March 27, 2025

Dear Families.

As you may know, the Brandywine area has been selected to receive a new school through the <u>Blueprint Schools Program</u>. This exciting project will provide a state-of-the-art educational facility for 1,500 elementary and middle school students. The selection of the Brandywine area for inclusion in the program was based on aging school facilities and enrollment growth in the area. The new school is projected to open in school year 2027-28.

As we await the opening of the new facility, enrollment at Brandywine Elementary School is projected to significantly exceed capacity. As a result, kindergarten students residing in the current Brandywine Elementary School attendance area will be assigned to attend Baden Elementary School for school years 2025-26 and 2026-27. Students in grades 1st through 5th will continue to attend Brandywine Elementary School during those two school years. Transfers to Baden Elementary School may be available for older siblings of kindergarten students through the Office of Student Records and Transfers.

Beginning in school year 2027-28, a reorganization of Gwynn Park Middle School, Baden Elementary School and Brandywine Elementary School will occur as follows:

- 1. The new Brandywine Area Academy will open on the site of the current Gwynn Park Middle School.
- 2. The Academy will serve students in grades 3rd through 5th who reside in the current attendance areas of Brandywine Elementary School and Baden Elementary School AND students in grades 6th through 8th who reside in the current attendance area of Gwynn Park Middle School.
- 3. Brandywine Elementary School will become an Early Learning Campus serving students in grades PreK through 2nd residing in the current attendance areas of Brandywine Elementary School and Baden Elementary School.
- 4. Baden Elementary School will close.
- 5. Gwynn Park Middle School will close and its building will be demolished.

A presentation with the details of the recommended plan is available at tinyurl.com/pgcpsBoundary.

A Public hearing on the recommended reorganization plan will be held on Thursday, **April 17, 2025, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.** Persons wishing to testify at the public hearing should visit www.pgcps.org/offices/board-of-education for information on how to sign up before 4:00 p.m. the day of the hearing. Speakers will be limited to 3 minutes. Written testimony may be submitted by email at testimony@pgcps.org or by postal mail at 14201 School Lane, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772.

On **Thursday, April 24, 2025**, the Board of Education will vote on the reorganization plan during their Board meeting. Per <u>Board Policy 2569</u>, decisions will be guided by the following:

- Public input obtained at the Public Hearing and other means
- Consideration of the eight factors required by the Maryland State Board of Education

Parents and guardians of students in the current attendance areas will receive notice of the final decision. In accordance with COMAR, the decision may be appealed to the Maryland State Board of Education within 30 days of the date of the decision.

Sincerely,

Millard House II Superintendent

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