



September 2018  
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Pole Green Elementary School  
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# POLE GREEN PRESS

## President's Message

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 and the Winter Dance as well as brand new events Donuts with Dad and Muffins with Mom. 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 [myschoolbucks.com](http://myschoolbucks.com) and consider volunteering with us. (See page below for open volunteer positions.)

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,  
Sam Hudgins [president@pgespta.org](mailto:president@pgespta.org)

## Principal's Message

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 625 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.

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 Continued on Page 2.

For absences please call  
the ATTENDANCE LINE

# Administrator's Corner (Continued)

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. This is new for the 2018-2019 school year.

**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. When your child returns to school, please send a written excuse explaining the reason for the absence. 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 the earliest, 7:30a.m., so adult supervision is in place at 7:30a.m. Students dropped off at school before 7:45a.m. must report to the cafeteria where supervision will be provided. 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.

(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. 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.

**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 625 students this fall. In addition to our returning staff, we have a few additions to the GREAT Gator team. We welcome Olivia Balducci to our third grade team. 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 22, 2018!!**

I am very excited to share, that through the efforts of the fundraiser every classroom at PGES has interactive technology! 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!

Our new goals also include a new sound system for our stage, to include new microphones!! In addition, we have an Innovation Lab for our students! The Innovation Lab will be open for teachers to use with their classes, teachers can collaborate lessons with others, or plan some hands on learning to support the academic content. Another goal is to add more materials, resources, and student engagement through building and improving our Innovation Lab.

## **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>



## Counselor's Corner

Welcome back Great Gators!

I am Miss Ellis and I am your 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! I have a dog named Tonka and love to take him on exciting adventures. He will be the ring bearer in my wedding this October! I also enjoy riding horses and being outside.

I am also excited to announce that Mrs. Broaddus will be joining us for the 2018-2019 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 28 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 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 guidance 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. (Continued on Next Page)

## 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.

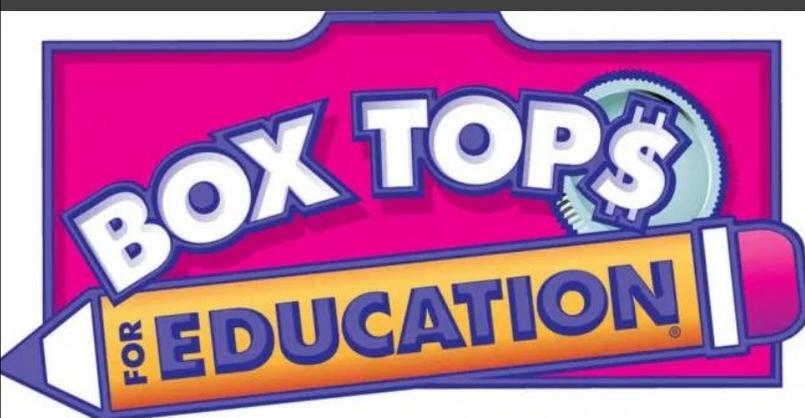
The positions currently available are:

**Volunteer Coordinator:** organizes volunteer information, coordinates volunteers for PTA events including the Friday office helper, recognizes the Volunteer of the Month and attends monthly board meetings

**Watch D.O.G.S. Chair:** runs the Watch D.O.G.S. sign up genius page, encourages Watch D.O.G.S sign ups, sends weekly e-mail to teachers and Watch D.O.G.S. volunteering that week.

**Holiday Open House Co -Chair:** Helps coordinate all aspects of the Open House including spaghetti dinner, basket raffle and vendor fair.

**Dance Co-Chair:** co-leads the committee that coordinates all aspects of the Winter Parent Child Dance.



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 work together on a service project during the 2018-2019 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,

Miss Ellis  
sellis@hcps.us  
(804)365-4705

## Kindergarten

Mrs. Roberson, Mrs. King, Mrs. Morrison, Mrs. Vaughan, and Mrs. Washburn/ Ms. Montgomery 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! :)



# Grade Level News(Continued)

## 1<sup>st</sup> 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 2018-2019 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

## 2<sup>nd</sup> 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. As we implement a new language arts program, students will 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 about utilizing our new FOSS kits purchased by the county this year! These kits contain a plethora of hands-on activities and encourage inquiry learning. Our first science unit will focus on air and weather. In the area of social studies, we are exploring citizenship and the role that we play in this great big world.

During our math time, we are working to become confident problem-solvers! Students are already focusing on problem-solving steps and strategies. We love to share the way our minds think about math problems. 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 weekly. We continue to use Dreambox and RAZ Kids as well as a new program, Seesaw. 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)

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

Third grade is so excited for this year! We will be spending September getting to know each other better and doing fun team building activities. We will also be diving into our new curriculum resources, which we are excited to use. In language arts, we will be using interactive read alouds and shared readings to dive deeper into texts.

We will also begin small group reading instruction. In math, our focus will begin on place value and students will expand their knowledge of rounding and comparing numbers. We will start the year with scientific investigations in science and then move on to using our science FOSS kits that are new this year! Our social studies focus will be on the community. We know this will be a wonderful year!

## 5<sup>th</sup> 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 fall, and will wrap up with an exciting graduation ceremony in the New Year.

## 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

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 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4 First Day of School	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19 Early Release Day	20 Back to School Night (6:30pm )	21	22
23	24	25 Stevi B's Spirit Night (5pm-9pm)	26 Room Parent Meeting (6pm)	27	28	29
30	1	<b>NOTES</b>				

Remember to any submissions to the newsletter are due on the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.  
 Maurice Aufderheide— Editor  
[mauriceaufderheide@icloud.com](mailto:mauriceaufderheide@icloud.com)