scholarship, open to students who live in Prince George's County District 26, have completed the FAFSA, and currently attend or plan to attend a Maryland college or university. Applications are due April 30, and while the flyer includes a QR code for quick access, students can also apply using the direct link here: <http://bit.ly/4aFye6l>



The Alpha Alpha Sigma Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® of Brandywine, Maryland is honored to support graduating seniors in District 9 by awarding an academic scholarship to students who exemplify academic achievement, leadership, and a commitment to serving their community.

Application Deadline: March 31, 2026 at 11:59pm
Please be sure to carefully review all requirements. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

[CLICK HERE 2026 AASO SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION](#)

QUESTIONS:
Please contact the Scholarship Committee Chairman via e-mail at ScholarshipCommittee.aaso@gmail.com.

OR VISIT: https://aaso.clubexpress.com/2026_Scholarship