

# The Parent "O"bserver

5/15/26 -- Edition 9, Volume 16

## ParentVue and EZ A2B Bus App Changes Coming

Effective June 30, 2026, two apps commonly used by PWCS families—ParentVUE and the EZ A2B bus tracking app—are being updated by their respective vendors. The current versions of both apps will no longer work after June 30.

### ParentVUE

ParentVUE is transitioning to a new version of its app. Families should download the version labeled "ParentVUE (New)" in the Apple App Store or Google Play Store. You can also [download directly here](#).

### EZArrival

The EZ A2B bus tracking app has been renamed EZArrival. Families should search for "EZArrival" in the Apple App Store or Google Play Store, or [download it directly here](#).

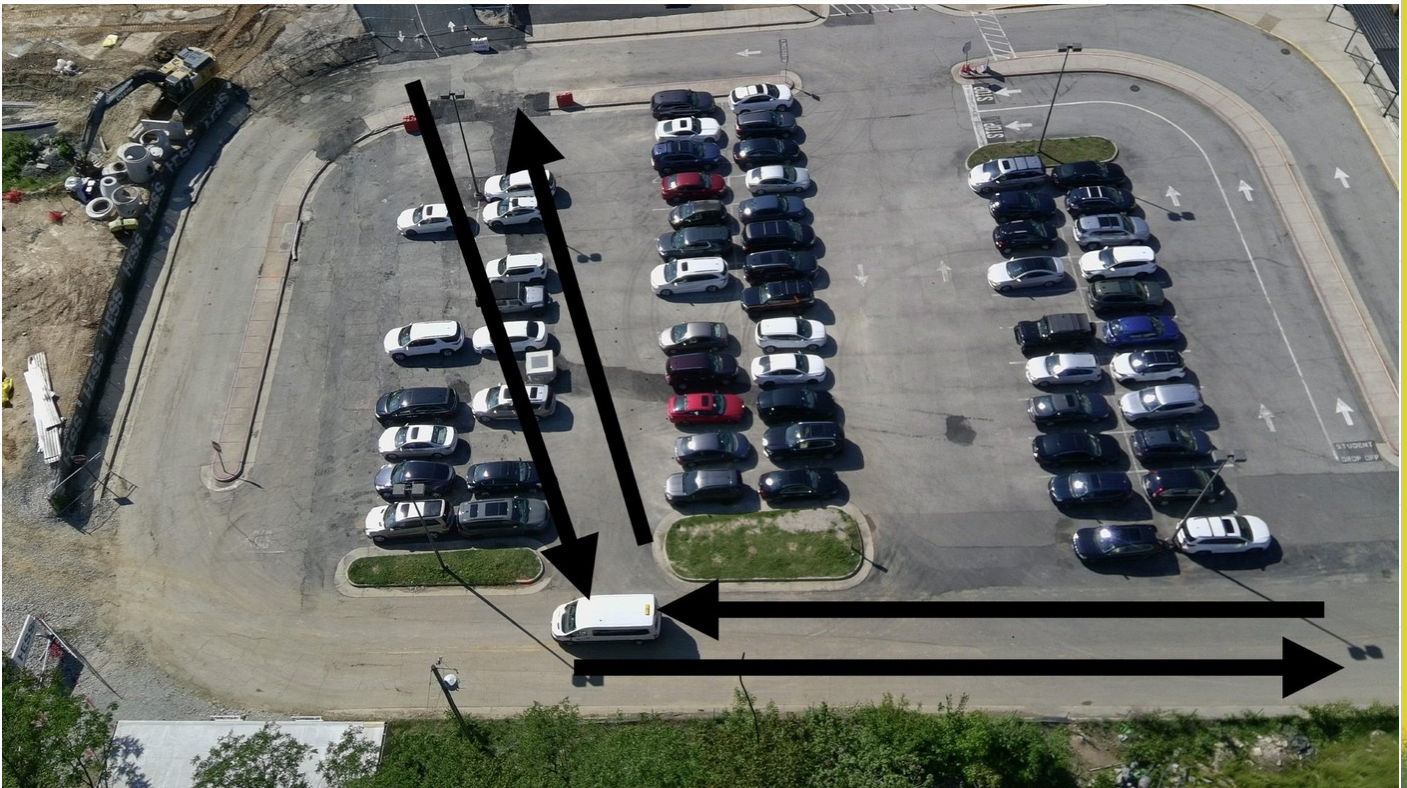
To be prepared for summer school and/or the 2026-27 school year, families are encouraged to download both new apps as soon as possible to ensure uninterrupted access to grades, attendance, and transportation information.

## New Kiss and Ride Line

Please take a moment to review the maps below, as we will be implementing a new route for the car rider line beginning Monday morning.

While we prepare to transition to this new process, we ask that you **do not enter the new route until you are directed to do so by school staff**. To ensure a smooth and safe rollout, I will personally lead the way for the first group of cars so that everyone can clearly see how to navigate the new route. As this will be a new experience for all of us, I appreciate your patience and flexibility as we work through this adjustment together.

Our goal is to improve the efficiency and safety of arrival, and your cooperation will help make this transition successful.



## How will your child get to and from school next year?

Beginning May 1, 2026, families will be asked to complete their transportation requirement for the 2026-27 school year. Timely submission of this data will allow the Transportation Department to plan more efficient routes and improve on-time service.

The following choices will be available:

- YES - My student will require PWCS bus transportation.
- NO - My student WILL NOT require PWCS bus transportation.
- My student resides within the established walking boundary for our zoned school.
- My student is enrolled in a Specialty Program and will be using an express bus stop.

Submissions and changes will be received until July 31, 2026, at which time final routing will occur.

Any requests for service or changes after that date may not be implemented by the first day of school.

## News From the Clinic

Medications must be picked up by the last day of school on Friday, June 12, 2026 by 1:00pm. If medication is not picked up by 1:00 p.m., it will be disposed of by school personnel per Regulation 757-4. Medication is not held in the school clinic over summer. Please remember that medication cannot be sent home with a student, it must be picked up by an adult. New Medication Administration Forms and/or Health Treatment Plans are required for each school year. Forms may be obtained from your school or

[https://www.pwcs.edu/support\\_services/student\\_health/index](https://www.pwcs.edu/support_services/student_health/index).

My last day in the clinic this school year will be Friday, June 12, 2026. I will return on August 17, 2026.

## *New Items Added to the Newsletter that are Important*

### Updated SOL Practice Items

[Updated SOL Practice Items](#)-Updated SOL practice items for Grades 3-8 and End-of-Course Math and Reading tests were recently released by VDOE. These practice items will provide students an opportunity to become familiar with the types of questions that will be administered to assess new standards in reading and math. These practice item sets include new item types that will be field-tested in Spring 2025. Field test items are used to collect data and do not count towards a student's overall test scores.

<https://download.pearsonaccessnext.com/virginia/va-practicetest.html?links=1>

### Pre-K Registration

Families apply online by completing an Online Application. ( Spanish version). Applications may also be completed in-person or via phone. Families should call the preschool office with any questions.

Email:

PreKPrograms@pwcs.edu

Phone: 703-791-8708

Please note:

Check list of schools served.

- The preschool program has income limits. To review, please visit: [www.pwcs.edu/headstart](http://www.pwcs.edu/headstart)
- During the online application, families are asked to upload proof of family income, a copy of child's birth certificate, and at least one proof of address. Other information will be requested if a child is accepted. For more information on the application process, acceptance, and school enrollment, visit: [www.pwcs.edu/academics\\_programs/head\\_start/how\\_to\\_apply](http://www.pwcs.edu/academics_programs/head_start/how_to_apply)
- Selections begin in April and continue until classes are filled.

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# *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.

## **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](https://www.pwcs.edu/departments/transportation/bus_delays)

## **Bus App**

There will be a new bus tracking app used this school year for you to be able to track your child's bus more reliably. Information about EZ A2B can be found on the [EZ A2B webpage](#).

## **Free Mental Health Care**

PWCS recognizes that this time of year can be particularly challenging for many students. To ensure that every student has access to the support they need, we would like to remind parents that free mental health telehealth services are available to all PWCS students through Hazel Health – at no cost. Together, we can make a significant difference in the mental well-being of our students now and beyond.

Visit the [PWCS Hazel Health webpage](#) for more information.

## **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.



## 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 December 2025. The new building will be located on the grass behind the playground. Construction will officially begin in June 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" = 50'

#### 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 Cafeteria 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 string 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 second 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 landscaped 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 from the Hoops 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!

## PARENTAL RIGHT TO INFORMATION ABOUT TEACHERS:

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:

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

At Occoquan ES, 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 Opt Out of Assessments**

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 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.Cof 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.



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## *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*

*Music Club Page*

*Strings*

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## *Important Event Dates*

Event Information

### **PTO/Advisory**

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=UnRaWEJkc3Myd0d0ZHBTWit1MEZBQT09>

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, May 21, 2026, 07:00 PM**

Event Information

### **NO SCHOOL - Memorial Day**

When?

**Monday, May 25, 2026, 09:00 AM**

Event Information

### **NO SCHOOL - Eid al-Adha**

When?

Event Information

**Last Day of School--Dismissal at 12:25**

When?

**Friday, Jun 12, 2026, 12:15 PM**



## Occoquan Elementary School

Where Everybody Is Somebody

A PWCS "School of Excellence"

**Email:** [lintmp@pwcs.edu](mailto:lintmp@pwcs.edu)

**Website:** [occoquanes.pwcs.edu](http://occoquanes.pwcs.edu)

**Location:** [12915 Occoquan Road, Woodbridge, VA, USA](#)

**Phone:** [703.494.2195](tel:703.494.2195)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/OccoquanElementary](http://www.facebook.com/OccoquanElementary)

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



**Michael Lint**

Michael is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters