

The Parent "O"bserver

12/15/23 -- Edition 7, Volume 9 --
#4T1V

New Items Added to the Newsletter that are Important

Attendance & School Engagement

Attendance has been increasingly the focus of attention among school divisions and educators. According to research, regular attendance is a significant factor in a student's success:

- Chronic absenteeism correlates to low academic achievement;
- Absenteeism is a powerful predictor of dropout rates;
- Absenteeism has been linked to poor outcomes later in life.

Chronic absenteeism is defined as missing ten percent or more of the academic year for any reason, including excused absences, unexcused absences, and suspensions. Based on a 180-day school year, that means approximately 18 days per year or 2 to 3 days per month.

Truancy is the act of accruing one or more unexcused absences, where the parent is unaware of or does not support the student's absence, or where the parent's provided reason for the absence is not acceptable to the school administration.

Missed instruction, regardless of the reason, can have significant academic consequences. Therefore, the broader emphasis is on improving attendance for every student.

Halfway Point for Second Quarter

We are at the halfway point for the second quarter. Please be sure to jump on the [ParentVue](#) Website/App in order to stay up with your child's grades.

https://va-pwcps-psv.edupoint.com/PXP2_Login_Parent.aspx?regenerateSessionId=True

The Counselor Connection

Counseling with Ms. Banach & Ms. Johnson

We are committed to helping all students thrive at school. In order for all students to be successful at school, they must attend school on time, every day. We understand unavoidable illnesses and emergencies occur that require your child to remain at home. If you are unsure when to keep your child home from school due to illness, please click [here](#). It is important to communicate with the school anytime your child is absent from school. As partners in your child's education, we must work together to ensure your child grows academically and socially/emotionally to achieve educational success.

Items that Will Always be Relevant for Parents to Review

School Quality Profile (AKA: SOL Results)

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) released the annual Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL) test results and updated the [School Quality Profile](#). We are well on our way to fully recovering from the pandemic. Occoquan has scored some of the highest scores in Reading and Math. Our African-American scores are what I am most proud of, as we have now surpassed the achievement gap in this category. PWCS will work diligently to support continued academic progress, acceleration, and recovery.

Dismissal Times

Students are no longer allowed to be dismissed from the office between the times of 3:30 and 4:00 due to disruptions to the dismissal process. If you need to pick your child up early, you will need to do so before 3:30. Otherwise, you will need to wait until 4:10 to come into the office to pick them up.

Parent Handbook for the 2023-24 SY

OES Parent Handbook 23-24.pdf

[Download](#)

251.2 KB

Late Bus Information

Transportation's Late Bus Notification web page is now available for parents and schools. The page will list buses that will be late 15 minutes or more to start their run. Please save the link below to review it:

Here Comes the Bus App

Please be sure to download "Here Comes the Bus" app so that you can track your child's bus to know a more accurate time on when your child will be picked up and dropped up from their bus stops. After you download the app, it will prompt you with a few questions, and then you will need to enter a school system code. This code is: 76348

Should you have any issues with this app, please feel free to email hctb@pwcs.edu, and they will answer your questions.

Continuous Improvement Plan

Our ambitious Continuous Improvement Plan ensures we are on the right track to navigate the journey back to pre-pandemic levels by investing in our instructional core, maintaining high expectations to ensure academic excellence, and strengthening infrastructures along the way toward greater equitable and accessible academic achievement for all students.

Please click the link below to take a look at the plan in what will be some of its final stages.

CIP Info for 2023-24--Final 7-25-23.pdf

[Download](#)

1005.5 KB

Construction on the New Building

Construction on Occoquan's new building began recently when they started digging two of the one-hundred-ten holes they will need to dig for our geothermal energy. It has been an exciting time. The students are predicted to move into the building in February 2025. The new building will be located on the grass behind the playground. Construction will officially begin in January 2024, but they will continue to work on some of the other aspects that take a little longer well before that time frame.

site plan

SCALE 1" = 80' 0" 40' 80' 120'

Summary:

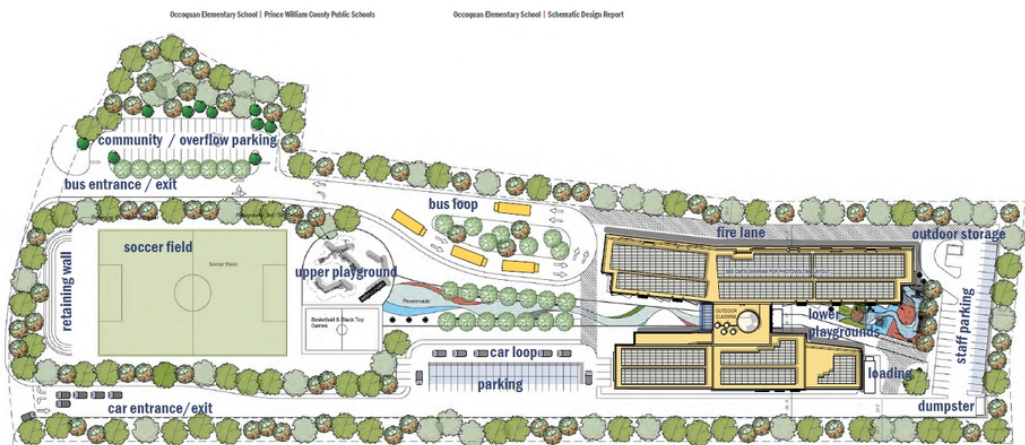
The Building is situated at the far East of the site with the front entrance lobby leading to the heart of the school. In the heart, there is a circular monumental stair with an integrated indoor slide that connects the first two levels. With the Gymnasium and Auditorium on the first floor and the Media Center on the second floor, all of these spaces are connected by the heart of the school. An academic wing to the north houses most all of the classrooms, except for music and strings which is located across from the media center. The Academic wing is 3 stories tall, while the other portions of the building are 2 stories tall.

There is a secured playground in the East courtyard for Kindergartners. There are spaces for other playgrounds around the site, including in the front closer to the academic side of the building. There will be landscape and playgrounds and athletics fields accessed by the public close to Occoquan Road.

The traffic flow and drop off is controlled by separating the bus loop (on the North) and car loop (on the south) of the campus. There is a walkway in the center of the site to provide the opportunity to connect the front playgrounds and fields to the school in a playful manner.

Building Data:

2/3 stories
123,770 actual gsf



Title I Information

Key information for Title I

- Please be sure to check out the Occoquan school compact for information about Title I (it is the document directly above), staff agreements, student agreements, and parent agreements, as well as our goals for the year in reading and math.
- Reading support is provided through small-group instruction and before and after-school tutoring.
- Math support is provided through small-group instruction, co-teaching lessons with the classroom teacher, before and after-school tutoring, and one-on-one individual support for math intervention.
- Thank you for supporting our awesome Occoquan students!



Grade Level Newsletters

Grade Level Newsletters

Please click on the grade level below that your child(ren) is in order to read their specific information from their teachers.

Grade Levels update their information once a month.

Kindergarten

1st Grade

2nd Grade

3rd Grade

4th Grade

5th Grade

Gifted

The En"CORNER"

EL Department

Special Education Department

Important Event Dates

Event Information

SPELLING BEE DAY for the Classroom Winners

When?

Thursday, Dec 14, 2023, 09:30 AM

Event Information

Winter Chorus & Strings Concert

When?

Wednesday, Dec 20, 2023, 06:00 PM

Where?

Occoquan Elementary School, Occoquan Road, Woodbridge, VA, USA

Event Information

NO SCHOOL FOR WINTER BREAK

When?

Thursday, Dec 21, 2023, 08:00 AM

Event Information

Students return to School Today!!!

When?

Tuesday, Jan 2, 2024, 09:15 AM

Event Information

Advisory/PTO

Michael P. Lint is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Advisory/PTO

Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://pwcs-zm-edu.zoom.us/j/86835043754?pwd=UnRaWFJkc3Myd0dOZHBTWit1MEZBQT09>

Meeting ID: 868 3504 3754

Passcode: 250979

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,86835043754#,,,,*250979# US (New York)

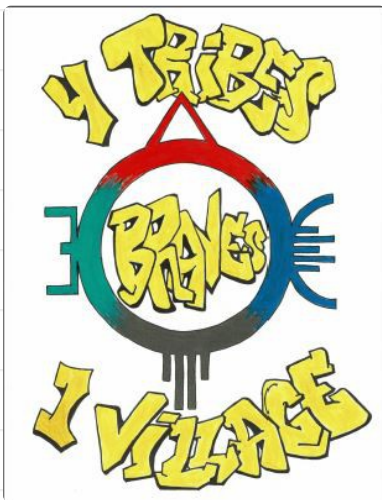
+16469313860,,86835043754#,,,,*250979# US

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

When?

Thursday, Jan 18, 2024, 06:00 PM



Occoquan Elementary School

Where Everybody Is Somebody

A PWCS "School of Excellence"

Email: lintmp@pwcs.edu

Website: occoquanes.pwcs.edu

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Twitter: [@occoquanes](https://twitter.com/occoquanes)



Michael Lint

Michael is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

