



Princess Anne Middle School

Home of the PANTHERS

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August 2009

Fall News – Welcome to a New School Year!

Dear Parents,

There is a great deal of excitement here at Princess Anne Middle School as we prepare to open the doors for our 36th year of service. It is an honor to be a part of what has become one of the greatest middle schools in our city. We are looking forward to working with each one of you this year as we continue to strive for excellence at PAMS.

The end of summer is quickly approaching and the start of school is just around the corner. Information which will be helpful to you as you prepare for the 2009-2010 school year is enclosed with this newsletter. A free student planner/handbook and other pertinent information will be distributed to all students during the first week of school. These materials should also help answer many of your questions.

Princess Anne Middle School is successful due to the hard work and dedication of our students and teachers as well as the high level of involvement of our parents. We hope you will actively participate with our PTA and also get involved with our Volunteers in Education program. Princess Anne Middle School Panthers continue to lead the pack in a variety of ways. Our students continue to excel in every regard, including a high level of academic achievement and through our outstanding athletic programs.

Our goal at Princess Anne Middle School is to utilize the hidden potential of each child in an effort to surpass our highest expectations. With your help, this will be another banner year in the history of Princess Anne Middle School. If we can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to call us.

Respectfully,

James M. Pohl
Principal

DAILY PLANNERS:

Each student will receive a daily planning calendar book at the beginning of the school year. The planner will help students keep track of assignments and better manage their time. Students will also use the planner as a corridor pass, so they must bring it to each class every day. Planners will be distributed to students free of charge; however, students must pay \$6 to replace lost or damaged planners.

ORIENTATION FOR NEW STUDENTS AND THEIR PARENTS WILL BE HELD WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2 :

We will be greeting new students and their parents in the cafetorium at 4:00 and the program will last until approximately 6:00 p.m. This meeting will include a tour of the building, an overview of the elective courses offered at Princess Anne Middle School, and a description of clubs and athletic programs. There will also be an opportunity to purchase gym uniforms and spirit wear as well as to join the PTA. For those with returning students, there will be an opportunity to meet with teachers later in September during our PTA open house.

GUIDELINES FOR SCHEDULE CHANGES:

The enclosed schedule reflects the courses chosen on the Course Verification Sheet. Schedule changes can be made at this time for the following reasons:

- Scheduled for an insufficient number of courses and/or missing an academic course
- Schedule is incorrect due to a successful summer school course
- Scheduled for a course which the correct prerequisite has not been taken

Counselors will be available to process the above schedule changes at the following times:

8th graders: Tuesday, September 1st -- 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

7th graders: Tuesday, September 1st -- 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

6th graders: Tuesday, September 1st -- 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Schedule changes based on the following reasons cannot be honored at this time:

- Teacher changes
- Rearrangement of classes
- Changes in electives

BUS SCHEDULES:

Schedules will be printed *The Virginia Beach Beacon* soon and they will also be posted on the PAMS homepage once they are available.

SCHOOL CLOSINGS AND CANCELLATIONS:

If you would like to be notified of school closings and cancellations due to holidays, inclement weather, or emergency situations, you may subscribe to vbschools x-tra by logging on to www.vbschools.com.

PAMS WEBSITE

The PAMS website is kept up to date with useful information. Our site is located at www.princessannems.vbschools.com. Please take the time to log on when using the site.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

August 26	6 th Grade Transition Program
September 2	New Student Orientation
September 7	Labor Day, schools closed
September 8	First day of school for students
September 15	PTA Open House 7 th and 8 th Grade
September 16	PTA Open House 6 th Grade
October 12	Progress reports issued
November 3	Staff day, schools closed for students
November 11	Veterans Day, Schools Closed
November 16	First day of the second nine weeks
November 23	Report cards issued
November 26-27	Thanksgiving Holiday (Early release Nov. 25)*
December 17	Progress reports issued
December 23-Jan. 1	Winter holidays
January 18	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day schools closed
January 26-29	Adjusted Dismissal*
February 1	Staff day, schools closed for students
February 2	First day of third nine weeks
February 5	Report cards issued
March 5	Progress reports issued
April 2	Staff Day, schools closed for students
April 5 – 9	Spring Holiday
April 12	First day of the fourth nine weeks
April 16	Report cards issued
May 14	Progress reports issued
May 31	Memorial Day, schools closed
June 17-18	Adjusted Dismissal*
June 18	Last day of school for students
June 25	Report cards mailed to all students

*Adjusted dismissal hours are 9:10 a.m. – 1:10 p.m.

STUDENT MEALS:

The prices for middle school students are as follows:

	Regular	Reduced
Breakfast	\$1.00	\$.30
Lunch	\$2.00	\$.40

PHYSICALS:

Physicals will be offered at PAMS on August 24th. Girls will start at 5:30 p.m. and boys will start at 6:00 p.m. The cost of a physical is \$10, cash payment only.

FALL SPORTS TRYOUTS

Fall sports tryouts will be Monday, August 31st starting at 3:30 p.m. Sports include debate, football, boy's and girl's soccer.

FALL SPORTS PARENTS' MEETING:

A meeting for parents of fall sports athletes will be held in the cafetorium on **Tuesday, September 8th at 6:00 p.m.** to answer questions regarding fall sports.

GYM UNIFORMS:

Uniforms will be sold during new student orientation and through PE classes. Shirts and shorts are \$6.00 each.

SCHOOL HOURS:

All students must be in their first period by 9:05 a.m., and classes dismiss at 3:40 p.m. Students who arrive earlier than 8:45 a.m. must wait outside the building as staff members are not available to supervise students.

SCHOOL PICTURES:

School pictures are scheduled in both the fall and the spring. Your child should dress appropriately for the occasion. Additional information will be forthcoming.

DRESS CODE:

Princess Anne Middle School's dress code will be reviewed with all students during handbook assemblies the first week of school. Please help us to address common issues before the start of the school year. For young men, pants must be secured at the waist and tank tops as well as bandannas are prohibited. Young ladies should not wear shirts which expose the midriff and/or have spaghetti straps, shorts and/or skirts which are extremely short, or pajama bottoms. Slippers/flip flops and shoes with wheels are also to be avoided by both girls and boys. Students who are inappropriately dressed will be denied access to class until a change of clothing is brought to school.

IMMUNIZATIONS:

Please check the list, located on www.vbschools.com of required immunizations that must be up to date or completed to enroll in or attend school for the start of the 2009-2010 school year. The Virginia Beach Department of Public Health is offering the Tdap vaccine at **no cost** during several Tdap clinics. Students without proper immunization records will not have a schedule. Once updated records are brought to our guidance department, they will receive a schedule and may attend classes.

CLINIC:

The clinic's staff is here to assist you. If your child requires either over-the-counter or prescription medications during the school year, the clinic must have a completed medication form signed by both physician and guardian. **All prescription drugs must be brought into the clinic by an adult.** Parents, please make sure that the clinic has emergency contact data and that those telephone numbers are current. If you have to pick up your child from the clinic, you must show a photo ID. If your child ever has any health problems or is restricted from an activity because of health problems, please report these problems to the clinic. Please feel free to contact us at 648-4958.

NOT PERMITTED:

Electronic devices such as IPODs, personal game devices, portable CD players, and laser pointers are not permitted at Princess Anne Middle School at anytime, including after school activities and school sponsored activities. Skateboards, scooters, wheelies, footballs/basketballs, playing and trading cards, and bandannas are also prohibited. Additionally, caps, hats, and do-rags must be removed prior to entering the school and must be stored in the locker during the instructional day.

NOTE: VBCPS does not insure personal property of students, employees, volunteers, parents, or other individuals located on School Board Property. Please also note VBCPS has a new cell phone policy outlined on their homepage www.vbschools.com.

PARENT PORTAL

The *SchoolNet Parent Portal* is a powerful online resource that provides parents the opportunity to monitor their child's progress in school and view historic academic and enrollment information dating back to the 2004-2005 school year. To learn more about the *SchoolNet Parent Portal*, to login to your account, or to set up an account, go to the PAMS home page or the school division's website www.vbschools.com.