

The Parent "O"bserver

10/11/24 -- Edition 8, Volume 5

New Items Added to the Newsletter that are Important

Calendar Survey

Prince William County Public Schools invites you to provide your input on the 2025-26 instructional calendar. Your feedback is crucial in ensuring that our school calendar meets the needs of our diverse community. The annual school calendar survey is open now through **Tuesday, October 15**.

Parents, guardians, students, and staff are encouraged to share their preferences on the calendar options. Each of the school calendar options reflects the following:

- PWCS' commitment to learning and achievement for all students and a positive climate and culture for our entire community;
- The collective voices and perspectives of parents, students, and staff; and
- Requirements from the Virginia Department of Education.

In November, your feedback will be presented to the School Board, who will make the final decision on the school calendar.

Don't miss this opportunity to have your voice heard. The deadline to complete the survey is **Tuesday, October 15**.

[Complete the survey.](#)

Learn more about the calendar options and how they were developed:

- [2025-26 School Calendar Options](#)
- [How the Calendar Options Were Developed](#)

News from the Clinic

As we enter the cold and flu season, Student Health Services would like to remind families of best health practices to decrease the spread and transmission of viruses in PWCS schools. The flu

vaccination and the COVID booster are two of the best ways to protect yourself against the flu and reduce the spreading of germs.

The COVID-19 bivalent vaccine booster has been approved for ages five years and up. Read more about this booster at the [Virginia Department of Health website](#). Vaccination options can be discussed with your health care provider and vaccination opportunities can be found at vaccinate.virginia.gov.

All PWCS families are encouraged to continue the practice of maintaining healthy behaviors necessary during any cold and flu season. These include but are not limited to:

- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing and throw used tissues in the trash.
- No tissue—cough or sneeze into your elbow—not your hands.
- Wash hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth to prevent the spread of germs.
- Dry hands with a paper towel and use the paper towel to turn off the faucet.
- Hand sanitizers may also be used to perform hand hygiene when soap and water are not available.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects, such as toys and doorknobs, especially if someone is sick.
- Remember to stay home when sick for at least 24 hours fever-free (without taking fever-reducing medication).

We encourage PWCS families to review the [Center for Disease Control and Prevention's respiratory virus guidance \(updated spring 2024\)](#) for information on COVID-19 prevention and treatment.

[Respiratory Virus Guidance](#)

Practical recommendations to help lower your risk from common respiratory viral illnesses.
www.cdc.gov

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 2024-25 SY



OES Parent Handbook 24-25.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:

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 for Occoquan 2024-25.pdf

[Download](#)

1013.6 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 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" = 60'

Summary:

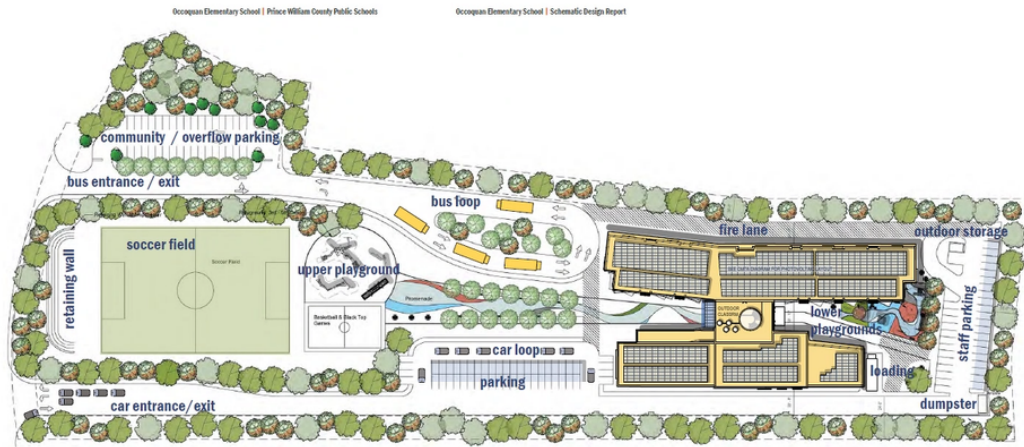
The Building is situated at the far East of the site with the front entrance lobby leading to the heart of the school. In the heart, there is a circular monumental stair with an integrated indoor slide that connects the first two levels. With the Gymnasium and Cafeteria on the first floor and the Media Center on the second floor, all of these spaces are connected by the 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 athletic 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 gfr



PERKINS—
EASTMAN

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

No School Today

When?

Monday, Oct 14, 2024, 08:00 AM

Event Information

Book Fair from October 14 through October 18

When?

Monday, Oct 14, 2024, 09:30 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=UnRaWFJkc3Myd0d0ZHBTWit1MEZBQT09>

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, Oct 17, 2024, 07:00 PM

Where?

Zoom

Event Information

Donuts and Coffee with the Principal

When?

Thursday, Oct 24, 2024, 08:15 AM

Event Information

Trunk or Treat 5:30 to 6:30

When?

Friday, Oct 25, 2024, 05:30 PM

Where?

Occoquan ES Parking Lot

Event Information

End of the First Grading Period

When?

Thursday, Oct 31, 2024, 04:30 PM

Event Information

Diwali (Schools are Closed)

When?

Friday, Nov 1, 2024, 08:00 AM

Event Information

No School--Professional Development Day for Staff

When?

Monday, Nov 4, 2024, 08:00 AM

Event Information

No School--Election Day

When?

Tuesday, Nov 5, 2024, 08:00 AM

Event Information

Multicultural Night from 6-7:30

When?

Thursday, Nov 7, 2024, 06:00 PM

Event Information

Veteran's Day--No School

When?

Monday, Nov 11, 2024, 08:00 AM

Event Information

Picture Re-Take Day

When?

Wednesday, Nov 13, 2024, 10:00 AM



Occoquan Elementary School

Where Everybody Is Somebody
A PWCS "School of Excellence"

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Website: occoquanes.pwcs.edu

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

Phone: [703.494.2195](tel:703.494.2195)

Facebook: www.facebook.com/OccoquanElementary

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



Michael Lint

Michael is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters