

Catamount Messenger 8.25.24

Catamount Families,

Here is some important information for you to know about the first day of school (Tuesday, August 27th) and the start of the 2024-2025 school year. Please take time to read this in its entirety, as there is a lot of information and links included that will be important for you to review with your student.

Alternate bell and lunch schedule- first FOUR days of school!

Panther Creek will have an alternate bell and lunch schedule for the first four days of school, August 27-August 30. You can view the split lunch advisory bell schedule [HERE](#). Students will be assigned to A lunch or B lunch, as there will not be SMART lunch during the first four days of school. Students in A lunch are students who have a Math, Social Studies, World Languages, English or Special Education class during THIRD PERIOD. Students in these classes eat lunch first, then go to their third period class when lunch ends at 11:19 am. Students in B lunch are students who have Science, Fine Arts, Health/PE, or a CTE class during THIRD PERIOD. Students in these classes will attend third period class first and at 12:09 will be released for lunch. Juniors and Seniors who have passes to go off campus during lunch will need to make sure they watch the time and get back for their third period class or are not late to fourth period. They also must follow the A and B lunch schedule according to their third period class. SMART lunch will resume on Tuesday, September 3rd and students will be expected to follow their SMART lunch schedule.

Advisory Monday Schedule

Our school will have an Advisory period EVERY MONDAY. The schedule that we will follow is listed [HERE](#) along with the bell schedule for Tuesdays-Fridays. Please make sure you are aware of the different start time for 2nd period if your student has late arrival.

Schedule Correction Requests

All students have access to their schedules in PowerSchool now. Students have access to PowerSchool/HomeBase on their Wake ID portal. Parents should follow the instructions [HERE](#) to request access. If your student requires a schedule change for the following reasons, please have them complete the [correction form](#) on the PCHS website and bring it to Student Services before August 30th. These forms **should not** be sent back electronically. Schedule corrections will be considered for the following reasons:

1. Student does not have a full schedule of 4 classes - 1st Semester ONLY (#1 priority)
2. Student is enrolled in a course they have already completed and received credit for

Si necesita servicios de traducción gratuitos para comprender los procesos escolares, llame al (919) 852-3303

إذا كنت بحاجة إلى خدمات الترجمة المجانية للتعرف على سير العمليات بالمدرسة، اتصل بالرقم (919) 852-3303

Si vous avez besoin de services de traduction gratuits pour comprendre les procédures scolaires, appelez le (919) 852-3303

यदि आपको विद्यालय की प्रक्रियाओं को समझने के लिए निःशुल्क अनुवाद सेवाएं चाहिए, तो (919) 852-3303 पर कॉल करें

학교/교육 과정에 관한 무료 번역 서비스가 필요하시면 다음 번호로 연락하여 주십시오 (919) 852-3303

Nếu quý vị cần sự thông dịch miễn phí để hiểu phương pháp trường học, xin vui lòng gọi số điện thoại (919) 852-3303

如果您需要免费翻译服务来了解学校流程，请致电 (919) 852-3303



3. Student is enrolled in a course for which they have not met the prerequisite
<https://www.wcpss.net/Page/53437>
4. Course is needed for promotion (off cohort) and/or graduation (Class of 2025)

*Please do not email counselors or administrators about schedule corrections. **Corrections are contingent on space in a class and course availability.**

First Day of School-Supplies

Students should bring their charged WCPSS issued Chromebook to school on the first day. It is required that they use this Chromebook during school and in their classes. It is recommended to have a notebook or paper and a writing utensil as well. Individual teachers will let students know if they will need additional supplies for their classes.

Bus Transportation

Registered bus riders should have received an email on August 16th with detailed information about bus stops and estimated pick-up and drop-off times. That information also can be found in PowerSchool. Students riding special transportation should have received calls this weekend. Contact Ms. Otten at cotten2@wcpss.net if you have questions. She will be available to meet with students during both lunches on Tuesday if they have questions about their bus route. Ms. Otten is not able to add students to routes, that is done only by the transportation office. Discuss with your child the importance of appropriate behavior on the bus found [HERE](#) to help protect everyone in and around the bus. Misbehavior on school buses/transportation is subject to disciplinary action. Only bus riders should be waiting for their buses in the student courtyard/ entrance area afterschool. Carpool riders should go immediately to the front of the school to look for their parent upon dismissal.

New Bus Delay Notification System

Parents of students who ride the bus now can receive up-to-the-minute notifications via text and/or email when their child's bus is delayed. To receive these messages, you will need to make sure you have given permission to receive text and/or email notifications via [SchoolMessenger](#). You can also check for bus delays by clicking on the Live Bus Updates link on your school's transportation page, or by visiting wcpss.net/busupdates. You also can still track your child's bus using the [Here Comes the Bus](#) app.

Carpool

Parents who bring their students to school should only drop their students off at arrival in the Panther Creek main entrance. You will notice the main entrance has two lanes for traffic to enter and one lane for traffic to exit. This does get congested in the mornings around 7:05 am, so arriving early is best. Students may be dropped off as early as 6:45 am and can sit in the Commons. No matter how crowded this entrance may get, parents should NEVER use the bus and student lot to drop their students off. There is signage on McCrimmon Parkway that indicates the main entrance for parent drop off. Please review [this link](#) explaining carpool procedures before next week.

School Meal prices

For the 2024-25 school year, full-price breakfast will be \$2.00 and lunch will be \$3.75 at middle



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and high schools. Every meal should include fruit and/or veggies. Milk is optional with the meal and students can choose to take it or not. Pizza chosen by itself is \$3.00/slice. Once slice of pizza with a fruit/or veggie will be \$3.75. Please remind your student to make appropriate choices so the lunch line can keep moving. Pre-paying your student's lunch account is possible at [this link](#). [Learn more about our school meals](#).

Apply for free and reduced-price school meals now

To receive free or reduced-price meals for the 2024-25 school year, families must submit a meal benefits application online at [MySchoolApps.com](#). Paper copies will be available at your school's office. For families who completed the 2023-24 meal benefits application, the benefit continues for their student's first 30 school days of the 2024-25 school year. [Check out school menus on Mealviewer](#).

PSAT/NMSQT Registration

The PSAT/NMSQT will be administered on Wednesday, October 9th at Panther Creek High School. Students in grades 9-11 are eligible to register to take the exam. However, the PSAT/NMSQT contains items with Algebra I and some Geometry concepts, **so if students have not completed Math I they should not register**.

The PSAT allows 11th grade students the opportunity to potentially qualify for a National Merit Scholarship if they receive a very high score (generally the top 1%). For this reason, WCPSS is offering the test **free of charge to those JUNIORS ONLY who have a GPA of 4.375 or above**. 11th graders that meet the requirements for free registration have received an email from Mrs. Bougher with a registration form.

All other 9-11 grade students who wish to register should pay the \$15.30 fee via [SchoolCash Online](#). The deadline for all students to register is September 6th, no exceptions. Please contact the Testing Coordinator, Alexandria Bougher at abougher@wcpss.net with questions.

PCHS Testing Information- Please read!

In an effort to provide communication in a timely manner, we have compiled a list of testing dates for Panther Creek for the 2024-25 school year. We hope that having this information in advance will prevent student absences during required test sessions. All participating students are expected to be on campus for these exams on the dates indicated below.

- **PSAT/NMSQT, October 9th:** The PSAT is available to any 9-11th grade student who wishes to participate. Students will be registered for the exam when they pay the fee through School Cash Online. More information will be provided once registration opens later this month.
- **PreACT, November 6th & 7th:** All sophomores are required to take the PreACT. No registration is required. The exam consists of English, Math, Reading, and Science questions.
- **Fall Semester Final Exams, January 13th - 17th:** Students will complete either a final exam or a project-based assessment. Exams must be administered within this testing window. A more detailed exam schedule will be released closer to the end of the semester.



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- **ACT, March 12th:** All juniors are required to take the ACT exam. No registration is required. The exam is administered online and consists of English, Math, Reading, and Science questions.
- **Spring Semester Final Exams, June 9-13th:** Students will complete either a final exam or a project-based assessment. Exams must be administered within this testing window. A more detailed schedule will be released closer to the end of the school year.

**Note: Exam dates are subject to change based on the discretion of the school administration. If there are any changes to the testing program, communication will be delivered via Catamount Messenger, the school website, as well as the school announcements.*

Student Dress Code

All Panther Creek High School students should adhere to the WCPSS student dress code policy. Appropriate dress is necessary in order to maintain an atmosphere conducive to learning and safety. Please review the Dress Code policy approved by the WCPSS School Board at <https://www.wcpss.net/domain/50>. We will be taking time to review this with your students at the beginning of the school year.

Tardy Policy

Students are unable to do their best educationally if they miss large amounts of classroom instruction. We are implementing a new tardy policy at Panther Creek to address chronic tardiness. You can learn more about it [HERE](#).

Renew your volunteer application for 2024-25

Families and individuals who were approved to volunteer during the 2023-24 school year received an email on July 1 outlining the quick and easy volunteer renewal process for the 2024-25 school year. Click [HERE](#) for information on volunteer renewal processes. Complete your renewal by Oct. 1. Visit [Volunteering in WCPSS](#) to learn more about volunteer renewal or apply to be a first-time volunteer.

Report a safety concern

We value our partnership with families and the community in keeping schools safe. Share any safety concerns using the WCPSS Tip Line at 919-856-1911.

Say Something Anonymous Reporting System

To enhance student safety, our schools will begin using the [Say Something Anonymous Reporting System \(SS-ARS\)](#) starting in the 2024-25 school year. Students, teachers, and administrators will be trained to recognize the signs of at-risk behaviors, especially within social media. The system offers a [24/7 tip line](#) for students, parents, and staff to report anyone who shows signs of harming themselves or others. Traditional calendar middle and high schools will implement the system beginning later in the first semester. Elementary schools will begin using the system later in the school year. Your school will provide additional information and updates.

Reminder: Driver Education Update for Fall 2024

Fall 2024 Driver Education classes and registration information has been released. There are three fall sessions that will be offered afterschool in the PCHS media center. Registration will open



on Thursday, September 12, 2024 at 11:00 am on a first come, first serve basis. Once the sessions (35 seats each) are full, they will become unavailable to register for online. Please refer to www.jordandriving.com for class details and information pertaining to Panther Creek High School. If you have questions, please reach out to panthercreek@jordandriving.com

Reminder: Clear bag policy reminder

As required by WCPSS, Panther Creek High will require clear bags at all spectator events. This includes athletic events, performing arts events, and other events outside of the school day. PCHS will not hold bags for spectators. This expectation applies to both students and guests. Read more about the clear bag policy [HERE](#).

Reminder: Cell Phone Policy at PCHS

Panther Creek High will have a cell phone/electronic device policy this school year. Please know that cell phone use in class is a major distraction to student engagement and negatively impacts student performance. Students should not have their cell phone visible in class. Please begin talking about this with your student and we would appreciate your support in trying to curb student usage of cell phones during class time. You can read more about the PCHS cell phone policy [HERE](#).

Reminder: Student Parking Application Window is OPEN!

Seniors and Juniors who wish to purchase a parking pass, may do this now. Please click [HERE](#) to access the information on student parking, which is also on the school website under the "Students" tab. In order to park on the campus of PCHS, you must have a parking pass. Students risk being towed if they park on campus without a pass or in a nearby apartment lot. If you have questions, reach out to Ms. Monica Click at msclick@wcpss.net.

Reminder: Off-Campus Lunch Pass

Off-campus lunch passes for Juniors and Seniors ONLY are on sale now during office hours. In the summer, office hours are from 8:00 am - 2:00 pm. Off-campus lunch passes are available to be picked up in the main office during those hours, or before/after school after August 26th. Please bring proof of payment when submitting your application. Payment will be processed using SchoolCash Online. For more information on SchoolCash Online, see above. Information on off-campus lunch passes, including the application, can be found [HERE](#).

Reminder: New Online Payment System

Panther Creek High School will be using SchoolCash Online as its preferred method of payment for all school fees, including everything from parking to club fees. If you have an account from last year there is no need to re-register. The link to register is: <https://wcpss.schoolcashonline.com/>. Once here, click REGISTER to get started. If you encounter any difficulties, please contact the SchoolCash Online [parent help desk](#).

PTSA- Please join!

PCHS parents, please support our students and school community by purchasing a 2024-25 PCHS PTSA membership! Your membership helps fund vital programs and events. Join us today and make a difference! panthercreekptsa.givebacks.com/store



PCHS Spirit Wear for sale

The PTSA has Spirit Wear on hand for sale! T-Shirts are \$20 and Sweatshirts are \$35. You may prepurchase your spirit wear here:

<https://panthercreekptsa.givebacks.com/store?limit=21&live=true&category=Apparel%20and%20Promo%20Items>

Upcoming Dates

Please visit the school calendar on the PCHS website:

<https://www.wcpss.net/Page/14077#calendar27844/20210921/month>

8/27: First Day of School

9/2: Labor Day Holiday: NO SCHOOL for students or staff

9/5: Save the date! Meet the Teacher event 5:00-7:00 pm floating

9/20: Teacher Workday: NO SCHOOL for students

Administrator/Counselor Contact

Administrator	Students (Last Name)	Counselor
Ms. Monica Click (msclick@wcpss.net)	9th grade: A-He	Vacant A-Ma *Ms.Telfair will assist these students in the interim.
Ms. Jeorgine Trevithick (jtrevithick@wcpss.net)	9th grade: Hi-Pa	*Students with last names Hi-Ma will work with Shernita Telfair. Students with last names Mb-Pa will work with Michael Smith.
Mr. Joseph Biggs Email coming soon	9th grade: Pe-Z	Mr. Michael Smith (msmith21@wcpss.net) Mb-Z
Ms. Casey Otten (cotten2@wcpss.net)	10th-12th grades: A-F	Mr. Mario Jones (mjones13@wcpss.net)



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Mr. Dion Mapp (amapp@wcpss.net)	10th-12th grades: G – L	Ms. Akanksha Jain (ajain@wcpss.net)
Mr. Grey Mangum (tmangum2@wcpss.net)	10th-12th grades: M-Ri	Ashley Mathes (amathes@wcpss.net)
Ms. Crystal Locus (clocus@wcpss.net)	10th-12th grades: Ro – Z**	Ms. Angela Spangler (aspangler@wcpss.net)
Dean of Students		Ms. Shernita Telfair (stelfair@wcpss.net)
Student Assistance Program Counselor		Ms. Jasmine Iverson (jiverson@wcpss.net)
School Principal		Dr. Gregory Decker (gdecker@wcpss.net)

Thank you for your continued support of Panther Creek High School!