

## PAINT BRANCH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Dr. Tricia Hairston, Principal | [tricia.hairston@pgcps.org](mailto:tricia.hairston@pgcps.org)  
5101 Pierce Avenue | College Park, MD 20740 | 301-513-5300 | [www.pgcps.org/paintbranch](http://www.pgcps.org/paintbranch)

August 8, 2022

2022-2023 PGCPS School Calendar		
Event	Date	Time
Opening Schools Virtual Parent Information Meeting (Meeting link sent on the morning of the meeting)	Monday, August 22, 2022	6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
In-Person Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten Parent/Student Orientation	Friday, August 26, 2022	9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
First Day of School for PGCPS	Monday, August 29, 2022	9:15 a.m. - 3:25 p.m.
Back-to-School Night (Gr. PK - 2)	Tuesday, September 6, 2022	6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Back-to-School Night (Gr. 3 - 6)	Wednesday, September 7, 2022	6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to Paint Branch Elementary School!! We are elated to begin the 2022-2023 school year with you, as we continue our journey of academic excellence. We are excited to announce that Paint Branch ES has been identified as a Community School for the upcoming year.

The Community Schools is a national model where schools serve as the hub of the community providing both academic and social-emotional support for students and their families. As defined by the Coalition of Community Schools, "A Community School is a public school - the hub of its neighborhood, uniting families, educators and community partners to provide all students with top-quality academics, enrichment, health and social services, and opportunities to succeed in school and in life."

The goal of Community Schools is to help ensure students and their families are resilient, successful, ready to learn and are prepared to be involved in their community. We will share further information regarding our Community Schools model during the virtual parent meeting that is scheduled for **Monday, August 22, 2022 from 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.** This will be an information meeting to help you acclimate to the new school year. The meeting link will be shared the morning of the meeting.

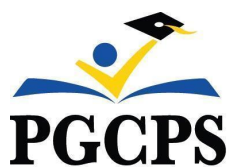
The first day of school is **Monday, August 29, 2022**. The school hours remain the same as in previous years, **9:15 a.m. - 3:25 p.m.** We are a mandatory uniform school and information regarding students' attire is located in the attached parent information sheet. Upon receiving information from the school system regarding the protocol for parent visits on the first day of school from, it will be shared with you.

Our school community will continue to follow all guidelines as mandated by the Prince George's County Public School System (PGCPS). We have a well-planned instructional program, as well as, interventions and enrichment opportunities that will help close the gap on any learning loss that students may have encountered.

The staff have worked very hard to learn new curriculum and instructional practices that will support the implementation of a well-defined, rigorous instructional program. In addition, we are continuing our practice of an "all hands-on-deck" approach to the teaching and learning process. Our paraprofessionals and Itinerant Special Education Assistants will join teachers in conducting small groups and offering additional support to students, based upon specific program needs.

As we are aware, a new year brings change and new beginnings. We will miss the following staff members who retired at the conclusion of the 2022 school year. We truly wish each of them well on their new journey!

Ms. Annette Hawkins - Physical Education Teacher  
Ms. Lynne Hardie - Special Education Teacher - Autism Program  
Ms. Virginia Smith - Reading/Language Arts Teacher  
Ms. Milogros Vega - Pre-Kindergarten Teacher



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Likewise, the following staff members have transitioned from the “Home of the Busy Bees”. We will miss our staff members and wish them great success in their future endeavors!

Ms. Melinda Brown - Special Education Teacher - Autism Program  
Ms. Brenda Jones - Itinerant Special Education Assistant  
Ms. Honoranta Rallos - Special Education Teacher - Autism Program  
Ms. Ariel Lai - Chinese Immersion Teacher - Immersion Program  
Ms. Shuyi Eagle - Chinese Immersion Teacher - Immersion Program  
Ms. Xu Zhang - Chinese Immersion Teacher - Immersion Program  
Ms. Abby Sun - Chinese Immersion Teacher - Immersion Program  
Ms. Brittany Shue - Instrumental Music Teacher  
Ms. Kherry Guy - Mathematics Instructional Lead Teacher  
Ms. Jada Griffin - Paraprofessional - Autism Program

With that, we are overjoyed to welcome the following professionals to our team:

Mr. Angel Reyes - Physical Education Teacher  
Ms. Sharell McDonald - Pre-Kindergarten Teacher  
Dr. Veronica Wheeler-Davenport - ESOL Teacher  
Ms. Miranda Markary - Instrumental Music Teacher  
Ms. Khelea Evans - Kindergarten Paraprofessional  
Ms. Davita Fields - Pre-Kindergarten Paraprofessional  
Ms. Margaret Moore - Itinerant Special Education Assistant  
Mr. Victor Aquino - Community Schools Coordinator  
Mr. Brandon Chase - Special Education Teacher - Autism Program  
Ms. Yipin Chen - Chinese Immersion Teacher - Immersion Program  
Ms. Hsiangting Huang - Chinese Immersion Teacher - Immersion Program  
Ms. Santosas Datumen - Special Education Teacher - Autism Program

Below, you will find an “Important Information Sheet for Parents” that outlines pertinent information regarding the school program. To provide additional information and an opportunity for parents to ask questions regarding school opening, PBES is hosting a **Virtual Parent Information Meeting on Monday, August 22, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.** The meeting link will be shared via email the day prior to the meeting:

**Virtual Parent Information Meeting**  
**Monday, August 22, 2022**  
**6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.**  
**Meeting Link Forthcoming**

You will receive a hard copy of this letter via postal mail beginning this week, August 8th. Enclosed with the letter mailed to your home, you will find your child(ren) homeroom card with the assigned teacher. Parents, it is with the utmost importance that you have a Family Portal Account to receive correspondence from the school.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the Main Office at 301-513-5300 or you may contact me directly via email [tricia.hairston@pgcps.org](mailto:tricia.hairston@pgcps.org). Our entire school team is excited and look forward to engaging with you this school year. The entire staff “thank you” in advance for this unique opportunity to serve you and your family.

Sincerely,

*Dr. Tricia Hairston*

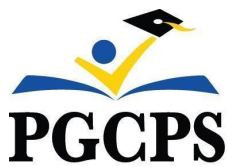
Dr. Tricia Hairston  
Principal

*Ms. Pei-Hsuan Liu*

Ms. Pei-Hsuan Liu  
Academic Dean

*Ms. Crystal White*

Ms. Crystal White  
Special Education Coordinator



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## Important Information Sheet for Parents

2022-2023 School Year

### Homeroom Teacher Assignment Cards

You will receive your child's teacher assignment via postal mail the week of August 8, 2022. The card will contain your child's assigned teacher, classroom number, and current grade. If you do not receive a homeroom card, please contact the main office at 301-513-5300 for assistance. Parents, please share this information with your child to ensure that on the first day of school, he/she can report to the correct homeroom teacher.

### Mandatory Uniform Policy Dress Code

Paint Branch Elementary School is a **MANDATORY UNIFORM** school. Uniforms are required Monday-Friday. Students are required to wear navy blue pants, shorts and skorts [must be fingertip length], or skirts, white polo shirts, and closed-toe shoes (tennis shoes preferred - no Crocs, sandals, etc.). Hoodies and sweaters are not to be worn around the waist. Jackets, sweaters, etc. may be worn in the classroom. If not, the clothing items must be hung up in the classroom.

Please note that there are times throughout the school year, where students will have uniform-free days. These days will be announced in advance by the teacher. Please update all of your information regularly, current phone numbers, addresses and /or email as well as emergency contact persons to receive school updates:.

#### Girls

White polo shirt  
Navy blue pleated skirt or jumper  
Navy blue pants, shorts or skort  
Navy blue or white sweater or vest  
Any color closed-toe shoes or sneakers  
White, Navy or Black Socks  
**NO JEANS or CARGO PANTS**

#### Boys

White polo shirt  
Navy blue pants or shorts  
Navy blue or white sweater or vest  
Dark Belt (Black or Blue)  
Any color closed-toe shoes or sneakers  
White, Navy or Black Socks  
**NO JEANS or CARGO PANTS**

### 2022-2023 School Supply List

The [2022-2023 school supply list](#) is linked for your convenience and available on the school's [website](#).

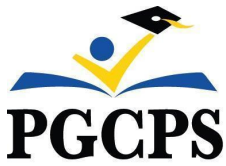
### Mask Wearing - Optional in PGCPS

On July 1, 2022, Dr. Goldson, Chief Executive Officer, announced that effective immediately, all schools and facilities are now mask optional. Students and staff should exercise good judgment and support others' mask-wearing choices. We continue to encourage all eligible individuals to get vaccinated and boosted against COVID-19. Thank you for helping to keep our work and learning environments safe!

### Bus Information for the 2022=2023 SY

Parents will receive students' bus information directly from the Department of Transportation, which will be mailed the week of August 8, 2022. If you have not received your child(ren) bus assignment, you may call the Department of Transportation directly during the following times and dates:

Department of Transportation Telephone Number 301-952-6570	
Dates	Times
Saturday, August 20, 2022	8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Sunday, August 21, 2022	8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Saturday, August 27, 2022	8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Sunday, August 28, 2022	8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.



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### Student Meals for the 2023 SY

Students at Paint Branch Elementary will continue to participate in the free “Breakfast in the Classroom” meal program for the 2023 school year. Please note the following:

- Meal Benefit Application (lunch applications) are required to determine eligibility for free or reduced-priced meals for the new school year.
- Lunch Applications can be completed [online](https://www.myschoolapps.com) at [Myschoolapps.com](https://www.myschoolapps.com). Parents are encouraged to complete the lunch application to determine eligibility for meal benefits and other school-based programs.
- Students not eligible for free or reduced-priced meals must pay for their lunch meal at Paint Branch.
- Students will receive a new PIN number from their teacher, which they will use until they graduate.

Cost of Student Lunch	
Student Eligible for Free and Reduced-Priced Meals	No Cost
All Student Participate in the “Breakfast in the Classroom” Meal Program	Free
Elementary Lunch	\$2.75 daily

### In-Person Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten Orientation

The PGCPS In-Person Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten Orientation will take place on **August 26, 2022 from 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.** This will be an opportunity to meet your child’s teacher, bring school supplies, visit the classroom to learn about the instructional program, and understand the structure of your child’s day. You will also have an opportunity to ask questions that will help assist you and your child during the school year. Once you receive your student’s homeroom card, you will have the assigned teacher and classroom to report to on the orientation day. If you have any questions, please contact the main office at 301-513-5300.

### In-Person Back to School Nights:

As of today, the Back-to-School Nights for PK- 6th grades will be in-person. There are two nights scheduled for this event based on grade-level. Please see below:

Grades	Dates	Time
Pre-Kindergarten - 2nd	Tuesday, September 6, 2022	6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
3 - 6	Wednesday, September 7, 2022	6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

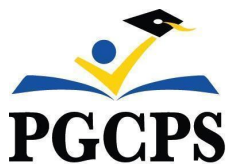
### School Hours and Student Arrival Time to School:

Please see the school hours and arrival time for students. Please adhere to the students’ time of arrival for walkers/car riders. We are unable to receive, supervise, or monitor students who arrive at school prior to 8:55 a.m.

- School Hours: 9:15 a.m. - 3:25 p.m.
- Student Arrival Time: 8:55 a.m.

### Procedures for Morning Arrival of Students:

All doors will be marked, as well as, directional signs to guide parents and students to the correct area. Teachers will be posted outdoors to help parents, as needed. Teachers in the building will supervise students in the hallways.



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### Arrival of Students by Bus and all Students in the Autism Program who are Car Riders: Front Lobby for Arrival

- All students who ride the bus will enter through the front lobby doors. Students will report directly to their class and will be supervised by staff.
- All students in the autism program will enter through the main lobby doors for arrival, whether a bus rider, walker, or car rider. The assigned staff member will receive their students in the front lobby to escort them to class.

### Arrival of Students (Car Riders/Walkers): Cafeteria

Students who are walker/car riders and not in the autism program will enter through the side cafeteria doors:

- Grades PK-3 will enter through Door 2 and line up behind their grade-level for teachers to escort students to class.
- Grades 4 - 6 will enter through Door 1 and report directly to class. Staff will monitor students' movement, as they travel in the hallways to class.

### \*Procedure for Dismissal in the Afternoon:

#### Car Riders and Walkers

- Grades PK - 6 will be dismissed (staggered), first, to report to the cafeteria and line up behind their teachers' names. Teachers will escort the students to the cafeteria. Teachers will ask for parent's/adult identification to verify the adult who is authorized to pick up the student.
- Parents and all persons who parents authorize to pick up their child, must show identification to verify with school records before the student is released. Parents are asked to please complete the electronic "[Parent Consent to Authorize Student Pick-up at Dismissal for Walkers/Car Riders](#)" to indicate who will be authorized to pick up their child at dismissal for walkers and car riders. Your child's teacher will forward this information to you when school opens.
- Important: Parents will report to the assigned door (PK-3 Door 2) (Gr. 4-6 Door 1) to pick-up their child (doors will be labeled). Parents will give the name of the student, sign the dismissal log, and present identification to the requesting teacher.
- \*Please note that students who are in the autism program that are car riders for **dismissal only**, will report to the cafeteria, as well, with the appropriate SPED member who will supervise the student until received by the parent.

### Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten Bus Riders: Safety Vests

Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten students will receive new safety vests to be worn to and from school each day. Parents, please ensure that you place the safety vest on your child in the morning to ride the bus. Students will receive their safety vest on the first day of school prior to the afternoon dismissal.

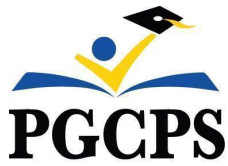
### 2022-2023 Publicity Release Form:

Parents are asked to complete a new publicity release form each year to indicate students eligibility in media release activities. Please access the [2022-2023 Publicity Release Form](#) that is linked for your convenience.

### Back2 School Drive & Dash - Hosted by PGCPS

On Saturday, August 20, 2022 from 9:00 a.m. - Noon or while supplies last, PGCPS is hosting on a first come, first served basis a FREE backpack giveaway for PGCPS students while supplies last. Please see the flyer and locations (Flowers HS, Oxon Hill HS, and High Point HS) by accessing the [link](#) provided.





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**Very Important:  
All Parents Must Have a Family Portal Account**

In order to receive school information via email, text, etc. you must register for a Family Portal Account. Please access the links below to create your account. Or visit the following link: <https://family.sis.pgcps.org/schoolmax/family.jsp>, scroll down and click "How to Register for Family Portal."

If you have any questions, please contact the main office at 301-513-5300:

**Video: [How to register for Family Portal.](#)**

**Register [here](#) to access Family Portal and SI Express.**

**Please click [here](#) to reset password.**