

River Oaks  
Elementary School  
Dolphin Gazette

September 2023



Dear River Oaks Families,

We have just completed the first two weeks of the 2023-2024 school year. River Oaks' theme for the 2023-2024 school year is "Progress over Perfection". To be successful, learners must set their sights on continuous learning. According to Thomas Edison, "Progress is about moving forward, learning from our mistakes, adapting to new situations, and finding a way to succeed". Progress over perfection means breaking down our goals into manageable tasks and taking consistent measures towards the goals. Striving for progress over perfection is being relentless about learning, growing, evolving, and improving.

***PWCS Back to School Packet Information***

If you have yet to do so, please complete the packet in ParentVue- ([https://www.pwcs.edu/about\\_us/the\\_hub/parent\\_vue\\_information](https://www.pwcs.edu/about_us/the_hub/parent_vue_information)) as soon as possible and no later than September 15, 2023. The Back to School Packet provides critical information for PWCS to reach you in case of an emergency and other important information about your student. If you do not have an active ParentVUE account, please call our office at 703-441-0050.

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

**PWCS Attendance Policies and Regulations**

**Types of Excused Absences:**

- personal illness of the student;
- death in the student's immediate family or household;
- required court appearance; and
- preapproved absence for certain reasons pertaining to a parent's military deployment

**Types of Unexcused Absences:**

- missing a ride, or a bus, or car trouble;
- failure to produce an appropriate explanation or requested documentation for an absence; and
- traveling (within the country or out of the country)

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**Types of Excused Tardies:**

- dental note;
- doctor's note; and
- other types of physician notes

**Types of Unexcused Tardies:**

- woke up late; and
- missed the bus, or ride, or car trouble;

**Tardiness:**

Promptness to class is very important. Students are to be in their seats and ready to work when the bell sounds. Repeated or habitual tardiness encourages the formation of undesirable personal habits and disrupts the orderly instructional process of the school. This requires corrective action. Each principal, in consultation with his/her stakeholders, and in conformance with Regulation 724-1, "Attendance, Absences, Excuses, and Tardies," shall develop a plan to foster student promptness to class.

**River Oaks' Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)**

For the 2023-2024 school year we would like to have a fully functioning PTO. The first step that needs to happen is to get some officers. The officers that are needed are:

- President
- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Event Coordinator

If you would be interested in running for one of these positions, please complete the form in the link below by Fri., September 8, 2023.

- Link to form- <https://forms.office.com/r/MeCA7yYnxg>

Once we have a list of officers there will be an election to select the officers. If you are not interested in a position within the PTO, we still need your help and support by joining the PTO. Please see below and the attached flyer for the benefits of joining the PTO.

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#### WHY JOIN THE RIVER OAKS Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)?

##### ✚ Our Students Benefit

Help your child perform better academically by being an active participant and role model in the community that helps raise your child.

##### ✚ Our School Benefits

Help create a positive, caring, and engaging community by supporting the teachers and administration.

##### ✚ Create Connections

Develop powerful relationships with teachers and staff while making life-long friends with other parents.

##### ✚ You Benefit

Volunteering your time, talents, and energy while socializing with other parents is fun, healthy, and rewarding.

*\*Ready to Sign up for PTO: Contact Belinda Brown or Ashley Stevens at [riveroakspto@gmail.com](mailto:riveroakspto@gmail.com) or join us for one of the upcoming monthly meetings.\**

#### 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 the 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.
- Children may not be dropped off 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 2:30PM. If you are picking up students for early dismissal, you must pick them up by 2:30PM. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

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**Brown Bear, Brown Bear**

Kindergarten would like for the entire school (all students in grades PreK-5 and staff) to join in the festivities in learning about colors. Please send your child to school in the color of the day, which you can find listed below.

9/4 Monday No School- Labor Day	9/5 Tuesday Wear Green	9/6 Wednesday Wear Purple	9/7 Thursday Wear White	9/8 Friday Wear Black
9/11 Monday Wear Orange	9/12 Tuesday Wear Pink	9/13 Wednesday Wear Gray	9/14 Thursday Wear Tie Dye	9/15 Friday- No School

**Upcoming Events/Dates to Remember:**

- Mon., Sept. 4<sup>th</sup>- Labor Day- Schools and Offices Closed
- Thurs., Sept. 7- Lockdown Drill
- Mon., Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>- Fall Virginia Growth Assessment (VGA) begins- 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade students tested in reading and math
- Fri., Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>- Rosh Hashanah- Schools and Offices Closed
- Mon., Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>- Yom Kippur- Schools and Offices Closed
- Thurs., Sept. 28<sup>th</sup>- Back to School Night at 5:30pm- Families please enter through Door 9

Warm regards,

**Dr. Gibson**  
Principal

**Mrs. Herrera**  
Assistant Principal

**Ms. Burton**  
Administrative Intern