

The Parent "O"bserver

8/4/23 -- Edition 7, Volume 1 -- @Occoquanes

Important Attendance Information

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Did you know attendance is the number one predictor of dropout and graduation rates? That's why this year we are increasing communication to our parents and students around the importance of attendance- a critical indicator of success. Attending school every day helps our students build a solid foundation for their future in school and in life.

Our new strategy includes an attendance management system that carefully tracks attendance and ensures that parents are notified in a timely and consistent manner. Our goal is to connect with parents quickly so that we can remove any barriers that families face in getting students to school on time, every day.

You may receive a letter regarding your students' attendance in the mail. Please understand that these notifications are to bring awareness on how much school has been missed this school year. We pledge to partner with you to find solutions and resources to support your student. If you feel that you have received the letter in error or have questions, please contact your school directly.

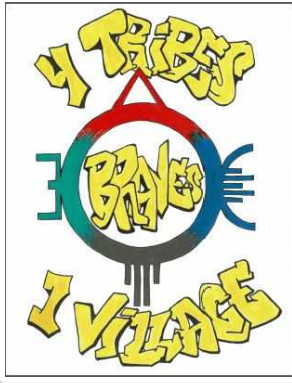
We understand there are unavoidable illnesses or other times when your child should remain at home. We also know that absences add up quickly, and that "showing up" is critical to your child's success in school and in life.

We are committed to achieving our goals and supporting our Prince William County Public School families. Our students stand to benefit the most from this!

Together, let's create a culture of showing up. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Buddy Lint
Principal



🔗 Student Supply Lists 20...

occoquanes.pwcs.edu

*** Free and Reduced Lunch and Services Application ***

Yes, I know your child will be receiving free lunch all year, however, by completing this Free and Reduced Lunch Application can also help you with other services in and around the school and community. Things such as Rec. Sports, Strings, and a host of other things that your child can benefit from.

So, please visit the link below in order to complete this application to reap the benefits. If you are unsure whether you would qualify or not, simply complete the application to find out.

This application will also help the school as a whole to continue to maintain its Title I status which helps pay for important resources such as our Math Specialist, a second Reading Specialist, After-School Tutoring, and much more.

So, please visit the link to complete the application at <https://pwcsnutrition.com/index.php?page=lunchapps&sid=0408101731444083>

If you need a computer to complete this, we will have laptops set up in the Cafeteria during Open House.

Open House Information

We will hold an Open House for all parents to come into the school and meet their teacher. If you would also like to drop off some of the student's school supplies, you may use this opportunity to do so as well.

This event will be held on August 18, 2023 at the following times:

- A-L will come anywhere between the time of 9AM-10AM
- M-Z will come anywhere between the time of 10AM-11AM

We needed to split the times up so that the parking lot would not get too overcrowded, so please try to stick to your times.

*** Back to School Packet ***

The Back to School Packet will be available in ParentVUE starting on August 8. Please be aware that when parents log in to ParentVUE, they will be alerted to complete the Back to School Packet, and they will not receive access to any other student information, including student schedules and bus information until the packet has been completed. Please note that students will still be able to access their information in StudentVUE regardless of their Back to School Packet completion status.

Messages will go out to families relaying that it is critical for schools to have up-to-date emergency contact and health information for students to attend school. As a result, parents will not have access to information in ParentVUE until their Back to School Packet is complete.

Principals are asked to please ensure all parents/guardians have a ParentVUE account. If a parent does NOT have an account, please reach out to Ms. Watts in the front office.

Bell Schedule Change

As we begin our preparation for the 2023-24 school year, I want to remind you that the bell schedule for our school will change to improve on-time school bus service. Effective on the first day of school, the bell schedule for Occoquan ES for the 2023-24 school year follows: 9:20 AM to 4:00 PM

The updated bell schedule provides the following benefits:

- Makes transportation to and from school more consistent and reliable.
- Increases the number of buses for schools and drivers available for substitute runs.
- Decreases route times and length of time waiting at bus stops.
- Eliminates scheduled double and triple runs.
- Improves student attendance.
- Reduces the chance of lost instructional time.
- Decreases the need for staff to stay after school dismissal for supervision.
- Reduces the number of students on each bus, resulting in fewer management challenges for drivers.
- Improves accuracy of the Here Comes the Bus app.

You may find more information about the change in the bell schedule at

https://www.pwcs.edu/departments/transportation/bell_schedule_2023-24

I appreciate your patience, understanding, and support. If you have any questions, please call the school office.

Kiss and Ride Form

If you plan to drive your child to and/or from school, we require that you fill out the online form no later than **August 25, 2023**. The link to this plan can be found here:

<https://forms.office.com/r/8gEys9Xh0V>

School Meals

Your school will be operating the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) of the National School Lunch Program for School Year 23-24.

What this means for your school community: Breakfast and Lunch will remain free for ALL scholars regardless of household income.

What this means for you as a Principal:

- More kids will eat
- There will be zero negative balances for scholars at the end of the year
- We are not permitted to process income eligibility applications for your enrolled population

Parent Handbook for the 2023-24 SY

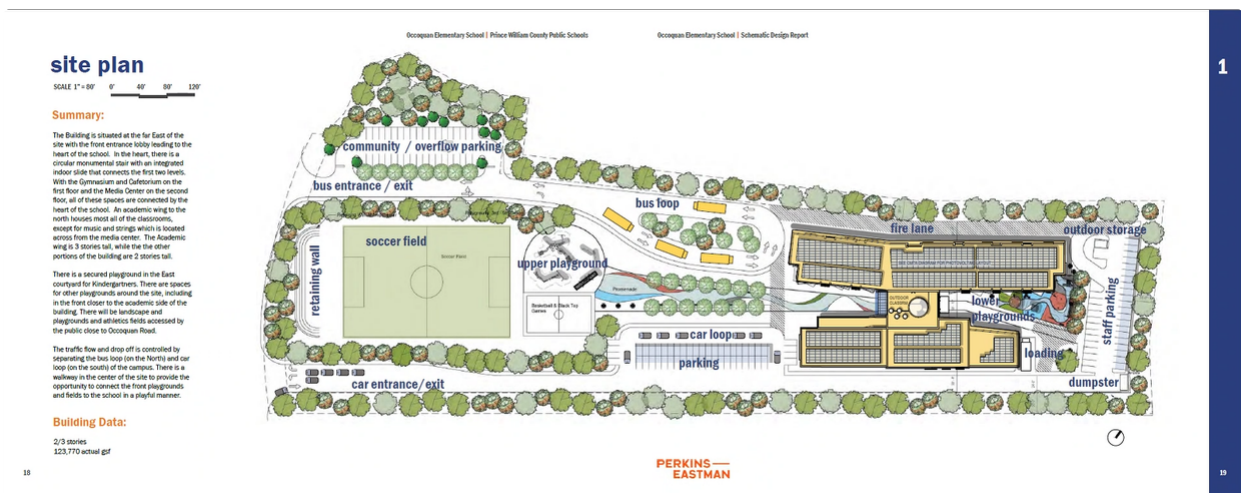


OES Parent Handbook 23-24.pdf

[Download](#)
257.3 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.



Free Homework and Tutoring App for PWCS Students

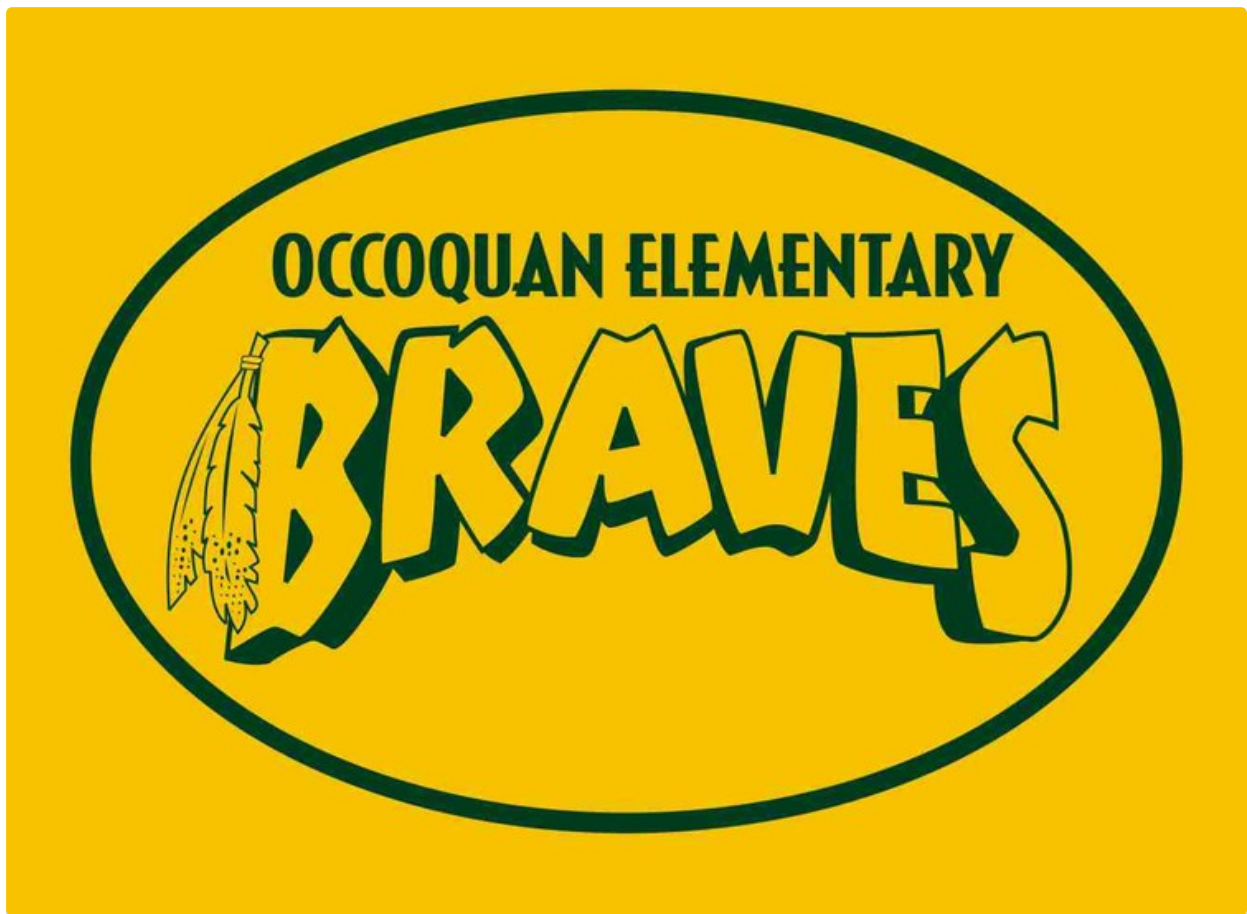
FREE, 24/7, unlimited tutoring and writing support for you!

- Go to app.paper.co
- Type in your school name (Occoquan Elementary School)
- Sign in with Clever

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

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

Asian American & Pacific Islander Month; Better Hearing & Speech Month; Jewish American Heritage Month; National Mental Health Awareness Month; National Physical Fitness & Sports Month

When

Monday, May 1st, 8am to Wednesday, May 31st, 4:30pm

Where

This is an online event.

Teacher Work Week

When

Monday, Aug. 14th, 8am to Friday, Aug. 18th, 3pm

Where

This is an online event.

Popsicles with KG Students, Teachers, and Admin

When

Wednesday, Aug. 16th, 2-3pm

Where

12915 Occoquan Road Woodbridge, VA

Open House from 9 to 11 (If you do not have a classroom, you will help direct parents where to go) A-L 9-10 & M-Z 10-11

When

Friday, Aug. 18th, 9-11 am

Where

12915 Occoquan Road Woodbridge, VA

First Day of School with Students

When

Monday, Aug. 21 st, 3:15pm

Where

This is an online event.

Tribal Assembly

When

Thursday, Aug. 31 st, 2:45pm

Where

This is an online event.

No School--Labor Day

When

Friday, Sep. 1 st, 9:15am to Monday, Sep. 4th,
4pm

Where

This is an online event.

Advisory/PTO

When

Thursday, Sep. 21 st, 6-7pm

Where

This is an online event.

More information

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=UnRaWFJkc3Myd0d0ZHBTWit1MEZBQT09>

Meeting ID: 868 3504 3754

Passcode: 250979

One tap mobile

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

Dial by your location


+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)




Occoquan Elementary School


 Facebook  @occoquanes

Where Everybody Is Somebody
A PWCS "School of Excellence"

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