

The PEN

Pasadena Elementary News - August 2023

Principal's Message

Dear Panther Families,

The Pasadena Elementary staff is ready and excited for the school year. A special Panther welcome to our new students and their families. ***Please join us for Sneak-a-Peek (August 24, drop in from 2:00 - 3:00pm) and Back to School (September 14, starts at 6:00pm) events.***

These events provide parents/guardians with an opportunity to meet the teacher, learn about the curriculum, join the Parent Teacher Association, and receive resources to help bolster your student's skills for academic success.



In just a few weeks, the school staff will participate in professional development in preparation for this year. We look forward to having our students return to the classroom, engage in new learning activities, and utilize BrightSpace as an educational tool.

AACPS updates the website frequently, so please visit <https://www.aacps.org>. [Click here](#) for school bus stop information. Our [school website](#) has been updated. We will communicate and share the newsletter via email to support our Green School initiative. We invite you to follow us on the school's Instagram & Twitter: pes_aacps. Pasadena Elementary is closed for visitors. Volunteers will be permitted when pre-arranged and approved through the Main Office.

Many thanks to our outgoing 2022-2023 PTA Board, committee chairs, and parent volunteers. We appreciate the time and energy devoted to supporting our school community. Please visit the [PTA website](#) and join. The PTA is looking for volunteers and your help is needed! If you are interested in serving as a grade level parent liaison to assist with grade level events, please let your student's homeroom teacher know.

We look forward to an exciting year filled with new experiences and opportunities. Thank you for everything you do for your child/children and our school.

Sincerely,

[Jennifer Quirino, Principal](#)



All students are invited to sneak-a-peek in the classroom on Thursday, August 24 from 2:00-3:00pm. This is a drop in event. Parking is limited.



Parents/Guardians are invited to attend Back to School on Thursday, September 14 at 6:00pm (no students please). This event will focus on curriculum and class activities. Parking is limited.



Click [here](#) to visit the AACPS website for the 2023-2024 calendar.



Be on the look out! Orders for school spirit wear will be accepted from September 5 - 19. Joe Corbi fundraiser orders will be accepted September 11 - 19. Any spirit wear or Joe Corbi proceeds will be applied to student and staff incentives or school activities.



Successful completion of a background check is required **before** any person has access to volunteer with students, on or off school property (i.e. field trip). If you **have not** been fingerprinted by AACPS, begin the process by [clicking here](#). *A commercial background check is valid for up to two calendar years.*



Clothing, footwear, textiles, accessories & paper may be donated. Please place items in a bag before placing in the collection bin in the school parking lot. Paper can also be recycled in the Paper Retriever bin. The school is paid by the pound and money is used for student and staff incentives.



Bus Riders

Bus schedules can be found here:

<https://www.aacps.org/buses>
when it is available.



ChromeBook

Dust off and charge your Chromebook! Students in grades PK-2 will borrow a device when at school. Students in grades 3 -5 should bring the assigned Chromebook (fully charged) to school daily. New students will receive a device at Orientation.



Hiring for ALL positions

Job Openings

AACPS is hiring! If you are looking for part-time or full-time work, there may be an opening for you! [Take a look....](#)

Car Riders

To help make dismissal run smoothly, Pasadena Elementary will provide each family with one "name card" to place in the front windshield of your vehicle. Please [click here](#) to complete the online form if your student will be a car rider on a regular basis. Please list each student and grade. Thank you and we look forward to seeing you in "The Loop!" If the name card is not displayed, identification will be required for pick-up, resulting in a delay. The following requests are for safety reasons:

- For students that will be transported to and from school in a car, we ask for the driver to remain in the car at all times while in the car loop.
- Please display the car rider tag while in line, until your student is brought to the car. This will assist all staff in the car line, not just the staff member calling for your student.
- Please supervise your student in your vehicle before the school bell rings and doors open at 7:40am. The playground, track, and field are closed before school.
- If your student needs additional help that requires adult assistance to get in or out of your vehicle (to get in or out of a car seat/seatbelt), please plan to park in the main entrance parking lot, and escort your student to and from the side door. This will help to keep our very busy car line moving and avoid traffic back-ups on the main road.
- If arriving after 8:00am, please park in the main entrance parking lot and escort the student to the main office. All students will need to be signed into school if arriving late.
- If an early dismissal is needed, please arrive prior to 1:45pm to avoid an extended wait as staff are preparing for regular dismissal at 2:25pm.

Car rider tags will be available for pick-up with the homeroom teacher at Sneak-a-Peek or Back to School. If your family attended orientation and received a car rider tag, there is no need to submit your information on this form. If you previously received a car rider tag, feel free to continue using.

PTA

Our PTA is active and always looking for new members and volunteers. Please join and get involved to support PES.

To sign-up online, please click on Membership:
<https://sites.google.com/pespta.org/pespta-org>.

All families are invited to attend the upcoming PTA meetings.



Counselor's Corner

Positive Behavior Interventions & Supports

Pasadena a PBIS school. PBIS is a process of teaching appropriate behavior and providing supports necessary to sustain that behavior. As part of PBIS we have identified 4 core values which we expect students to demonstrate throughout all school settings.

Follow this matrix and show school values as Panthers **CARE**:

#PanthersCARE

	CARE	Classroom	Mealtime	Bus	Hallway	Restroom	Recess
Care (Care about yourself and others.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Wear a maskAttend school dailyArrive to class on timeGive your best effortBe proud of your workAssist others in needWear school appropriate clothes/shoes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Wear a mask unless eatingRemain seated in your assigned seat.Keep your area cleanPut trash and recycling in correct container	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Wear a maskGet to bus stop on timeUse kind words	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Wear a maskWalk on correct side of hallwayPlace hats, coats, and sunglasses in lockers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Wear a maskWash hands with soap and waterTurn off light	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Wear a mask when neededBe Kind to othersClean up equipment	
Achieve (Accomplish a goal)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Complete morning routinesUse active listening skillsPersevere through challengesStay on task	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Eat before socializing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Walk when getting on/off the busGo directly to the classroom in the morning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Be responsible for your materialsUse designated stairway(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Keep restroom neat for others	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Remain in correct areaUse playground equipment appropriately	
Respect (Positive way of treating others/things)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Maintain social distanceRespect property and othersKeep hands, feet, and objects to yourselfUse school appropriate languageCooperate with peers and staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Maintain social distanceStand in line patiently and wait your turnListen to the speaker during announcementsSpeak using indoor voice (Level 2)Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Keep hands, feet, and belongings to yourselfSpeak using indoor voice (Level 2)Follow bus driver directions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Maintain social distanceKeep hands, feet, and objects to yourselfFollow teacher directions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Be polite and respect privacyKeep hands, feet, and objects to yourselfFlushUse indoor voice (Level 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Maintain social distancingKeep hands, feet, and objects to yourselfFollow teacher directionsPractice good sportsmanship	
Engage (Actively Participate)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Be a leaderParticipate in all class activitiesComplete classwork and homeworkFollow AACPS Code of Conduct	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Eat only your foodDisplay appropriate table manners	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Adhere to bus safety rulesRemain in assigned seatListen for your bus to be called	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Transition quickly and quietly (Level 0)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Make good choices	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Have a Plan of activities to participate in	

Second Step

We want your child to be successful in school and that means supporting and encouraging their whole development. Children also need skills to take on learning challenges, make good decisions, manage strong emotions, and get along with others.

We will continue using the Second Step program designed to improve children's social- emotional skills. Four units will cover the following:

- **Growth Mindset & Goal Setting:** Children learn how to pay attention and manage distractions, develop a growth mindset, and apply goal-setting strategies to their social and academic lives.
 - **Emotion Management:** Children learn how to identify and label emotions and use emotion-management strategies to calm strong feelings.
 - **Empathy & Kindness:** Children learn how to recognize kindness and act kindly, have empathy for others and take others' perspectives, and recognize kind acts and empathy as important in building and maintaining relationships.
 - **Problem-Solving:** Children learn how to identify and state a problem, recognize if a problem is an accident and use the STEP problem-solving process:
 - S:** Say the problem
 - T:** Think of solutions
 - E:** Explore the outcomes
 - P:** Pick a solution
-

Attendance

Attendance can be a huge barrier to school success. Starting as early as kindergarten, missing 10% of school (or just 2 days every month) can make it harder to learn to read and cause children to fall behind in school. Anne Arundel County Public Schools considers any student who unlawfully misses school for eight days in any quarter, fifteen days in any semester or twenty days in a school year to be considered truant.

What can you do?

- Communication with your child's school is critical.
- Make school attendance a priority.
- Establish routines for bedtime, waking up, and showing up for class.
- Identify a learning space for your child.
- Have a back-up plan for when you cannot be there to help your child.
- Avoid non-urgent medical appointments and vacations when school is in session.
- Help your child stay healthy and engaged.
- Sign up for Parent Connect to monitor attendance and progress.
- Send a written excuse when your child is absent from school **or** submit an attendance note via Parent Connect. To ensure the absence is appropriately coded, please do not email attendance notes to classroom teachers.
- Ask for help when you need it.
- Please contact Mrs. Quirino at 410-222-6573 to discuss your student's attendance if assistance is needed.

Meals

[APPLY FOR FREE/REDUCED PRICE MEALS HERE](#)

Food and Nutrition Services maintains a website for meal menus, payment options, nutrition information, and wellness. In light of ongoing supply chain issues, some menus may change due to product availability. We suggest all families complete the application for Free/Reduced Meals as the income guidelines have changed. The following price structure has been approved by the Board of Education:

- Breakfast (full price – all schools) **\$1.50**
- Breakfast (reduced price – all schools) **.00**
- Lunch (full price – elementary) **2.75**
- Lunch (full price – secondary) **3.00**
- Lunch (reduced – all schools) **.00**
- Milk **\$0.55**

Meal Benefit Applications are available for SY 2023-2024! Log onto

www.aacps.org/mealapplication Why apply? [It's About More Than Lunch](#). If you have any questions regarding the school meals program, please email jrisse@aacps.org or call 410-222-5900.

Literacy News

Reading is such an important skill for our students. It can be hard to fit in reading for 20 minutes each day. Remember that reading to your child or with your child counts as those 20 minutes! Learn more about how to help your child with reading at home on the AACPS website - <https://www.aacps.org/Page/9349>. There are videos on reading at home as well as suggested book titles by grade. Happy Reading!

Cathryn Nash, Literacy Teacher
cnash@aacps.org

Media Center

Elementary students visit the Library Media Center at least once a week for instruction and book check out. Aside from encouraging a love of reading, students will explore print and online resources to find information and build research skills; and learn how to use and share information effectively and responsibly. Students and families can access many library media resources online at any time.

In fifth grade, students will have an opportunity to apply for the Wake Up, Pasadena morning announcements anchor positions. Students pre-record announcements for use in all classrooms.

[Julie Bradshaw](#), Media Specialist

Art

I am looking forward to another great year at Pasadena! I will update our Artsonia website throughout the year. If you are new to Pasadena Elementary, you will get more information about your child's account in the upcoming months. It is a wonderful site that securely displays our student's artwork each year and items can be purchased with their artwork printed on them. It's a great way to share your child's artwork with friends and family members! The school earns 20% back in profits to use towards school and art supplies. Check out our website:

<https://www.artsonia.com/schools/school.asp?id=75579>.

Let me know if you have questions!

[Karen O'Boyle](#), Art Teacher

Physical Education

Welcome to Physical Education! I am very excited to teach your child this year in P.E. class. We will be learning a variety of ways to stay healthy and move our bodies, while having a lot of fun. Please remind your child(ren) to wear sneakers on their P.E. days. Sneakers are required for physical activities in the gym, on the field, or at the PES track. Each student should bring a water bottle (with water only) to P.E. There is a refill fountain in the gym.

When possible, we will share a SHAPE (Society of Health and Physical Educators) calendar. If your student and family complete the activities, please send pictures to the email address below so that we can add to our school Twitter account or use with our Wellness School of Distinction application. [Click here to access the August SHAPE calendar](#).

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

[Carrie Deaver](#), Physical Education Teacher

EEE Global Studies

Enhancing Elementary Excellence (EEE) is designed to spark creativity and teaches students to approach problems with an open mind. Global Studies theme brings world issues to the elementary school classroom giving students the opportunity to develop a stronger sense of responsibility. In Global Studies the students will be spending the first few weeks developing routines that focus on teamwork and collaboration skills. Students will also be working with the stages of the Engineering Design Process to prepare for future project-based learning.

Looking forward to a great year,

[Ryan Peters](#), EEE Global Studies Teacher

Music

Chorus: 4th and 5th Grade Students: This year you have the opportunity to be a part of the Pasadena Elementary School Chorus. We will be having class in person again this year. Sign ups will be available once school start.

Any questions? Please contact me.

[Anna Gavrilov](#) Music Teacher

Band/Strings Sign-up: The sign ups for Band, Strings, & Chorus will all be completed online.

Strings is open to all 3rd, 4th, & 5th graders. **Band** is open to all 4th and 5th grade students. Schedule times and days will be shared once all interested students are enrolled.

Performances: At this time, we are planning on a December Winter Concert. The format of that event will be determined by the school system and health metrics at that time. The intention is that all of the music students WILL have an opportunity to share what they are learning in a positive setting. Stay tuned for further updates!

Donations: Pasadena is always open to accepting gently used instruments if you have some at home that will not be used again. A receipt with instrument value can be provided for tax purposes if desired.

[Jacob Allison](#) Orchestra & Band Teacher

Health Room Info

Welcome back! Nurse Beth Kirchner can be reached at Nurse2182@aacps.org. Our Nurse is assisted by Health Assistant Alyssa "Allie" Everly. Medication forms and health orders should be submitted directly to Health Room staff. Please do not send medication or medicated lozenges/chapstick with your student.

As you get your students ready to come back for another great year, consider taking a moment to visit this website from [NIH.gov](https://www.nih.gov) that talks about [healthy tips](#) for returning to school:

School Pictures & Yearbooks

Capture your pictures this year and share with us! Tag @PES_AACPS on Twitter, or send your pictures to PES-Yearbook@aacps.org with your student's first and last name in the subject. PES is expecting to offer individual fall and spring pictures as well as a class group picture or composite with Classic Photography. Families will have an opportunity to purchase fall and spring individual student pictures, class pictures, and yearbooks. Yearbook and sentiments for the yearbooks will go on sale in winter.

At the start of the year, please send 'First Day' pictures!

Technology Assistance?

Resources for [Instructional Tech Support](#) are available. If additional assistance is required, please call the Help Desk at 410-222-5135.

**Anne Arundel County Public Schools
Chief Operating Office
Transportation Division**

Update: DRAWSTRINGS AND SCHOOL BUS HANDRAILS

The Issue:

Drawstrings on children's clothing have become snagged in school bus handrails located at the entrance to the school bus. About a half dozen youngsters nationwide have been killed and more have sustained serious injury when drawstrings become entangled in the school bus handrail. The problem occurs when the drawstring length permits the child to step to the ground and to an area away from the view of the school bus driver. The bus thereafter departs the stopping area while the locked drawstring causes the youngster to be dragged along the side of or under the school bus.

Remedies:

1. Inspect and Modify Handrail Joint Fixtures:

Handrails on school buses have been inspected at all regular inspections held since the summer of 1995. Future school bus inspections will continue to include a review of this issue.

Handrails that may cause a problem have been modified, replaced, and where permissible, removed. In most cases, the remedy increases the space at the bottom of the joint where the handrail attaches to the school bus entrance way.

2. School Bus Driver Instruction:

All school bus drivers have been advised of this concern and have received appropriate instruction. Drivers have been instructed to be certain that recently discharged passengers have cleared the "danger zone" of the school bus before leaving a bus stop or school unloading zone.

3. The Parental Role:

Parents are encouraged to examine drawstrings on currently owned clothing. All drawstrings, whether at the neck, waist or thigh levels, have risk. Drawstrings having buttons at the end of the drawstring are particularly dangerous. Consider this issue when purchasing new clothing. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) suggests that drawstrings be cut or otherwise removed.

Be mindful that drawstring problems are not limited to school bus handrails. Additional problems may be experienced on playground equipment, bicycles, escalators, automobile equipment, carnival rides, and just about anything that moves people.

Video Camera System

Pasadena Elementary School is equipped with a video camera system. It covers selected interior and exterior public portions of the building and grounds. It is NOT monitored constantly, but it is monitored during emergency situations. During certain events, when the safety or security of students may be in question, authorized personnel from local, state, or federal police or fire emergency units may be given access to view images projected on the camera system. If you have any questions about the system, you should call the Supervisor of School Security at 410-222-5083.



Pasadena Elementary

Email: jquirino@aacps.org

Website: <https://www.aacps.org/Page/4823>

Location: 401 E Pasadena Road 21122

Phone: [410-222-6573](tel:410-222-6573)

Instagram: [pes_aacps](#) and Twitter: [@PES_AACPS](#)

NON-DISCRIMINATION NOTICE

AACPS prohibits discrimination in its educational programs, and in employment, on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, sexual orientation, genetic information, gender identity, or disability. [Read more about our non-discrimination policy here.](#)



Pasadena Elementary School

