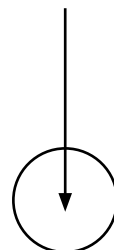


WELCOME GUIDE

CCSDI PTO

CÉSAR CHÁVEZ DUAL SPANISH IMMERSION

2025-2026 ACADEMIC YEAR



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ptocesarchavez@gmail.com

6609 Riggs Road, Hyattsville, MD 20782

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Our Vision & Story

Discover our school's guiding principles and the journey that shaped César Chávez into a nationally recognized leader in dual language immersion education.

You'll find the core values that guide everything we do at César Chávez — our vision for students, our mission as a bilingual learning community, and the history that brought us here. From our roots as a neighborhood school to our designation as an International Spanish Academy, this story reflects the dedication of our staff, families, and students to creating a place where language, culture, and academic excellence thrive side by side.

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Mark your calendar for our biggest traditions, explore helpful resources, and find everything you need to help your student start the year strong.



ABOUT OUR SCHOOL

SCHOOL COLORS: Purple and White

SCHOOL MASCOT: Wildcat

SCHOOL MOTTO: Together we can!, Juntos sí podemos!

GRADES: K-5

SCHOOL ADMIN CONTACT INFO

6609 Riggs Road, Hyattsville, MD 20782

301-853-5694 (Main Office) 301-853-5692 (Fax)

Principal: Laura Guzman, laura.guzman@pgcps.org

Principal Secretary: Esperanza Amaya, esperanza.amaya@pgcps.org

Parent Engagement Assistant: Ms. Lillian Garcia (lilian.garcia@pgcps.org)

Assistant Principal: Ms. Ana Espinet (ana.espinet@pgcps.org)

Academic Dean: Isela Vidals (isela.vivarguzman@pgcps.org)

Professional School Counselor: Noelene Moten (noelene.moten@pgcps.org)

Special Education Coordinator: Brian Ayala (brian.ayala@pgcps.org)

Community School Coordinator: Emma Vivar-Herrera (emma.vivarherrera@pgcps.org)

SPED Paraprofessional: Wanda Jones (wanda.jones@pgcps.org)

School Website: <https://www.pgcps.org/schools/cesar-chavez-dual-spanish-immersion>

OUR



OUR VISION & STORY

MISSION - César Chávez Dual Spanish Immersion (CCDSI) empowers all students to become bilingual and bi-literate who embrace learning to achieve their personal best and become mindful citizens who succeed in life. We provide tools and strategies to promote growth across all learning domains and build students' social and emotional capabilities.

VISION - César Chávez Dual Spanish Immersion School seeks to create a challenging environment that encourages high expectations for success through the Dual Spanish Immersion model. We recognize that each child is an individual; all children have gifts, all children need to succeed, and our families are partners in education. Our school promotes a safe, developmentally appropriate, caring, and nurturing environment.

SCHOOL HISTORY - César Chávez Dual Spanish Immersion (CCDSI) is a magnet school in Chillum, MD, part of the Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) system. CCDSI aims to help students develop fluency in Spanish, gain a deeper appreciation for different cultures, and achieve academic excellence.

CCDSI existed initially as a community elementary school called Parkway Elementary. The dual Spanish immersion program at CCDSI began in the 2015 school year, starting with Kindergarten and expanding one grade each year.

In late 2024, [CCDSI received significant recognition](#), being designated as an "International Spanish Academy." This places CCDSI school among the best Spanish immersion programs in North America.

Today, CCDSI operates on a 50/50 Two-Way Spanish Immersion model, meaning that students learn in both English and Spanish for roughly equal amounts of time. CCDSI has evolved into a highly-regarded institution for bilingual education in Prince George's County.



Principal's Welcome Letter

Principal Laura Guzmán welcomes you to a new school year, shares important information for families, and invites you to work together to help every student thrive.

Dear Chávez Families,

I hope this message finds you enjoying a restful and joyful summer. On behalf of the entire staff at César Chávez Dual Language Spanish Immersion, I am thrilled to welcome you to the 2025–2026 school year! We are honored that you have chosen our school for your child's education and look forward to another

wonderful year of learning, growth, and bilingual excellence. We are committed to providing each student with a safe, nurturing, and academically rigorous environment. To ensure the best possible experience for your child, we need your support with a few important items.

Stay Connected

One of the most important steps for a successful school year is clear and consistent communication. Please ensure that your contact information (phone numbers and email addresses) is up to date in Synergy, and that all teachers have your most recent details.

We will regularly send updates through:

- **ClassDojo**
- **SchoolMessenger** (emails and text messages)

These platforms are critical for sharing reminders, emergency alerts, school events, and important news.

School Uniforms

Students are expected to be in **full uniform** every day. The exception is **Wildcat Wednesdays**, when students may wear their Wildcat spirit wear to show school pride.



"Your active engagement isn't just important — it's essential to our school's success."

First Day of School

The first day of school is **Tuesday, August 26, 2025**. Our school hours are **8:30 a.m. to 2:40 p.m.** daily.

- **Breakfast** is served in the classroom at **8:15 a.m.**
- Please note: **students should not arrive before 8:15 a.m.** as there is no adult supervision prior to that time. Student safety is our top priority.

Lunch Applications – Due September 15

All families must **submit a new lunch application** this year, even if you've qualified in the past. If not submitted and approved by **September 15, 2025**, students will be charged the **full lunch price of \$2.75**.

 Apply here: www1.pgcps.org/foodandnutrition It is **imperative** that this application is completed on time to avoid unnecessary charges.

Transportation

Bus route information is managed by the **PGCPS Office of Transportation**.

- Visit: PGCPS Transportation Website
- Call: (301) 952-6570 for assistance

Dismissal: Buses depart between 2:40 and 3:00 p.m.

Immunizations – No Shots, No School

All students must be up to date on required vaccinations. PGCPS offers free immunization clinics at school wellness centers. Appointments are required.

 Click here to view clinic dates and make an appointment

Thank you for being our partners in your child's educational journey. We can't wait to welcome our Wildcats back on August 26 for a year full of bilingual learning, joyful discovery, and growth!

With gratitude,



Laura Guzman
Principal
César Chávez Dual Language Spanish Immersion

A NOTE FROM THE PTO

Bienvenidos!

On behalf of the César Chávez Dual Spanish Immersion (CCDSI) Parent Teacher Organization (PTO), we are delighted to welcome you and your family to our vibrant school community. CCDSI is a place where cultures are celebrated, languages come alive, and families work side-by-side with teachers and staff to help every child reach their full potential.

We understand that starting at a new school can bring both excitement and plenty of questions—especially in a dual language immersion program. That’s why we’ve created this guide: to be your go-to resource for understanding how our school works, who to contact, and how to get connected. Inside, you’ll find practical tools, helpful links, and an introduction to our traditions so you can feel confident and supported from the very beginning.

Choosing CCDSI means giving your child the chance to become bilingual and bicultural while developing valuable skills that extend far beyond the classroom. Immersion students often experience enhanced cognitive abilities, stronger problem-solving skills, and a broader perspective of the world—benefits that will serve them for a lifetime.

We hope you’ll continue that investment by becoming actively involved with the PTO. Whether you have time to volunteer at an event, join a committee, or simply participate in our school traditions, every contribution—big or small—strengthens our community and directly benefits students and teachers.

We look forward to meeting you, learning from your ideas, and working together to make this a fantastic school year. If you have questions, suggestions, or would like to get involved, email us anytime at ptocesarchavez@gmail.com—and be sure to join us for our first PTO meeting of the fall.

FROM



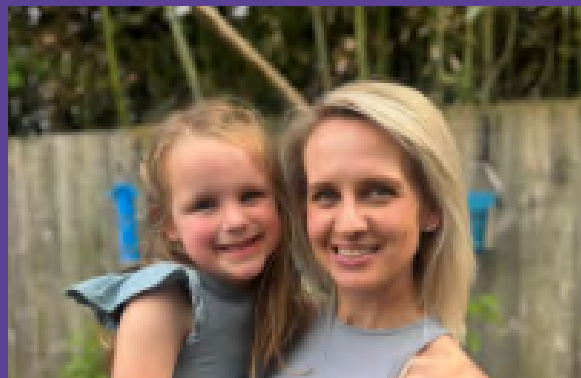
Ian Fay
President

Ian Fay is the dad of Ava, a lively second grader at CCDSI. A creative producer and community organizer, he brings a love of storytelling, problem-solving, and finding better ways to get things done to the PTO. Outside of work, you can usually find him making music, tending the garden, or scheming up ways to make things work better (and more fun) for everyone.



Liz Del Hoyo
Vice-President

Liz is the proud mom of Clara Diaz who is about to start second grade. Since the start of their journey at CCDSI, she has loved volunteering at school and wants to continue it as part of the PTO. Her hopes are to build strong relationships between family and school and find ways for the school to succeed. On the professional side, she is a clinical dietitian. When not fulfilling her usual responsibilities, she enjoys time in the kitchen, watching TV shows between the 80s and 2000s, and having fun with family & friends.



Courtney Smith
Treasurer

Courtney Smith is excited to serve as PTO Treasurer this year. Her daughter, Indiana, is entering kindergarten, and looks forward to being part of and supporting the school community. Professionally, Courtney is the Director of Development and Communications at Art Enables, a nonprofit amplifying the creative careers of artists with disabilities. She enjoys cuddling with her sweet old hound dog, photography, embroidery, reading memoirs, and exploring the quirks of the city with her family.



Meg Hannigan Dominguez
Secretary

Meg is excited to be serving her second year as PTO Secretary! Meg is a mom of three girls, with Evangeline in 2nd grade and Florence in Kindergarten, and professor at Catholic University in social work. She loves CCDSI and goals with the PTO are to focus on ways to keep building community and having fun.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Rebeca Rios, Advocacy Committee Chair
Lindsay Cheyne, Welcome Committee Chair
Kate Wunderlich, Wildcat Way Committee Chair
Gerardo Dominguez, Si Se Puede Committee Chair

PTO COMMUNICATIONS

Email: ptocesarchavez@gmail.com

Website: <https://www.cesarchavezpto.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CesarChavezPTO/>

Instagram: @ptocesarchavez

WhatsApp: Scan the QR code or click this link: <http://bit.ly/474jkFl>



WAYS TO STAY ENGAGED

- Connecting with other parents and PTO via Whatsapp
- Become a [PGCPS school volunteer](#) (registration required) to support your child's classroom activities and events like field trips or field day
- Become a PTO volunteer (no registration required)
- Join a PTO committee (Advocacy, Wildcat Way Planning, Welcome/Recruitment or Si Se Puede Family Festival) - or create one you see a need for!
- Sponsor an upcoming event or program
- Email us at ptocesarchavez@gmail.com and follow us on socials @ptocesarchavez

SAVE THE DATE FIRST PTO MEETING

The first PTO meeting of the year will be held on **Wednesday, September 10th, 2025 @ 7:00pm.**

Come meet fellow parents, learn what's ahead for our school community, and find ways to get involved.

CONNECT & GET INVOLVED

Stay in the loop with PTO updates, join our communication channels, and explore ways to volunteer, sponsor events, or join a committee — every bit of participation helps our school community grow stronger.

WHAT OUR PTO DOES

The Cesar Chavez PTO is a collaborative organization of parents, guardians, staff, and teachers dedicated to ensuring equitable access to support for all of our students' parents and guardians regardless of language. We strive to provide parents and guardians with information and support by communicating school events, facilitating access to technology, and connecting parents and guardians to resources and opportunities for volunteering.

We also seek opportunities to provide teachers with assistance through fundraisers, teacher appreciation events, and being a bridge to the larger parent and guardian community. Through our efforts, we hope to create better pathways of communication and foster a sense of connectedness. PTO membership is free and participation does not require PG country registration.

Our PTO works to:

- Promote the welfare of our students
- Enhance and support the educational experience at school
- Develop a close connection between home, school, and community through parental involvement
- Improve the environment at school through volunteer and charitable support
- Be a resource to both the parent/caretaker community and the school
- Encourage parent involvement in their children's education, classroom, and school
- Provide feedback and suggestions to school administrators that benefit all
- Coordinate programs and projects that will support or enrich the curriculum
- Support initiatives that build school safety and security for all
- Organize fundraisers to support additional programs, equipment and services not covered in the school budget
- Support the educational goals of the school and assist with attaining those goals through parent and community volunteerism
- Recruit volunteers and coordinate volunteer efforts to staff PTO functions and assist with school programs
- Build awareness around legislation and regulations that may impact education.



KEY EV & TRADITION

1

Welcome Back Party (8/29/2025 @ 5pm)

Join us for a Happy Hour & Fundraiser supporting Wildcat Way, our outdoor classroom! Enjoy raffle prizes, a 50/50 raffle, and the chance to connect with others while getting involved. 📍 *DC Brau Brewing — 3178-B Bladensburg Rd NE, Washington, DC 20018*

2

Zombie Run (10/18/2025)

Each fall, our school community joins the Hyattsville Zombie Run, raising sponsorships that go 100% to PTO programs like field trips, supplies, and teacher appreciation.

3

Feather the Turkey

A fun holiday tradition where students add “feathers” to our school turkey for just 25¢ each, with all proceeds supporting PTO programs and events.



[Subscribe to the school Google cal](#)

COMMUNITY FUNDRAISERS

Throughout the year, local businesses like Chuck E. Cheese, Pizza Paradisio, and SkateZone open their doors for special school nights where a portion of every sale comes back to our PTO. These events are a chance to enjoy a night out with family and friends, connect with other school families, and support programs like field trips, classroom resources, and teacher appreciation—all just by showing up and having fun.

EVENTS

Celebrate the heart of our school year with signature events that bring students, families, and staff together, from festive fundraisers to community gatherings that make our school spirit shine.



[Click here to see all events at a glance!](#)

SI SE PUEDE

Our biggest celebration of the year transforms the school grounds into a lively gathering place filled with activities for all ages. Families enjoy music, food, and playful attractions while neighbors, friends, and classmates come together in the spirit of community. Every ticket, treat, and activity helps fund PTO programs that enrich student learning and strengthen our school.

4

Teacher Holiday Hot Cocoa Bar

A cozy holiday tradition where the PTO transforms the staff lounge into a festive cocoa station, complete with toppings and treats, to warm the hearts of our teachers and staff and show how much we value their daily dedication.

5

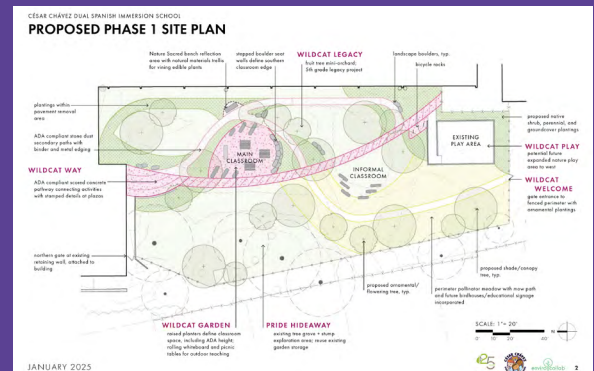
Food Truck Teacher Appreciation

A delicious way to say thank you, this event treats our hardworking teachers and staff to a visit from local food trucks, offering them a well-deserved break and a taste of the community's gratitude for all they do each day.



PTO WILDCAT WAY OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

A future hub for learning and connection, Wildcat Way will bring culture, community, and healthy living together through a bilingual outdoor classroom and school garden. With native plants, composting, and hands-on lessons in sustainability, this space will give students real-world experiences that last a lifetime. We're nearly ready to break ground on Phase 1 and are seeking the final support needed to make it happen.



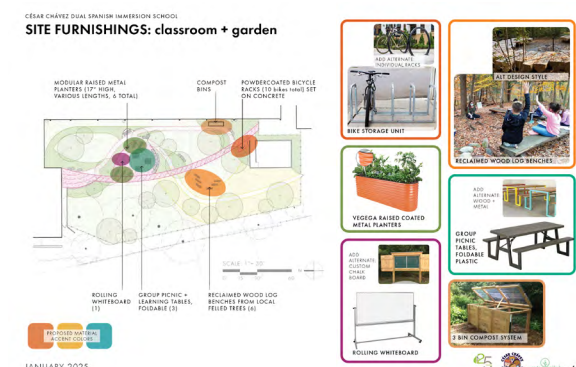
We are building Wildcat Way, an outdoor classroom and school garden that is close to starting construction on Phase 1. With all learning in Spanish and English, Wildcat Way will be a place where culture, community, and healthy living come together. Our school garden will feature native plants, composting, and educational signage — giving students hands-on lessons in plant origins, healthy eating, and environmental care. With lots of community input (students, teachers, neighborhood), we are almost through the permitting process and will start construction soon. The PTO worked hard to raise money, find partners, and win grants to get this far. We raised \$205k for the project over 3 years ago! Unfortunately, with prices raising we are now learning that we are about \$25k short to fully complete this phase of the project.

WAYS WE ARE ASKING FOR SUPPORT:

- [Individual donation here.](#)
- Community or corporate sponsorship
- Volunteering to help with logistics, communications, fundraising, etc.

Email contact: cesarchavezwildcatway@gmail.com

Follow our progress on PTO social media channels and on the PTO website.



PREPARING FOR THE FIRST DAY



1

PGCPS Back to School Guide

Find key dates, resources, and tips from Prince George's County Public Schools to help your family start the year prepared and informed.

<https://www.pgcps.org/about-pgcps/back-to-school>

2

School Supplies List

A complete checklist of classroom essentials for incoming kindergarteners, from crayons and composition books to headphones and hygiene items, to help your child start the year ready to learn.

<https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaaid:sc:US:b-6ca002c-b78a-4742-aa8e-575b624232af>

3

Uniform Guidance

Guidelines for approved shirts, bottoms, and shoes for the 2025–2026 school year, plus important reminders to help students meet PGCPS dress code requirements.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wfzaelYZx2iB_xrpqdiPg3FXK4utVd8f/view?usp=sharing



THANK YOU

HELPFUL RESOURCES

PGCPS Website: pgcps.org

Class Dojo: classdojo.com

School Bucks: myschoolbucks.com

Transportation: pgcps.org/offices/transportation

PGCPS Parent Volunteer Registration: pgcps.org/offices/ograc/volunteer

ParentVue: md-pgcps-psv.edupoint.com

PG COUNTY LANGUAGE IMMERSION OFFICE

Supervisor: Jane M. Tarwacki, jane.tarwacki@pgcps.org

Instructional Specialist: Amy Lahlou, amy.lahlou@pgcps.org

offices.pgcps.org/immersionprograms/

240-455-5899

Spanish Immersion Middle School: Kettering MS