

"Home of the Busy Bees!"



Paint Branch Chinese Immersion Elementary Bi-Weekly Parent Communication E-Bulletin

school's website: <https://www1.pgcps.org/paintbranch/>

Friday, September 4, 2020

Important Upcoming Events!

Event	Date	Time
Receive Link for Back to School Night from Your Child's Teacher	September 8, 2020	By Close of Business
PGCPS Opt-Out Form Due	September 8, 2020	By Close of Business
Virtual Back to School Night	September 10, 2020	6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Student Publicity Release Form Due	September 18, 2020	By Close of Business

Parent Resources

Technology Tips for Families	2020-2021 PGCPS Reopening Plan
My School Bucks Payment Portal	PGCPS Publicity Release Form
Free and Reduced Meals Program Application	PGCPS Opt - Out Form
Parent Support Center Information	PGCPS Distance Learning Information for Parents

A Message from Dr. Hairston, Principal

Greetings Parents,

Again, welcome to the 2020-2021 school year, where excitement for learning is on the horizon and our students are rising to the occasion! We have reached the final day for the first week of school and are happy to announce that our boys and girls showed strong perseverance with engaging in online activities. Parents, we thank you, too, for your understanding, as we work through quirks of a new learning platform. We graciously ask for your patience and partnership as we journey through the distance learning for the first semester of school.

Parents, please expect to receive the "Parent Communication E-Bulletin" on a bi-weekly basis on Fridays, beginning today, which will highlight PGCPs news and school updates. The next E-Bulletin will be sent out on September 18th. The purpose of this communication is to keep you updated and informed. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Dr. Hairston or Ms. Ruby Costea, Academic Dean, at 301-513-5300. Our school team is very thankful and grateful for having the opportunity to serve you and your child(ren). Have a wonderful weekend!

News Updates



Back to School Night:

The annual "Back to School Night" is scheduled for Thursday, September 10, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. Your child's teacher will send a meeting link for you to attend by the close of business on Tuesday, September 8th. This will be an opportunity for you to meet with your child's individual team of teachers to learn about the curriculum, receive a course syllabus, get specific information regarding classroom expectations, and much more! If you have any questions, prior to the meeting, please contact your child's teacher.



Student Publicity Release Form:

Throughout the school year, Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) and the Prince George's County Board of Education conduct activities that may be publicized by local or national news media or used to promote the school system. Publicity activities include interviews, photographs or videos of individuals or groups of students, or student works (including, but not limited to, artistic works, athletic activities, performances and competitions) that may be used in websites, social media such as Facebook and Twitter, print or online publications, or videos.

Please click the [link to access the form](#) to grant or deny permission for your child to participate in media activities as described on the **2020-2021 PGCPS Student Publicity Release Form by September 18, 2020**. This document is also located on the school's website.



Parent Opt-Out Form for Using Digital Tool During Distance Learning Per PGCPS - Reminder

Per the PGCPS, with the continuation of distance learning at home, there have been questions about students being required to be seen and heard during live lessons.

While we would expect all students to be engaged visibly and verbally during live lessons, parents may choose for their child to “opt-out,” meaning they may request that their child is not seen or heard during live lessons.

For parents who wish to opt-out, please complete the [PBES Opt-Out Form](#) (please click the blue link) by September 8, 2020. It is the parent and/or child’s responsibility to ensure that video and audio features are disabled during live lessons. Please see the form for more information.

For parents who are not opting-out and who permit their child to be seen and heard during lessons, no further action is required.

Parent Support Centers and Distance Learning Hotline:



The PGCPSS has Parent Support Centers and a Distance Learning Hotline to assist parents with technology, accessing and navigating platforms, and other troubleshooting concerns. Please see the information below:

Parent Support Centers: Mondays and Wednesdays, 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Please click the [link](#) for locations of the Parent Support Centers. Parents may also call 240-696-3315 during the hours above for live assistance.

Distance Learning Hotline: Please call 240-696-6229, Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.



Free Meal Service for All Students:

Now, meal pickup and delivery will be free for all students through December 31, 2020. Meals will also be delivered to many communities by school bus on Mondays and Wednesdays between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. More information and a list of delivery locations by city is [linked](#) for your convenience.



Free and Reduced-Price Meals Applications: Friendly Reminder

Families with students who receive school meals through our Free and Reduced-Price Meals program must reapply at the beginning of each school year to remain eligible. [Apply now!](#) If you have any questions, please contact the main office at 301-513-5300. We will be more than happy to assist you.



Wifi - Hotspot Assistance:

PGCPS continues to cover the cost of the Comcast Internet Essentials program, which provides affordable high-speed internet at home, for families eligible for free and reduced-price meals (FARMS). The school system will also help non-FARMS families obtain a Comcast or Verizon hotspot for home internet access. To request a hotspot, please call our Parent Center Hotline at 240-696-3315 or pgcps.family@pgcps.org.

