

Catamount Messenger 9.1.24

Catamount Families,

Students and staff had a great first week of school! There will be no school on Monday, 9/2/24, due to the Labor Day holiday. We look forward to having students return to school on Tuesday, 9/3/24 with a regular SMART lunch bell schedule.

Meet the Teacher

Meet the Teacher will be held on Thursday, 9/5/24 from 5:00-7:00 pm. This will be a floating event where parents are able to meet their students' teachers any time between the hours of 5-7 pm. You can access your student's schedule in PowerSchool. This event will allow teachers to provide you with a brief overview of their class and/or handouts. This is not the time for parent-teacher conferences. If you feel that you need to speak at length with a teacher, please make an appointment for a parent-teacher conference on an alternate date.

There will also be an important **Senior Parent meeting** that will be held at 5:00 pm in the auditorium during Meet the Teacher. If you are unable to attend this Senior Parent meeting, the information will be posted on the school website on Friday, 9/6.

PTSA General Meeting

The first PTSA general membership meeting will be held during the Meet the Teacher event on Thursday, 9/5/24 at 6PM in the auditorium. We are thrilled with the increase of participation in our PTSA this year and are looking forward to a large group of members attending this brief meeting. It's not too late to join the Panther Creek PTSA if you haven't already. Your membership helps fund vital programs and events. Join us today and make a difference!

panthercreekpsta.givebacks.com/store

Picture Day- Grades 9th- 11th

Students in grades 9-11 will take their pictures during 2nd period on September 24th. Please click [HERE](#) for more information on picture day.

Yearbook Sale

You can purchase a Panther Creek High School yearbook now for \$95.00. This price will increase after September 27th, so purchase now to get a discount. Yearbooks sell out, so make sure you purchase yours soon at [this LINK](#).

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



PCHS Student/Parent Handbook

Please use [THIS LINK](#) to access the 2024-25 Student/Parent Handbook.

REMINDER: Bus Transportation

Buses are at capacity and many students are riding incorrect routes. Please check your student's bus transportation in PowerSchool in the transportation tab. If you see a "N" that means your student does not have a bus route and you will need to complete a bus rider registration form for the 2024-25 school year found [HERE](#). Once your registration has been processed and your student has been routed, you will see a route number assigned in PowerSchool. You should also receive an email letting you know that your child is able to begin riding that route. Ms. Otten is unable to add students to routes, this is a function of the transportation operations office. She can tell your student what route they ride and provide instructions on how to complete the bus rider registration form. Joint custody forms can be requested by emailing Ms. Otten, however she is unable to enter these request forms until late September. Contact Ms. Otten at cotten2@wcpss.net if you have questions.

REMINDER: 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.

REMINDER: 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. Students should never be dropped/picked up on McCrimmon Parkway or apartment parking lots. Students should not run across McCrimmon Parkway as there is no crosswalk directly across the main entrance. Students should go to the nearest traffic light to safely cross the street. Please review [this link](#) explaining carpool procedures before next week.

REMINDER: 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.

REMINDER: 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.
- **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.*

REMINDER: School Meal prices

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

REMINDER: 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](https://www.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.](#)

REMINDER: 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.

REMINDER: 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](#).

REMINDER: 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.

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 is implementing a cell phone/electronic device policy this school year. Students have been doing a great job acclimating to the electronic device policy. Thank you for encouraging your student to follow the rules and comply with requests to put all electronic devices (cell phones, air buds/headphones, smart watches, etc.) away during classes. Cell phone use in class is a major distraction to student engagement and negatively impacts student performance. 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. 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. Off-campus lunch passes are available to be picked up in the main office before/after school or during lunch. 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](#).

REMINDER: 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.

REMINDER: 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>

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; Senior Parent Meeting at 5:00 pm & PTSA meeting (6:00 pm)

9/20: Teacher Workday: NO SCHOOL for students

9/24: School pictures for students in grades 9-11 (2nd period)

Administrator/Counselor Contact



WAKE COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

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)
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)



WAKE COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

School Principal

Dr. Gregory Decker

(gdecker@wcpss.net)

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