

BENJAMIN D. FOULOIS CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS ACADEMY

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February 3, 2026

Dear BDF Families,

Welcome back! We are looking forward to welcoming our students and staff back to school tomorrow, Tuesday, February 4. Due to recent weather conditions and continued challenges in our communities, **PGCPS will operate on a two-hour delay.**

We want to share several important updates regarding arrival procedures and safety as we navigate this unprecedented snow and ice experience.

Arrival & Parking Updates

The BDF paved parking lot has been cleared and is ready for bus arrival and departure. However, the gravel parking lot remains unusable, which significantly limits parking availability. To support a safe and smooth arrival for all students, I am asking for your help by allowing BDF staff priority access to the limited parking spaces, so they can be present and prepared to receive students.

Because of these limitations, **all parents must utilize the Kiss & Go drop-off procedure:**

- Parents should drive in and circle around the side of the building near the cafeteria
- Please allow your child to exit the vehicle without parking or exiting the car
- This will ensure a more efficient drop-off experience for both families and buses

Please note: If parents park and exit their vehicles, this will slow the flow of traffic and will delay bus arrival and parent drop-off alike. Additionally, due to the inoperable gravel parking lot, parents may not drive down the “Do Not Enter” lane in front of the building. This lane must remain clear at all times for bus passage.

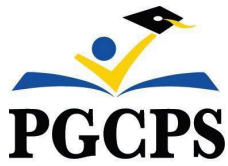
Arrival Time Adjustment

To support families during the two-hour delay, school doors will open as soon as the first bus arrives, which is typically around 8:45 a.m (10:45 am delayed opening). Students will not need to wait until 9:00 a.m.(11:00 a.m. delayed opening) to enter the building.

Weather & Safety Reminders

While our school grounds have been cleared and are safe for student arrival, we recognize that some neighborhood streets, sidewalks, and bus stops remain challenging. Please be aware:

- Bus delays may occur in some neighborhoods
- Buses may be unable to access narrow or heavily iced streets
- Some sidewalks may still be uncleared, requiring extra caution



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- Utilize the **Chipmunk: School Bus Tracking App for Real-Time Update**
<https://www.pgcps.org/offices/transportation/chipmunk>

If your child is unable to safely attend school due to transportation or road conditions, please email Ms. Gorham and Ms. Halsey, along with your child's homeroom teacher. Absences due to these circumstances will be considered lawful.

I also need your support in reminding students not to pick up or throw snow or ice. This is not fluffy snow, it is hard ice, and ice hits like a rock. We do not want any student injured at school, bus stops, or in neighborhoods.

Additional Notes

- PGCPS will not be instituting virtual instruction at this time. Families may visit the PGCPS website for academic resources available for Winter 2026.
- Tomorrow is the last day of the second quarter
- The Creative Arts schedule will remain unchanged until Thursday

Volunteers & Dismissal

As a school family, we welcome any family members who would like to support our **dismissal process** by arriving early (3:45 pm) to help monitor students as they exit the building. Please note support is only needed at dismissal...unfortunately, additional parking for volunteers will not be available in the morning, as it may contribute to congestion during arrival.

Thank you in advance for your flexibility, patience, and understanding. While arrival and dismissal adjustments may cause a small inconvenience, please know these procedures are in place to ensure the safety of our students and staff, which remains our highest priority.

We truly appreciate your continued partnership and support.

Warm regards,
BDF Administration