



September 2020
Volume 21
Issue 1

Pole Green Elementary School
8993 Pole Green Park Lane
Mechanicsville, VA 23116
Phone: 804-365-4700
Fax: 804-365-4717
Attendance: 804-365-4714

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 approximately 350 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.

Continued on Page 2.

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 know that this year is different than past years but whether you are face to face, virtual, or homeschool you are part of the PGES family and the PTA is going to strive to make this a great year for you all. We hope to have many of our fun family activities this year. While some of these activities may be in a different form than usual we hope they all will be just as fun. We hope to see you all there!

We will communicate these events and other important information in a variety of ways including flyers sent home in daily folders, this newsletter, e-mails through e-connect, our web page, 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. Virtual parents please make sure to mark on e-connect both for PGES and virtual school.

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, and books to students in need, upkeep of the school courtyard and an electronic board for the 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 of Pole Green. Feel free to contact any board member.

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 and Volunteers- Hanover County Public Schools will not have volunteers, lunch or visitors during the school year at this time due to safety and health concerns. We hope things improve by spring, or definitely by next school year. Our great PTA will be hosting some spirit night events at local restaurants and possibly other outdoor activities in the future. The RAPTOR TECHNOLOGIES system for all visitors or volunteers will be used in our school when we are permitted to have visitors and volunteers. 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 8:10a.m. – 2:15p.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 8:10a.m. Students arriving to school after 8:10a.m. must be walked to the front door and ring the bell. A staff member will then admit the student only. 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. by car rider, bus or daycare and will go immediately to the classroom. Parents may not walk with students inside the building.

Bus

Bus arrival will be 7:30-8:00 depending on the route. Student bus dismissal will be at 2:15pm from the school

Daycare

Daycare vans will dismiss at 2:15pm-2:50pm in the small loop in front of the school

Car Riders

Students who arrive by car may be dropped off in the large car loop (former bus loop) between 7:30am-8:05am. You are recommended to come early to avoid a long line and your child being tardy. Students will be tardy if he/she is not in the classroom before the 8:10am bell.

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.

(Continued on Page 3)

Administrator's Corner (Continued)

Student Discipline – The Hanover County Student Code of Conduct will be used as the policy when working with student discipline concerns. The Elementary Parent-Student Handbook is available on the Hanover County Public Schools website. 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.

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 welcomes our returning staff, we have a few additions to the GREAT Gator team. We welcome Mrs. Cross, Art, Mrs. Haskins, ASOL teacher, Ms. Sykes, Instructional Assistant and Kristen Martin, part-time Library M, W, F. We have some teachers who will support our online learners: Mrs. Sweeney, Mrs. Amatruda, Ms. Hynson, Ms. Morrison, Ms. Williams, Ms. Balducci and Ms. Borkey.

Please join me in a GREAT Gator welcome to our new staff!

SAVE THE DATE! BOOSTERTHON ON MARCH 18, 2021!!

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 in 2019! 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 and replace over 100 outdated iPads that can no longer be updated. Thank you in advance for your support of the school and students! WE make Pole Green a GREAT learning environment for students!

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. The following position is currently available:

Treasurer: Maintains the checking account. Completes transition reports and monthly budget reports for the board. This is a great year to start this position.

Reading Room

Hi PGES Reading Gators!

I'm so glad to get back to reading and writing with you this year! A special thanks goes out to all of the families who participated in our Summer Programs: Book Shares, Writing Retreat, and Summer Reading Club. I am looking forward to some great adventures with books this year!

Mrs. Dauksys, Pole Green Literacy Specialist

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 graduated from Hanover County Public Schools. 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 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 2020-2021 school year. She is the Part-Time School Counselor at PGES and will be working with all grades on Thursdays. 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 30 years in Hanover County. 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. She is looking forward to another 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.

Now more than ever, social emotional learning will be so beneficial for our students. We will work on developing these skills not only through our lessons, but also through Morning Meetings, led by the classroom teacher. During this time, students will work on building a classroom "community" and strengthen rapport with one another. We will also use this time to process and reflect on COVID-19 and "Return to Learn." Morning Meetings provide students with a safe, predictable space to communicate with one another.

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

Grade Level News

Kindergarten

Mrs. King, Mrs. Vaughan, and Mrs. Washburn want to welcome the new 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, Mrs. Stone & Mr. Livingston are thrilled to begin the 2020-2021 school year IN PERSON! 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

Second Grade

Welcome Back! We are so excited to see students back in the hallways of Pole Green! During the month of September, we will be learning and practicing safety rules and procedures to keep us all happy, healthy and safe. Our second graders are already doing a wonderful job wearing their masks and socially distancing from one another. Students are participating in daily morning meetings to build relationships with their classmates and to develop positive social/emotional well-being. It has been a fun way to start our day! We will begin diving into our units in math, social studies, and science. Ordinal numbers, skip counting, and patterning will be our September topics in math. In social studies/science, students will learn about Labor Day, citizenship, and magnets. We are looking forward to a fantastic year!

Grade Level News(Continued)

Third Grade

Happy Fall, Ya'll! We're so excited to be back to school, working and learning with your children face to face and in person. We pledge to do our best to keep everyone safe, happy, and successful! 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.

We'll start the year off by learning the routines and procedures for our Daily 5 reading program. Students will explore the Daily 5 world of read to self, listen to reading, work on writing, and word work (minus read to someone for now!). It's important that the children learn to work independently so that teachers can guide reading groups efficiently and effectively. Students will also begin to write in their journals during writing workshop time, focusing on coming up with good ideas day by day. September also finds us assessing children in the area of reading and writing so that we can best make decisions about our pacing and instruction.

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 economics. We'll learn about the foundations of our economy – producers and consumers, resources, and economic choices.

In the area of mathematics, third graders will be focusing on place value with an initial review of three-digit numbers before jumping into numbers in the thousands. Third grade math pacing can move fast and is probably one of the greatest differences between second and third grades. This year especially, we will be sure to review previously learned skills and concepts before jumping into more difficult material. We know the past six months were quite a challenge and we want all children to feel successful and proficient!

We'll spend the beginning of every school day this year holding a classroom meeting. Our primary focus during these meetings is the social and emotional well-being of our students. During class meetings, students will revisit the familiar concepts of the seven habits and the growth mindset while building that ever important classroom family bond. And we'll have loads 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!

Grade Level News(Continued)

Fourth Grade

Welcome Back!

The 4th grade teachers, Mrs. Burnley and Ms Miller, are so excited to welcome our GREAT GATORS back to Pole Green! We hope everyone found lots of creative ways to spend their time during our extended break and are finally ready to start learning.

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 several 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.

Thank you for entrusting us with your children to share in this new learning experience. We look forward to a successful and fun year with your child!

Fifth Grade

Our 5th graders are starting off the year with great fervor and with great fun. We're all so glad to be back in the classroom with some old friends, and making new friends, too.

Though this school year will look different in many ways, many things remain the same: strong academic programs, life-long skills, supportive staff, creative endeavors in the Inspiration Lab, and innovative resources to enhance technology skills.

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





9/21- GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING VIA ZOOM 6PM

9/22-CHARLESTON WRAP FUNDRAISER KICK OFF

9/23-SPIRIT NIGHT COWHILL 5-8PM

9/28-HEADROOM PARENTS MEETING VIA GOOGLE MEETS 6PM

9/30-SPIRIT NIGHT CHIPOTLE 5-9PM