

River Oaks
Elementary School
Dolphin Gazette

January 2024



Dear River Oaks Families,

Happy New Year!!!! It is exciting to now be in the new year of 2024. On January 26, 2024 is the 2nd quarter ends and the 3rd quarter will begin January 30, 2024. As we end the first semester and begin the second semester of the 2023-2024 school year there will be a lot of mid-year assessments occurring for students to check on student progress. As we begin the mid-year testing season, please ensure that your child(ren) gets a good nights rest, comes to school every day, and continue to encourage them to stay focused and participate in class daily.

Middle of Year Assessment Testing Windows

Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening (PALS)- Grades K-3rd

- January 2- February 2, 2024

Virginia Growth Assessment (VGA)- Grades 3rd-5th

- January 10, 2024- 3rd grade math
- January 11, 2024- 3rd grade reading
- January 17, 2024
 - 4th grade reading
 - 5th grade math
- January 18, 2024
 - 4th grade math
 - 5th grade reading

WIDA (English Language Proficiency Assessment)- English Language Learners in Grades K-5th

- February 5-29, 2024

American Heart Association Kids Heart Challenge

On January 4, 2024, we had our kick-off assembly for the American Heart Association (AHA) Kids Heart Challenge. So Parents/Guardians, it's time for your child(ren) to show their heart. The Kids Heart Challenge (KHC) is your child's chance to be a Heart Hero by learning about heart health and share what they've learned to help other children.

Download or scan the QR code below to get the free app called "AHA Schools" or visit www.heart.org/Schools to help join our team, and complete Finn's mission, to be one of our celebrated Heart Heros! Then, share your page with friends and family to help your child earn thank-you gifts and new equipment for our school! Most importantly we hop you'll complete aa the steps to "Finn's Mission", in your HQ page, to learn how to help SAVE A LIFE. Students who complete Finn's Mission will earn their squishy Finn's Life-Saver Award, and will be celebrated as one of our Heart Heros. PLUS- NEW this year- EVERY student and staff member at our school who joins our team and completes Finns Mission to get their Squishy Life-Saver Award, will also be entered for a chance to WIN 2 tickets to the 2025 SUPER BOWL!!! Five winners will be drawn from across the country this year.

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Thank you for supporting students' physical and mental well-being and for helping the life-saving mission of American Heart Association.

QR Code to Scan to Download the Mobile App to Register



Transportation Changes

PWCS has made changes to their policy of when parents/guardians need to inform the school of any student transportation changes. Effective January 5, 2024, parents/guardians must call the front office at 703-441-0050 by 2:00pm to make transportation changes. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) General Body Meeting

The January PTO General Body meeting will be held on Wed., Jan. 10, 2024 at 6:30pm in the River Oaks Cafeteria. Families, please enter through Door 9. Any parent/guardian of a River Oaks' student(s) is encouraged to attend the PTO General Body meetings.

Upcoming Events/Dates to Remember:

- Mon., Jan. 8th- School Advisory Council Meeting @6pm (via Zoom)
- Wed., Jan. 10th - PTO General Board Meeting @6:30pm- Families enter through Door 9
- Fri., Jan. 11th- Picture Retake Day
- Mon., Jan. 15th- Martin Luther King Holiday- Schools & Offices Closed
- Tues., Jan. 16th- FLES Specialty Program Information Night @ 5pm- Families enter through Door 9
- Fri., Jan. 26th- Early Release Day for Students- Dismissal @ 12:05pm
- Mon., Jan. 29th- Teacher Workday- No School for Students

Student Device Insurance

All families signed an agreement of responsibility for the devices in the online Back to School Packet. To avoid fees for damaged or broken devices, we are encouraging all families to purchase device insurance for only \$29.95. Please see the link below for more information about the insurance.

English

https://riveroaks.pwcs.edu/news/2023/10/prince_william_county_public_schools_insurance_flyer_securranty_2023_compressed.pdf

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Spanish

https://riveroakes.pwcs.edu/news/2023/10/prince_william_county_public_schools_spanish_insurance_flyer_security_compressed.pdf

Update on Cost of Repairs of Student Devices if Do Not Purchase Insurance

The link below provides information about the PWCS regulation about roles and responsibilities for student devices. Also the link includes (and is listed below) the updated cost of repairs and replacements.

<https://pwcps.sharepoint.com/sites/DIIT-IT/SitePages/Stu.aspx>

Digital Device - Laptop

- Up to One Year \$308
- Between One and Two Years \$231
- Between Two and Three Years \$154
- Between Three and Four Years \$77

Digital Device - iPad

- Up to One Year \$245/285
- Between One and Two Years \$184/214
- Between Two and Three Years \$123/143
- Between Three and Four Years \$61/71

For lost or damaged chargers, contact the Ms. Dabu (ITC) or Mr. Pitts (TSPEC) for the year of laptop and/or current replacement cost.

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Communication

Effective communication is important for the home-school connection. When contacting a staff member please be aware that staff have 24 - 48 hours (Mon.- Fri.) to respond to all messages (phone, School Status, email). If there is an emergency, please contact the front office. During the school day staff members are engaged with students and are not always accessible to their emails or phone.

Attendance Matters: Every Student, Every Day

Having students in school every day is very important, but we know that things happen such as students getting sick, family emergencies, etc. Please be sure to report the reason for the student's absence to the school. If your child is ever absent from school, please report the absence by using the following:

- ParentVue, for day of and future absences- can only put in one absence at a time through ParentVue
- Provide Doctor's note and/or Parent letter
- Call the front office at 703-441-0050

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- Absences must be reported within 5 days of the student's return to school.

Safety First

Safety is our number one priority. Please remember the following for entry into the building, arrival, and dismissal.

- Photo ID (government issued) must be presented to enter the building and dismissal of students. The physical photo ID must be presented to staff and cannot be accepted on a cell phone.
- No cars are permitted in the bus loop from 8:00am-9:00am and from 3:00pm-4:00pm. We have late buses and cars cannot be in the bus loop while students are boarding or exiting the bus. Parents should not pass any buses that have red lights flashing.
- We know that everyone wants to drop off or pick-up students but please slowdown in the school area and do not go around other vehicles. Thank you for your understanding and patience.

Informational Items:

- School Hours – 8:45AM-3:25 PM. Tardy Bell rings at 8:45AM.
- Office Hours- 8:00AM- 4:00PM.
- Doors open for student entry at 8:30am, so please do not drop off your children before 8:30AM.
- A parent or guardian must accompany and sign in children arriving at school after 8:45AM.
- **If you need to pick up your children during school hours, you must present a Government Issued Photo Identification Card and sign them out from the office.** The office staff will call for the children to meet you in the office after your arrival and check out. The purpose of this procedure is to reduce disruptions to classroom instruction, as well as for safety reasons. All dismissal changes must be made in writing before 2:00PM. If you are picking up students for early dismissal, you must pick them up by 2:30PM. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Warm regards,

Dr. Gibson
Principal

Mrs. Herrera
Assistant Principal

Ms. Burton
Administrative Intern