Visiting PBES

PBES is equipped with a secure doorbell system. All visitors will be asked for their manner of business and ID prior to gaining access.

Prince William County Schools requires that photo identification be left with the office. You will be given a visitor’s badge that must be visibly worn at all times. Your photo identification will be returned to you when you sign out and return your visitor’s badge. (Regulation 501.06-1)

Lunch visitors are welcome, but visits and volunteering in the classroom and/or hallways should be rearranged with the classroom teacher prior to arrival at PBES.

Parent Observations Policy

- Parents will submit advanced written request to the principal stating the purpose and nature of visit.
- The observation will be 30 minutes in length.
- Parents are to “observe only” in order not to disrupt instruction or learning environment.
- An administrator will schedule a specific date and time of the conference to ensure all instructional staff members are present and it is scheduled during instructional time.
- No electronic listening or recording devices are permitted during the observation.
- Observations may occur once per semester.
- An administrator will be present during the visit.
- Outside experts and parents are required to provide copies of notes, reports, and other documentation gleaned from the observation at a collaborative meeting.
- A collaborative meeting will be scheduled and will occur promptly following the observation.

PBES Vital Information

Pinney Branch Elementary School is a preK-5th grade school in the Prince William Public School System. We strive to foster an environment that creates kind, caring, courageous Cardinals who SOAR every day. We believe this core tenant will build relationships central to a safe and welcoming school which ensures student learning and achievement to the fullest potential. We are thrilled to have you with us!

PBES Hours of Operation

Office hours: 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM
Arrival Bell: 8:55 AM
Tardy Bell: 9:05 AM
Dismissal Bell: 3:45 PM

Cosmo the Cardinal SOAR!

Buses & Kiss ‘n Ride

All students within the PBES boundary have an assigned bus and bus stop. Please visit www.pwcs.edu for more information. New this year, parents can use the website to check approximate arrival times for buses.

Students may not exit buses or cars until the 8:55AM bell rings.

Kiss ‘n Ride students must be dropped off in the Kiss ‘n Ride lane only. All students should exit only the right side of their car. Parents parking in the lot, must walk students to the office via the marked crosswalks. Kiss ‘n Ride numbers are available in the office for afternoon pick-up.

Contact Information:

Phone: 571.261.5300
Fax: 571.261.5305
Attendance: 571.261.5309
PWCS Transportation: 571.402.3912
County Website: www.pwcs.edu
School Website: PineyBranchES.pwcs.edu
Facebook: facebook.com/PBEScardinals
Twitter: twitter.com/PBEScardinals

“Kind, Caring, Courageous Cardinals who SOAR!”

Parent Guide 2018-2019
Attendance:

Attendance and punctuality are top priorities for all students. Research indicates a high correlation in the relationship between students’ academic success and their attendance at school. The nature of the curriculum necessitates active classroom participation. In addition, the Prince William County School Board has identified improved student attendance as part of the Strategic Improvement Plan.

Excused Absences:

- Personal illness of the student;
- Medical and dental examination and/or treatment of the student when such appointments cannot be scheduled other than during school hours;
- Death in the family;
- Observation of a religious holiday; and
- Emergency conditions in the student’s home which require help from the student in caring for the sick or injured; however, regular use of this excuse or requests for absences for an extended period of time will be referred to Student Services for evaluation.

Early Dismissal

If it is necessary that you pick up your child prior to the end of the school day, a note should be sent to the teacher or you may call the office. Students will not be sent until the arrival of the party picking them up.

For safety purposes, no child will be dismissed from the classroom without being signed out in the front office. Please have a photo ID for the release of the child. Students will only be released to those individuals listed on the emergency card. If a student returns to school the same day, the student needs to be signed in again.

Early dismissal takes approximately 15 minutes from parent arrival. Please plan your schedule accordingly. As a result, early dismissal will end 15 minutes prior to the dismissal bell.

Communications:

PBES communicates with parents through a number of methods. Here’s how we can help you find the information you’re looking for:

The NEST: A weekly newsletter e-mailed home every Wednesday to keep all families updated on all that is happening at PBES.

PBES Website: The most up to date emergency messages, updates, calendars, and urgent announcements as well as classroom information will appear on pineybranches.pwcs.edu – make this your #1 source of PBES information.

Wednesday Communicator: All fliers, order forms, permission slips, brochures, and news from community organizations will come weekly via this folder. Folder’s should be signed and return to school upon receipt.

Facebook/Twitter: Follow us on social media, @PBEScardinals, for additional pictures, announcements, and non-vital information from PBES.

School Messenger: PWCS employs the School Messenger system to contact the community via text, e-mail, and telephone. Many announcements will be made, in duplicate, on this system to ensure you have the most accurate information. Please make sure your contact information is up to date. Download the My PWCS App and School Messenger app at the Google Play or Apple App stores.

Academics:

PBES uses the VA Standards of Learning in conjunction with curriculum designed by Prince William County Public Schools. We strive to deliver rigorous, active and engaging learning, differentiated to the unique needs of your student. For more information please visit www.pwcs.edu.

Digital Resources

PBES subscribes to various digital resources meant to enhance your student’s learning experience. Become familiar with them and use them often. We welcome feedback as well!

MyOn: Students have access to over 5,000 high quality digital books, complete with narration if enabled.

Dreambox: Learning mathematics in this engaging learning environment provides students with important foundational skills using models and manipulatives. Most importantly, Dreambox adapts to the student. The more students use it, the more it learns each individual and can deliver exactly what is needed—extending learning up to 8th grade skills!

BrainPop: BrainPop provides engaging videos and learning tools all tied to the curriculum. It’s a great resource to review for tests or learn new information.

Behavior & Discipline:

Pinney Branch is a Positive Behavior Intervention and Support School. Please read the school-wide PBIS brochure for all the details of our program. While PBES devotes effort and resources towards our PBIS program where we ask students to be kind, caring, courageous cardinals who soar, we acknowledge there may still be difficult times where discipline is necessary.

In those times, expect written contact from the classroom teacher on a “Classroom Behavior Communication Form.” We will detail the adult’s interpretation of the event as well as the student’s perspective and explanation. You will be notified via email or telephone to expect these forms.

Issues requiring administrative intervention will receive an office referral form and you will receive a direct phone call from the classroom teacher, a counselor, and/or a school administrator.

PTO and PBAC:

PBES has two parent organizations, The Parent Teacher Student Organization (PTO) and an office PBAC Advisory Council (PBAC).

The PTO is a unified non-profit organization whose primary purpose is to promote the welfare of children through educational means. PTO meetings take place monthly. Watch for the PTO Newsletter for dates and times. Activities organized by PTO may include:

- Movie Nights
- Talent Show
- The Color Run
- After school enrichment
- Bingo Events
- Family Events

Please see the PTO link on our website for more information, explanations, and details on these fun activities.

Pinney Branch Advisory Council (PBAC) generates community input for the annual strategic school plan. Representatives consisting of parents as well as teachers meet monthly. All meetings are open to the public and parents are encouraged to attend.

Birthday Celebrations

Treats are welcome at PBES. They will be shared during lunch. Celebrations targeted at specific children and excluding others will not be distributed. Please communicate with classroom teachers in order to be conscientious of allergies and the number of students in the class. Birthday invitations targeted at specific children and failing to include others will not be distributed.

Attendance Hotline

(571.261.5309)