

Community Room Coffee
October 8, 2025

- Construction Updates/Questions
 - When will the new playground area be completed?
 - Very soon! The construction team is in the final phases of construction on the playground. The site will then be reviewed by MNPS prior to authorization for use. We are hoping things will be completed shortly after we return from Fall Break.
 - Are there any plans to add an awning or roof over the drop-off and pick-up area?
 - No, the design of the project does not include an extended awning or roof over the car rider drop off and pick-up area. This is partially a safety issue with accessing 2nd floor windows and classrooms, as well as design feature that we do not want students to be waiting outside under an awning during pick up and drop off times.
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- School Support Procedures and Personnel
 - Is there a community fund where families can request support for things like yearbook purchases or after care?
 - There is not a formal community fund, but we do have a community of staff and parents that want to support any family in need.
 - For school-based needs, families can reach out to their teacher, one of our school counselors, or administration.
 - The before and after care program, Tiger Club, operates as an independent organization from the school. Tiger Club families in need of support are encouraged to reach out to Tiger Club leadership if they are in need of support.
- School Safety and Security Questions
 - Are there personnel at the school specifically to support school security?
 - There is a full-time safety ambassador at Percy Priest. This role is designed to actively supervise campus and support the consistent regular implementation of our security procedures.
 - What steps would parents or the school community need to take in order to secure a full-time armed officer presence at our school? For example, is this a decision that comes from the district, local law enforcement, or through additional funding measures? And if funding is the barrier, are there opportunities for parents or the community to help support this?
 - School Resource Officer positions exist as a partnership between MNPS and MNPd. MNPS does not have a full-time school resource officer for elementary schools. Through our school budgeting system, the school and the PTO are only able to fund positions approved by the district. Given that this is not an approved position, the school and/or PTO are not able to fund a School Resource Officer.

- What additional safety and security features are there in the new building?
 - The building is equipped with state of the art safety features. There are three times the security cameras throughout the building and property compared to the old building. The audio enhancement devices worn by the teachers include a panic button feature that can be used in the event of a medical or other type of emergency.
- Where should I go if I want to learn more about safety and security or want to speak to someone else about it?
 - Our School Board Representative, Erin O'Hara Block, is a great resource. She can be reached by email at erin.block@mnps.org or by phone at 615-200-8683.
- How are teachers trained for safety and security?
 - Teachers receive C.R.A.S.E. (Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events) training prior to the beginning of each school year. When safety drills are performed they are as realistic as possible for teachers and staff. Students are age-appropriately involved in the drills. Our safety ambassador supervises all drills to ensure they are performed to policy. The admin team reviews the drill and determines how long it took to secure the building and population. During the last drill, it took 26 seconds to complete lockdown.
- Is it true that the SRO (School Resource Officer) position is not approved at PPE?
 - Yes, it would need to be approved at a district-wide level. MNPS middle schools and high schools are currently approved for SROs.
- Is there a possibility of bringing in a third party to offer more training for teachers and staff?
 - Not at this time. MNPd and SROs provide the training and it is important for that training to be uniform across the district.
- How fast is the emergency response time?
 - While we have a consistent MNPd presence with Officer Thomas (and other MNPd officers) and MNPS School Security patrols response times have been very quick in the past. We are located 2.8 miles from the nearest fire station.
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- PTO Questions
 - Is there communication between the different PTOs within the cluster?
 - Yes, we meet annually and have open lines of communication. There is also good communication among the principals of the cluster.
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- International Baccalaureate (IB) Program
 - What is the IB program and what is the school's timeline for implementation?
 - The International Baccalaureate (IB) is a globally recognized framework for pre-K-12. The program is separated into a Primary Years Program, Middle Years Program, and Diploma Program.

- The IB framework is designed to develop students as active, caring lifelong learners who think critically, act responsibly, and see themselves as part of both their local and global communities.
 - It is not a set curriculum, but rather it's a framework for schools to use to design learning experiences for students.
 - We are currently in the early stages of IB adoption. As part of the Hillsboro High School Cluster Identity as an IB cluster, our goal is to be a full IB school by the 27-28 school year. There will be more information to come in the future.
- What is an example of something a student might do in an IB school that will be incorporated into PPE?
 - Part of the Primary Years Program (PYP) is a 5th grade exhibition project. Students are connected with a community mentor as they explore a subject of interest. This is an opportunity for parents/caregivers/grandparents/community members to become a mentor.
- Do students have to opt-in to the IB program?
 - Students in grades pre-K-5 are automatically included in the IB Primary Years Program. Students in grades 6-10 are automatically included in the IB Middle Years Program. Students in grades 11-12 must opt in to the Diploma Program.
- Can you tell us a little more about what House Meetings are? Is dressing in theme encouraged?
 - 4th and 5th grades have been sorted into their houses. Pre-K-3 classes are affiliated with house based on their homeroom teacher. A house meeting is an opportunity for the entire school community to gather together. The students sit with their house to learn who the Roar Award winners are for the month. The winners are chosen based on the IB character trait we have been focusing on for the month.
 - When students feel connected to a school "family" they have a stronger and more positive, connected school experience.
 - And yes, dressing in theme is highly encouraged for 4th and 5th graders. Pre-K-3 is welcome to wear their house field trip shirt and dress in house colors but please be mindful that accessories can still be a distraction at this age.
- Related Arts
 - What are the related arts offerings at the school? How often do students have Spanish class?
 - Students in K-5 participate in a 6-day rotating related arts schedule. This includes art, music, physical education (at least two times per rotation), library, and Spanish.
 - The Spanish class occurs for 2 rotations at a time, alternating with another physical education class that occurs in a classroom we refer to as "Zen Den."

- What is “Zen Den”?
 - The Zen Den is our dedicated classroom space for Physical Education, thoughtfully designed to support whole-child development. In this vibrant environment, students engage in purposeful movement that builds skills, foster connection, and inspires confidence. Here’s what parents can expect their children experience:
 - Motor Skill Mastery: Students refine coordination, agility, and control through engaging physical activities
 - Fitness Foundations: Activities improve cardiovascular endurance, flexibility, and overall physical health
 - Teamwork & Collaboration: Group challenges and games teach communication, cooperation, and empathy
 - Dance & Expressive Movement: Students explore rhythm, balance, and body awareness through creative dance
 - Confidence & Joy: Every child is encouraged to move with purpose, celebrate progress, and find joy in physical expression
 - Whether it’s a stretch, a game, or a dance routine, the Zen Den transforms physical education into a meaningful, inclusive, and enriching experience
- As school enrollment continues to grow, are there plans to add additional related arts courses in future years?
 - Yes! This is one of our priorities as our school continues to grow. The new building was designed with two art rooms, two music rooms, and designated spaces for related studies.
 - As part of the IB program, we will also be looking to expand our current foreign language program.
 - Related arts courses are an important part of supporting a whole-child educational approach and our related arts teachers are instrumental to establishing and supporting a cohesive academic program for our students.
- Is a health class being taught at PPE this year?
 - There is not a health class being taught at PPE this year. While there is a state standard health curriculum for the elementary level all physical education classes at PPE are taught from the state standard physical education curriculum.