



Piney Orchard Elementary School

2641 Strawberry Lake Way

Odenton, MD 21113

410-672-7591



Our Piney Orchard family collaborates to provide the appropriate level of challenge to enable all students to be successful citizens.

Dear Piney Orchard Elementary School Family,

Welcome Back! We are so excited for this new school year and look forward to seeing you on Thursday, September 12, 2019 at our Back to School Night. There will be a short PTA General Membership meeting in the Cafeteria beginning at 6:15 p.m. to approve the budget and meet and greet volunteers. Our Back to School Night will begin at approximately 6:30 p.m. with a broadcast to all classrooms. More information to come home with your student.

AACPS has a new computer system in place. The front office staff appreciate your patience as they get acclimated to the new system.

Please join the PTA! The PTA supports everything we do at POES. Attendance at bi-monthly meetings is encouraged, but not required for membership. PTA members are people who care about Piney Orchard, so they can be grandparents, aunts, uncles, and friends. A huge thank you in advance to all of our members for their financial support and all of the volunteer time invested in our school.

We are a Maryland Green School, and we continue to look for ways to care for the environment. One way that most families at POES can support this initiative is to walk to school. Our school was designed to be a "walking school", and our small pick-up loop will attest to it. If you must drive to school, please follow the directions of the staff on duty and pull all the way to the end of the sidewalk. Please stay in your car and let your child exit the car independently at the curb (not the street side). We appreciate your help keeping our students safe. We also ask that if you walk to school that you do not bring pets onto school property. If your child rides a bike or scooter, please have him or her walk it while on school grounds so that everyone stays safe.

Please take a minute and read the box naming our new staff and Salisbury University teacher interns. We feel extremely grateful to have such a dedicated group of people working with our children.

Should your address or phone information change throughout the year, it is very important that you let the office staff know as soon as possible. If there is a change of address, two proofs of residency are to be given to one of the secretaries with the new address. An audit of residency information will be done randomly throughout the school year.

Please strive for perfect attendance! Winter, spring, and summer breaks are built into our school calendar. Partner with us to help your child understand that good attendance, to include being on time, is the key to academic success and is essential for successful employment later in life.

Thank you for all of your support. We look forward to working with you this school year. See you on Thursday, September 12th!

Barry Gruber, Principal & Lisa Wild, Assistant Principal

FORMS THAT WENT HOME ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

- Student Handbook
- Parent Calendar
- Lunch Menu
- Emergency Card Verification Report & Letter of Explanation
- Student Accident Insurance Form

**UPCOMING EVENTS
SEPTEMBER—OCTOBER 2018**

September	
2	NO SCHOOL —Labor Day
3	First Day of School for Grades 1-5
3-4	Parent/Teacher Conferences for Kindergarten
9	Hero Boys Registration Opens
12	PTA Meeting—6:15 pm
12	Back to School Night—6:30 to 8 pm
5,6,9	Staggered Start for Kindergarten
10	First Day for all Kindergarten Students
20	Vision and Hearing Screening
23-26	Grade 5 Drownproofing
25	Arundel High Homecoming Parade 5:30 pm 50's Theme
30	NO SCHOOL —Rosh Hashana
October	
1-31	Harvest for the Hungry Kids Helping Kids Campaign
1	Federal Impact Survey Form Sent Home
7	Interims Go Home
7	PTA Meeting 6:00 p.m.
8	Two-hour Early Dismissal —Prof. Development
9	NO SCHOOL —Yom Kippur
10	Grade 3 Field Trip to Londontowne (<i>Schar/Simmons</i>)
11	Fall Pictures (<i>Make-up Day is November 22nd</i>)
11	Grade 3 Field Trip to Londontowne (<i>Guernsey/Truffer</i>)
10	Vision and Hearing Screening Make Ups
14	Columbus Day
15-16	NO SCHOOL —Parent/Teacher Conferences
23	Unity Day (Wear Orange)
28	Fun Run Pep Rally
31	Halloween Parade 2:30 pm

Welcome New Staff and Salisbury University Interns!

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Kristina Ledford-K Teacher | Michele Doyle-Gr. 1 Teacher |
| Wendy Fitchett-Gr. 1 Teacher | Ian Mitchell-PT Art Teacher |
| Brittany Allen-School Psychologist | Jennifer Stencil-PT Reading Spec. |
| Odessa Windear-Special Ed | Sara Fox-PT Media Teacher |
| Suann Myers-PPW | Barb Scarangella, OT |
| Theresa Kohler-Right Start Advisor | Valencia Miller-TSA |
| Tawana Tutt-TSA | Maria Palacios-Cafe Monitor |
| Karen Arakelian-Café Monitor | Colin Barnes-Intern |
| Taylor Connor-Intern | Carly Marvin-Intern |
| Andrea Tapia-Intern | Allyson Luttrell-Intern |

Please see the website for the complete version of newsletter.

Cafeteria News

Meal Prices for 2019-2020 School Year

Breakfast: \$1.50 Lunch: \$2.75 Milk: \$.55



NOTE: Applications for free and reduced lunches are accepted online at applyformeals.aacps.org throughout the school year. Paper applications are available to families without access to smart phones or computers. Check out the online payment system for setting up a lunch account by visiting MyPaymentsPlus.com. Menus are sent home every other month, and are available on the AACPS website.

Children eating breakfast are to come to the cafeteria upon arrival, eat quickly and head to classroom no later than 9:00 a.m.



Communicating with your School Nurse

Parents/Guardians—Keep Your School Nurse UP to Date On:

1. Please be sure to inform your school nurse about your child's health conditions or other special health needs in order to plan for safe management at school. Chronic health conditions including but not limited to: asthma, seizures, diabetes or life threatening allergies.
2. Remember to provide your school nurse with current emergency contact information.
3. Tell your school nurse if your child's health condition interferes with school attendance.
4. Make sure to tell your school nurse about medications and medical treatments your child requires during the school day.
5. Tell your school nurse about any changes in your child's health or mobility status, or about any infectious disease.
6. Speak to the school nurse if you need to obtain information about health insurance for your child.

Any questions or health related concerns? Please contact your school nurse, Jennifer Fernandez BSN, RN at 410-672-7591.

Working Together for a Safe and Healthy School Year!
Anne Arundel County Department of Health
School Health Services

Extra Clothes

Please be sure your child has an extra set of seasonally-appropriate clothes (including socks and underwear) to keep in his/her locker in the event of accidents, spills, etc. Thank you!

2019-2020 BUS SCHEDULES

The bus schedules for the 2019-2020 school year are available online at www.aacps.org.



Our school is on Twitter—come check us out!
[@POESAACPS](https://twitter.com/POESAACPS)



Camera Notification
Piney Orchard Elementary 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.

POES PTA General Membership Meeting



Thursday, September 12, 2019 in Cafeteria

6:15 pm—Prior to Back-to-School Night

Join us for our meetings during the 2019-2020 school year! Meetings are held in the Media Center at 6:00 pm unless otherwise noted.

Visit or join our Piney Orchard PTA Facebook page for more information!

EMERGENCY DRILLS

During each school year, various drills are conducted at every school to ensure that staff and students are prepared in the event of an emergency. These drills include monthly fire/evacuation drills. In addition, five drills with scenarios developed by the school system's Office of School Security and based upon various possible emergency scenarios are done each year. These include, but are not limited to: evacuation for natural gas emergencies; shelter for tornado and earthquake; shelter for outside hazardous materials release; lockout for danger outside of the school building, reverse evacuation back into the school for students and staff outside; and lockdown for a dangerous situation inside of the school.

These drills are discussed with staff prior to the drill and evaluated once the drill is complete. In some cases, age-appropriate, essential drill information may be discussed with students before they take place. Please know that visitors may not be able to access the building for a few minutes during the drills.

DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP SAFETY



To ensure the safety of our students, staff, and parents, **it is imperative that all drivers and pedestrians follow the directions of the crossing guards and school staff members.** Drivers should **pull all the way up** in the drop-off and pick-up line. Children should exit and enter by themselves on the curb side in the designated drop-off area. If they are unable to exit or enter the car by themselves, drivers are asked to park on Strawberry Lake Way or Stream Valley Drive in lawful parking areas only. **Drivers should remain in their vehicles in the drop-off and pick-up lines.** Please do not pull around others in line, and only park in designated parking spots. Bus riders are reminded that they should not engage in rough play at the bus stop and must stay out of the street. Thank you for your cooperation!

Chaperone and Volunteer Approval Process

Anne Arundel County Office of School Security requires prospective Chaperones **AND** Volunteers to complete **BOTH** steps below:

Step #1: On-line Background Investigation Request.

Step #2: Watch the Sexual Harassment and Child Abuse Video

(See instructions on back to access both the on-line background investigation and to watch the Sexual Harassment and Child Abuse Video.)

Once you have completed the on-line background investigation and viewed the Sexual Harassment and Child Abuse Video, please sign below and send this form in to school with your child and his/her teacher will forward it to the front office.

I certify that I have completed the on-line background investigation and viewed the Sexual Harassment and Child Abuse Video in its entirety and I understand the information the video contained.

Name (please print)

Signature

Child's Full Name

Email address/phone number

Date

School

For internal use only:

Pass Background Investigation?

Date Requested

Date Clearance Expires*

*Clearance expires 2 years from request date. (For example if request date is 2/8/2017 it will be expired 2/9/2019.)

Step #1

On-line Background Investigation

Please note, if you have completed the background check within the past 2 years, your clearance is still good. Clearances expire 2 years from the date requested.

To access the on-line background investigation:

- Go to <https://www.aacps.org/>.
- Click the "FAMILIES" tab.
- Look to right of screen, under the heading "Getting Involved in Your School." Click on "School and Family Partnership".
- On the left side of the page click on "Volunteer Program Management".
- Under "Managing Your School Volunteer Program", click *Volunteer Training*.
- On the 5th bullet down, click [here](#) for information on Commercial and Fingerprint-Supported background checks.
- Scroll to the bottom and click **APPLY FOR A BACKGROUND CHECK** and Complete Form.

Note: You are required to fill in both a date you wish to start volunteering, and a date and location of a field trip. If you do not have an exact date or are not going on a field trip, the form requires you to put something in the box. Put in a date that is 2-3 weeks out or an approximate date you think you will be starting to volunteer/chaperone.

Step #2

Sexual Harassment and Child Abuse Video

To watch the Sexual Harassment and Child Abuse Video:

- Go to <https://www.aacps.org/>.
- Click the "Families" tab.
- Look to right of screen, under the heading "Getting Involved in Your School." Click on "School and Family Partnership".
- On the left side of the page click on "Volunteer Program Management".
- Under "Managing Your School Volunteer Program", click *Volunteer Training*. Volunteers can view by clicking: *Sexual Harassment and Child Abuse Presentation* and then click **VIEW SEXUAL HARASSMENT/CHILD ABUSE TRAINING VIDEO**.

After you have completed the above (2) steps, please sign and complete the front of this form and send it in to school with your child and his/her teacher will forward it to the front office.

We are requesting you complete this form for the new school year, even if you have completed steps 1 and 2 in the past.