

The Parent "O"bserver

8/25/23 -- Edition 7, Volume 3 -- #4T1V

*** 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 hoist 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.

Student Device Insurance

PWCS will offer a reduced price for device insurance for student laptops and iPads for the 2023-24 school year. It is preferred that insurance is purchased within 30 days of a student receiving their device. Exceptions can be made but the TSSPEC will need to inspect the device before entering details into the portal to ensure it is not damaged. Insurance will cover accidental damage and loss.

[This is the link to make purchases.](#)

*** 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

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:

https://www.pwcs.edu/departments/transportation/bus_delays

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.

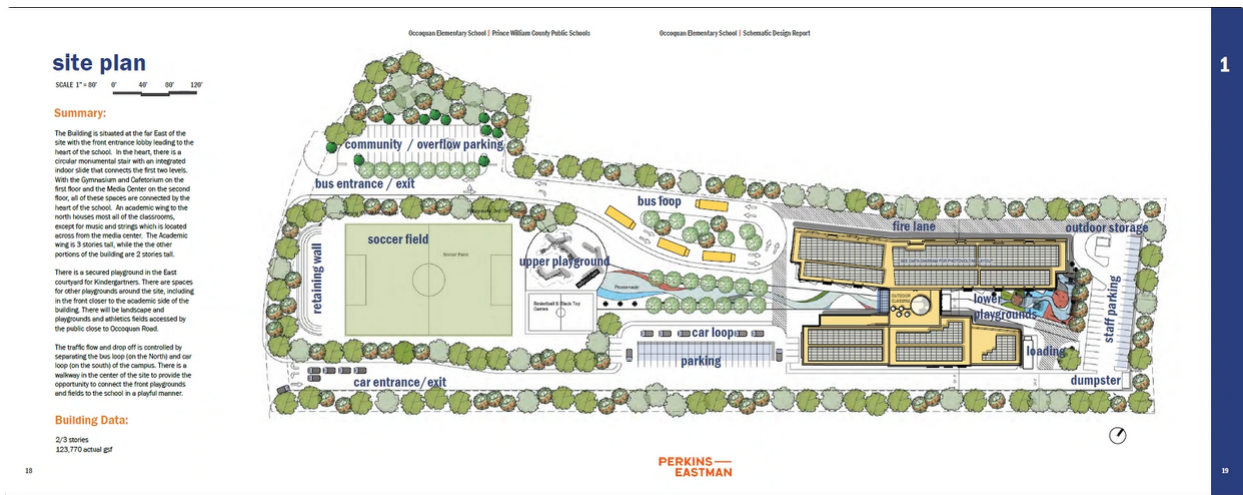


CIP Info for 2023-24–Final 7-25-23.pdf

[Download](#)
1.0 MB

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.



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!

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act, most recently reauthorized as the Every Student Succeeds Act, states that parents in Title I schools have the right to request certain information about their child's teachers. The information that you have a right to request about your child's teacher is:

1. Whether the teacher has met state qualifications and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subjects the teacher is teaching.
2. Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which state qualification or licensing has been waived.
3. The baccalaureate degree major or certification or degree held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree.
4. Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

At Occoquan Elementary School, we are extremely proud of our teachers and paraprofessionals, and are happy to provide you with any of the information above pertaining to your child's teacher(s). If you have such a request, please call the school at 703.494.2195 and ask for the information you are interested in.

Parental Notification of Assessment Opt Out Policies under The Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015

According to the Virginia Department of Education, "All students in tested grade levels and courses are expected to participate in Virginia's assessment program, unless specifically exempted by state or federal law or by Board of Education regulations." On December 10, 2015, the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA) was signed into law. Section 1112(e)(2) of ESSA states that parents of students in Title I schools have a right to know about state or division policies regarding student participation in or any assessments mandated by ESSA, including any policy, procedure, or parental right to opt students out of such assessments. The Commonwealth of Virginia does not currently have an Opt-Out policy for SOL assessments. However, Section 22.1-253.13:3.C of the Code of Virginia states that, "The Board of Education shall not include in its calculation of the passage rate of a Standards of Learning assessment for the purposes of state accountability any student whose parent has decided to not have his child take such Standards of Learning assessment, unless such exclusions would result in the school's not meeting any required state or federal participation rate." Prince William County Public Schools regulations state that, if a parent or guardian decides to not have a student take a state or local assessment, then the person making the request should be informed about the academic consequences that decision could have on the student.

If you would like to receive more information about this topic, please contact the principal.



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

SLAM Weeks--Students will dress up in Tribal Colors all Week

When

Monday, Aug. 28th, 9:15am to Thursday, Aug. 31 st, 4pm

Where

12915 Occoquan Road Woodbridge, VA

Tribal Assembly

When

Thursday, Aug. 31 st, 2:45pm

Where

This is an online event.

Attendance Awareness Month; Childhood Cancer Awareness Month; Suicide Prevention Month

When

Friday, Sep. 1 st, 8am to Saturday, Sep. 30th,
4:30pm

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.

VGA Tests for the State--Reading Sept 12 and Math Sept 14

When

Tuesday, Sep. 12th, 9am to Thursday, Sep. 14th,
4pm

Where

12915 Occoquan Road Woodbridge, VA

No School Today--Rosh Hashanah

When

Friday, Sep. 15th, 9am-4pm

Where

12915 Occoquan Road Woodbridge, VA

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=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)

No School Today--Yom Kippur

When

Monday, Sep. 25th, 9am-4pm

Where

12915 Occoquan Road Woodbridge, VA

Back to School Night

When

Wednesday, Sep. 27th, 5:30-7:30pm

Where

12915 Occoquan Road Woodbridge, VA

More information

Back to School Night K-2 from 5:30 to 6:15, Title I from 6:15 to 6:45, & 3-5 from 6:45-7:30

Boosterthon Fun Run

When

Friday, Sep. 29th, 1:30-3:30pm

Where

12915 Occoquan Road Woodbridge, VA

2nd Grade Swim Day at Colgan High School

When

Tuesday, Oct. 3rd, 9am to Tuesday, Oct. 31st, 4pm

Where

13833 Dumfries Road Manassas, VA

More information


More information on this will come soon from your 2nd Grade teacher




Occoquan Elementary School


 Facebook  @occoquanes

Where Everybody Is Somebody
A PWCS "School of Excellence"

 12915 Occoquan Road, Woodbr...

 lintmp@pwcs.edu

 703.494.2195

 occoquanes.pwcs.edu