



September 2019
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Pole Green Elementary School
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POLE GREEN PRESS

President's Message

Administrator's Corner

Ms. Rhonda Voorhees, Principal

Welcome to a new school year at Pole Green Elementary. I am excited about the school year and look forward to working with each of you. It has been a very busy summer as we prepare for over 600 students. We welcome all of our new students and families as new GREAT Gators!

I encourage you to like and follow our Pole Green Elementary School Facebook page. We enjoy highlighting the innovative and creative lessons that happen at our school. Be sure to sign and return the "photo permission" form for your student to his/her teacher so they can be included in the pictures.

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For absences please call the
ATTENDANCE LINE 365-4714

Dear PGES Families,

The PTA is excited to welcome everyone back for another great gator year! We have many fun family activities planned including returning favorites like our Holiday Open House, Movie Nights, the Winter Dance, Donuts with Dad and Muffins with Mom as well as brand new events the summer playdate and Granola with Grans. We hope to see you there!

We will communicate these events and other important information in a variety of ways including flyers sent home in Tuesday folders, this newsletter, e-mails through e-connect and our Facebook page. Please like and follow us at [Facebook.com/pgespta](https://www.facebook.com/pgespta) for the most up to date information.

Did you know the PTA is involved in more than after school events? When you become a member, help us fundraise, and volunteer you also help us provide class room supplies to teachers, office support, field trip funds and books to students in need, upkeep of the school courtyard and a performance by Theatre IV for the whole school. Please consider becoming a member for just \$6 on online school payments and consider volunteering with us.

As always, we welcome any comments or suggestions on how we can make things better for our children and families here at Pole Green. Feel free to contact any board member or use the PTA suggestion box located in the front office.

Again, "Welcome!" The PTA looks forward to working with all of our students, families and staff to make this a great year at Pole Green. We thank you for your support for the upcoming year.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Beardslee president@polegreenpta.org

Administrator's Corner (Continued)

The PGES faculty and staff invite you to visit our school, volunteer, and participate in your child's educational experience. Communication between home and school are very important throughout the year. School-wide announcements may be communicated through ConnectEd email. You can register for ConnectEd email through the Hanover County Public Schools website, and click on "email connection" icon at the bottom, and then select any schools you would like to receive emails. PGES will also communicate with parents weekly through a Tuesday folder that will be sent home with students which will include classroom, school and PTA information. Classroom teachers will use PowerSchool as a regular communication tool for homework and specific classroom information.

In order for our school to run smoothly and to insure the safety and welfare of each child, we ask that you make yourself aware of the policies listed below.

Visitors- Hanover County Public Schools is using the RAPTOR TECHNOLOGIES system for all visitors or volunteers in our school. If you go beyond the front office, you must show a valid picture I.D. to be entered into the Raptor system to be screened on the sex-offender registry.

Attendance – Regular school hours are 8:00a.m. – 2:30p.m. Please call the school attendance line at 365-4714 if your child is going to be absent for the day. Please give your child's name, teacher's name, and the reason for the absence. Parent notification to the school through the attendance line, an email to the teacher, or a written note within 3 days will make any absence marked "excused". A student must report to the classroom and be marked present by the teacher in order to be counted in attendance at school. Hanover County Public Schools elementary attendance policy 7-2.4 will be followed should a student miss twenty (20) school days in an academic year.

Tardy – A child is marked tardy if they have not reported to the classroom by 8:00a.m. Students arriving to school after 8:00a.m. must be signed in by an adult in the office and receive a tardy pass. When your child is tardy, he/she misses vital explanations and instructions that can have a negative impact on academic performance and interrupt the classroom routine. Each school day will begin with instruction immediately following the morning announcements. The Hanover County Attendance policy will be followed in determining attendance awards.

Student Hours and Dismissal – Students may enter the school at 7:30a.m. – 7:45a.m. and sit in the cafeteria so adult supervision is in place. Students will not be permitted to classrooms prior to the 7:45a.m. bell. Teachers are not expected to be available or in classrooms until 7:45a.m. Parents who walk with their students to class should not arrive at PGES until 7:45a.m. or be prepared to wait in the cafeteria prior to the 7:45a.m. bell. Student dismissal to buses will begin at 2:25p.m. A student may leave the school premises during the day only with the permission of the parent or legal guardian. We require written permission if anyone other than the student's parent or guardian picks up the student. Please be prepared to show photo identification when picking up a student.

Lunch- Parents or legal guardians are welcome to sit with their child at the Visitor table for lunch. Parents must send in a written permission for any other person (grandparents, friends, etc.) to visit their child at lunch.

Medication – Hanover County's medication policy prohibits the transport of any medication (prescription or over-the-counter) by your child into the school. All medication must be brought to the clinic by an adult and a permission form must be filled out. Any medication taken at school for 10 days or more must also be accompanied by a doctor's written order.

Student Discipline – The Hanover County Student Code of Conduct will be used as the policy when working with student discipline concerns. You will receive a copy of the Elementary Parent-Student Handbook. This handbook outlines Hanover County's standards of student conduct and academic achievement, as well as policies and procedures. Our school focus will be on academic achievement and activities to support our students. Toys, trading cards, and other valuables such as CD players and video game systems are not permitted to school unless the teacher has given special permission for a specific activity. Student possession of communication devices such as cellular phones or other communication devices, are not permitted inside school buildings during regular school hours. Students will be permitted to use the phone in the front office as necessary.

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Administrator's Corner (Continued)

Student Dress – Students are encouraged to wear comfortable shoes and clothing. However, clothing must not distract from instruction. Messages on clothing that relate to sex, drugs, alcohol, tobacco, vulgarity, violence, or that reflect adversely upon persons because of their race, sex, color, creed, or national origin are not permitted. Shorts, skorts and skirts should be mid-thigh in length. A good rule of thumb is for these items to come down to the knuckles when arms are hanging down by the side. No clothing that exposes a child's belly button will be permitted. Tank tops must have straps that are at least one inch or two finger width in size on the shoulder. Students who wear shoes without a back will have limited access to some recess equipment for safety purposes.

Bus information – the transportation department handles all bus related questions and concerns. You can call the transportation number after 6:30a.m. to find out if a bus is running late or if there will be a substitute bus driver. Call 365-7627 and follow the prompts to selection 95.

We look forward to a GREAT school year! If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call the school office.

PGES Welcomes New Staff

Pole Green Elementary will open with 600 students this fall. In addition to our returning staff, we have a few additions to the GREAT Gator team. We welcome Ms. Allison Hyson to our kindergarten team, and Ms. Angela Hobson as our new ESL teacher. We also welcome our new reading specialist, Mrs. Julie Dauksys, and our new assistant principal, Mrs. Elizabeth Verlander. As PGES continues to grow, we have part time staff to help our full time staff. We will have a new part-time counselor, Theresa Broaddus to assist our full-time counselor, Julie Hudnall, part time PE on Friday's, Susan Winckler, part time Music on Thursday's, and Kristi Harrison, part time Art on Thursday's. Please join me in a GREAT Gator welcome to our new staff!

SAVE THE DATE! BOOSTERTHON ON MARCH 19, 2020!!

I am very excited to share, that through the efforts of the fundraiser every classroom at PGES has interactive technology AND we added 40 iPads to our Innovation Lab! As we continue to grow, this is more technology purchased each summer to accommodate ALL students. The spring BoosterThon Fun Run funds allowed us to add to our Innovation Lab for all students, to include more iPad's, robotics, Virtual Reality glasses, and various engineering kits for building. Our robotics include sphero robot ball, ozo bots, and blue bots. We also added soccer nets to the playground and an electronic screen to our stage. Thank you in advance for your support of the school and students! WE make Pole Green a GREAT learning environment for students! We also added a new break-away basketball backboard to our playground, and bought every classroom a new basketball for recess!

Our new goals also include a new sound system for our stage, to include new microphones!! This is the only school use fundraiser, and we hope you can plan to come and cheer on the students with us on March 19, 2020.

Keeping Students Safe!

The Raptor Technologies system will be used at all schools for visitors and/or volunteers.

The Hanover County School Board recognizes the danger sex offenders pose to student safety. Therefore, to protect students while they travel to and from school, and attend school or school-related activities, each school in the Hanover county school division shall request automatic electronic notification of the registration or reregistration of any sex offenders in the same or contiguous zip codes as any school within the school division. This information is obtained according to the procedure established by the Virginia Department of State Police. Information on sex offenders and the "Crimes Against Minors Registry" can be located at <http://sex-offender.vsp.virginia.gov>

Calling all Volunteers... the PTA needs you!!

We are looking for volunteers who are energetic, dedicated, and willing to be part of a great team. We currently have two chair and two co-chair positions open.

The following position is currently available:

Hospitality Chair: organizes the summer playdate, 2 movie nights, donuts with dad, muffins with mom, granola with grans, 5th grade promotion, and snack or lunch for school board visit .

Why join your PGES PTA? Every child benefits from the programs that the PTA supports. Your membership gives you a voice in how the PTA helps to enrich our whole school. There is not better way to get involved in your child's education than to partner with parents, teachers and administrators.

Let's all work together this year to reach our membership goal!!!! Last year we reached just under 64% membership for our school. This year we are aiming for 75% or higher!!! As a member there is no time commitment so stop by one of our PTA tables to join or contact Nikole Sparacio at volunteer@polegeenpta.org .

Reading Room

Greetings from the Reading Room! My name is Julie Dauksys (pronounced /dawk-sis/ or Mrs. D) and I am starting my 29th year as a teacher. I am excited to be the Literacy Specialist for Pole Green this year. I have taught kindergarten, fourth and fifth grades, and served as a reading teacher for grades K-8. I have lived in the metro Richmond area all my life, attending Longwood, UVA, and VCU. A few of my favorite things are reading, reading, and reading! As Dr. Seuss said, "You can find magic wherever you look. Sit back and relax-all you need is a book." I look forward to working with students and teachers this year to learn more about reading and writing. If you participated in our Summer Reading Passport Program, please return those passports with your student's first and last name printed on the front. I am looking forward to a GREAT year with Gator Readers!

Counselor's Corner

Welcome back Great Gators!

I am Mrs. Hobbs and I am your Full-Time School Counselor! I am so excited to hear about everyone's summer! Here are a few facts about me: I was born and raised here in Mechanicsville and went to Battlefield Park Elementary, Stonewall Jackson Middle School, and Lee-Davis High School. I received my Bachelor's degree in Psychology and Sociology from Longwood University and my Master's degree in School Counseling from VCU. I enjoy going to VCU basketball games and cheering on the Rams! One of the main things you will learn about me is I LOVE animals! I even have an 8-foot long Red-Tail Boa snake at home! I spend a lot of my free time riding and taking care of horses (and an occasional donkey or two)!

I am also excited to announce that Mrs. Broaddus will be returning to us for the 2019-2020 school year. She is the Part-Time School Counselor at PGES and will be working with all grades on Mondays and Tuesdays this year. She was born and raised in Richmond, Virginia. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Education from Longwood and her Master's Degree in Counselor Education from Virginia State University. Mrs. Broaddus taught for 6 years in Henrico County and has been a school counselor for 29 years in Hanover County. We are so lucky to have her here at PGES and all of her expertise in counseling! Mrs. Broaddus looks forward to building relationships with students and learning more about the Pole Green community. She has two daughters who graduated from Hanover County schools. Mrs. Broaddus and her husband are enjoying being empty nesters as both daughters are in currently in college. She is looking forward to a wonderful year at PGES!

Now that you know you have two school counselors in the building, what exactly do they do? A school counselor is an advocate for all students. Their job is to make sure all students feel safe and all student needs are met. School counselors are able to provide these services through classroom lessons, small group counseling, individual counseling sessions, parent workshops, and professional development for staff. School counselors have the ability to meet with and develop relationships with all students in the school. Relationships with all students is just one benefit of the job! We are able to help students create strategies and solve problems, which encourages students to become self-advocates and independent individuals. We aim to provide support and understanding throughout the school year and beyond.

This year we will be focusing on 4 important character traits: Respect, Cooperation, Honesty, and Perseverance. I am also excited to continue working with students and teachers on their Village Projects. A younger grade and an older grade will pair up and participate in several activities together during the 2019-2020 school year. These projects are designed to create a sense of community, or a "Village," among the various grade levels. It also promotes service and leadership.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have. I am looking forward to having a great school year with you here at PGES!

Sincerely,

Sydney Hobbs, M.Ed., NCC
shobbs@hcps.us
(804)365-4705

Kindergarten

Ms. Hinson, Mrs. King, Mrs. Morrison, Mrs. Vaughan, and Mrs. Washburn want to welcome approximately 100 POLE GREEN GATORS to Kindergarten! We appreciate the opportunity to work with your child this year. As parents and/or teachers, we feel that it is vital to work together to help our children reach maximum success at school. Your involvement, interest, and enthusiasm will help make this a wonderful year of growth for your child. We will regularly communicate school skills being taught and personal goals set for your child. Please check your email and child's backpack daily.

Please keep in mind at the beginning of the year that many of the students will be coming home quite tired. This is not unusual as we pack a lot of learning activities into each day! :) As the students get used to the routine of the day, stamina will improve.

Our kindergarten students do have a short snack time each day. Thank you for sending in a small, nutritious snack with your child.

What can you do to help your child? As Emilie Buchwald said, "Children are made readers on the laps of their parents." Enjoy reading together every day! :)

First Grade

Welcome to FIRST GRADE at Pole Green Elementary School! Our team of Mrs. Eaves, Ms. Healy, Mrs. Stone & Mr. Livingston are thrilled to begin the 2019-2020 school year! This year will be filled with awesome adventures, exciting endeavors & outrageous outtakes. We will work towards becoming accomplished readers, creative writers, real-world mathematicians, savvy investigators of science & social studies and sensible spellers. Be prepared to laugh, learn & love your way through our first grade year!

G GRIT & STAMINA

R Reading each & every day
E Enthusiastic teachers & staff
A Always up for a challenge
T Time for fun

G "Got to Give a Little Love"

A Actively learning all day long
T Turning our failures into successes
O Outstanding students
R Reaching our goals
S Special relationships



Grade Level News(Continued)

Second Grade

Welcome to the wonderful world of second grade! Ours is a world where children are crossing the bridge to becoming more independent learners, workers, and thinkers! Here in second grade, we spend the first month focusing on the seven habits of highly effective kids during our class meetings. Our children will become proactive and collaborative problem-solvers who begin with the end in mind and sharpen their saws! We also encourage a growth mindset versus a fixed mindset and incorporate these mini lessons into our class meetings.

In the area of reading, we are learning all about The Daily 5 model, focusing specifically on the right and wrong way to work through each component (Read to Self, Read to Someone, Work on Writing, Word Work, and Listen to Reading). Students are also practicing decoding and reading strategies as well as the components of good fluency. We are launching our writing workshop, where budding little writers record the small moments of their lives as personal narratives. Our focus is on the writing process and the specific traits of good writing within a variety of genres. In September, we'll hone in on ideas and organization within the personal narrative. Students will also be engaged in interactive read alouds, shared readings, and spelling/phonics lessons using a variety of fresh authentic reading materials. Science rules! We're so excited to begin our year with hands-on experiments as we learn all about the scientific method before diving into our first unit of study – magnets! In the area of social studies, students will focus on geography, specifically map skills, continents, oceans, hemispheres, and the many landforms of our very own North America. One of our favorite activities is creating salt dough maps of our continent!

During our math time, we are introducing the concept of Math Workshop to our second graders during a series of mini-lessons. It is our hope that by utilizing this new spin on math centers, students will become more collaborate and confident problem-solvers where they accept each other's strategies and learn according to their level and style. Students also participate in daily Math Talks, where we really learn how to break apart and make sense of numbers. During the month of September, students will specifically focus on calendar skills, ordinal numbers, patterns, and basic addition and subtraction.

As we work and learn together each day, we are sure to incorporate innovation (STEM) technology into our subject areas. The STEM lab continues to be a favorite place to learn for second graders. Students use many computer programs during The Daily 5 and math stations. We visit the computer lab often and utilize laptops and iPads for checkout as well. We hope to share more about our world of technology with you at Back to School Night in just a few weeks. Thanks so much for allowing us to spend our days with your precious gifts, your children and we look forward to meeting with you soon!

Grade Level News(Continued)

Third Grade

Welcome back! We're so ready to get this year off to a fabulous start in third grade! Third grade is such a crucial year as children learn to become independent learners, workers, and thinkers. Students bridge the gap between learning to read and reading to learn. It's such a year of wonderful growth and maturity. Our science focus will be on the scientific method as we investigate and experiment each day during the first week of school. Our first social studies unit of the year focuses on citizenship. We'll learn the characteristics of being a good citizen and explore important responsibilities and privileges. In the area of mathematics, our focus will begin on place value and students will expand their knowledge of rounding and comparing numbers. Students will learn how to navigate through math workshop and stations. Students will work with numbers all the way to the hundred thousands place. Third grade math pacing can move fast and is probably one of the greatest differences between second and third grades. Of course we'll spend so much time during these first few weeks working cooperatively in teams and as a whole class. We'll have lots of fun getting to know each other as we dive into the new routines and procedures of third grade. As always, please let us know if you ever have any questions, comments, or concerns. Please know that we always have your children's best interests in mind!

Fifth Grade

Our 5th graders are starting the year off with great style and great fun, and each teacher will begin assessing all students in reading, math and word study to form appropriate groups.

The science classes will be off and running soon, and after about 5 weeks, each group of students will rotate to a different teacher for their next unit of study. They will have a different colored folder for each science unit they complete, 6 in all. Please look for these folders to review regularly.

Our 5th grade favorite, "Scholastic News" will be used to enhance their non-fiction reading strategies. Please remember the \$7 fee to cover the cost of this amazing resource.

And finally... the most anticipated rite of passage for our 5th graders... the DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program will begin later this year, and will wrap up with an exciting graduation ceremony in the New Year.

4th Grade

Welcome Back!

The 4th grade teachers are so excited to welcome a new group of students to the 4th grade! We hope everyone had a wonderful summer break and is ready to start a new year at PGES.

Fourth grade is a very exciting year with lots of new content in math, reading, science, and social studies. In 4th grade math, you will see how important it is for your child to know their multiplication facts. We encourage parents to practice multiplication facts with your child nightly to help with your child's success in math this year. Our reading instruction shifts from learning to read to comprehending what has been read. In order to do this successfully, we focus on different reading skills and strategies with each story or novel your child will be reading with us. This year, in social studies, your child will learn the history of Virginia from 1607 to the 21st Century. It is always an exciting topic and can be supported at home by visiting the many attractions around Richmond and throughout Virginia. The students will explore seven science units throughout the year. Our goal is for your child to leave 4th grade with a solid understanding of all the 4th grade content and ready to tackle 5th grade.

As a fourth grader, your child will be expected to take on more responsibility with organization, homework and study skills. The 4th grade teachers will work closely with your child to make sure they are prepared daily for nightly homework and provide them with a variety of study skills. Parents can do their part by making sure their child has the correct supplies, an assignment book and completes the daily homework.

We look forward to a successful and fun year with your child!

What is happening this month

September 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3 First Day of School	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 Fundraiser packets are sent home	18	19 Back to School Night 6:30pm	20	21
22	23	24 Stevi B's Spirit Night 4pm-8pm	25 Room Parent Meeting 6pm	26	27	28
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	NOTES				

Remember to any submissions to the newsletter are due on the 20th of each month.
 Maurice Aufderheide— Editor
mauriceaufderheide@icloud.com