

August 21, 2009

Dear Cavalier Parents and Students:

It is a pleasure to welcome each of you to our school and to share with you important information concerning the 2009-2010 school year. This first newsletter is sent to you by US mail, but future letters and information will be sent by email. Be sure to go to the PAHS Website and register online for our list serve called, *My School Mail* – look for the icon on the bottom right side of the page. While on the PA website, be sure to register for **School Net Parent Portal** – look for the icon in the top left corner of the PA webpage. Parent Portal will give you instant access to your son or daughter's daily grades and attendance. Through the years, Princess Anne High School has developed a tradition of high quality academics, student activities, and athletics. Our students and staff just completed another terrific school year where they continued to excel. Below are just a few of our major highlights for this past year.

- On June 19, Princess Anne High School held its 55th graduation. Over 400 seniors graduated with 49% of them receiving honor graduate status. The overall yearly grade point average of all our students grades 9 –12 continued to climb, showing improvement for the fifteenth straight year and reaching an all time high.
- In July, we received our Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) exam scores. We had a record number of students (531) take over 1000 Advanced Placement tests, and 207 students took 642 IB exams. Results for both were very good, and I offer congratulations to these students and their teachers! A special note of congratulations goes to the 93 students who earned their IB Diplomas.
- The PA Band earned State Honor Band status for the thirteenth time in our school's history.
- *Newsweek Magazine* once again recognized Princess Anne High School, ranking us in the top 5% of high schools in the US. PA ranked 183 in *Newsweek's* listing of the nation's 1500 top performing high schools.
- PA's art teacher, Mrs. Betsy DiJulio, was named as Virginia Beach Public Schools Teacher of the Year. This is the second time in four years that a Princess Anne High School teacher was named as the citywide Teacher of the Year.
- In June, PA was selected, for the seventh time, as a recipient of the Virginia High School League Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity Award.
- Princess Anne seniors were awarded over 4.2 million dollars in scholarship money this past year. They were offered over 6 million dollars!
- For the ninth straight year, Princess Anne High School has received its SOL accreditation! PA also had a record number of students earn their industry certifications.

As we chart our course for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, Princess Anne has even higher expectations of its students and staff. While we continue to focus on meeting federal and state standards, we also are working to provide our students with the critical thinking skills, communication skills, and global awareness skills that will lead them to success as a 21<sup>st</sup> worker and citizen. To accomplish our goals, we need 100% effort of every member of our school community, staff, students, parents and community partners. We ask that parents closely monitor their students' grades through *Parent Portal*, especially progress reports and quarterly report cards, and communicate with the teacher as problems surface. Working together, I believe that our school can be even better, a place where every student develops his or her greatest potential for success as 21<sup>st</sup> century learners, workers and citizens.

We will open the 2009-2010 school-year on the Intensified Block Schedule. Busses will be available at both 12:19 PM and 2:14 PM to take students home. Please read the enclosed information under "Block Bell Schedule" for more details. Also included in this newsletter is some very important information that will help you start the year smoothly with the emphasis on instruction and academic achievement. Welcome to Princess Anne High School, home of the Cavaliers!

**NINTH GRADE SCHEDULES:** Rising ninth graders will receive their schedules at the New Student Orientation, *Fresh Start*, on August 27. You should have already received several mailings concerning this very important orientation for rising ninth graders, and other new students and their parents. *If you have not received this information, please call the school at 648-5600.*

**SCHEDULES for SOPHOMORES, JUNIORS, AND SENIORS ONLY** - Your schedule is enclosed. Be sure to note first semester classes (S1) and second semester classes (S2), as well as A day and B day classes. School begins on Tuesday, September 8, at **7:20** am. West Building start time is 7:00 am. The first day will be an "A" day and you will report to your block one, A day class. Your block one teacher will help answer any questions you may have.

**BLOCK BELL SCHEDULE** – The Intensified Block schedule remains the same, allowing for 95 minute classes. Many students will be dismissed at 12:19 p.m. Students taking a block four class, will be dismissed at 2:14 p.m. A 20-minute mini-lunch will be available in the Cavalier Food Court for all students staying after third block for classes or activities.

**Breakfast** 6:45 – 7:15 a.m.

**Warning Bell** 7:15 a.m.

**Block 1** 7:20 a.m.- 8:55 a.m.

**Block 2** 9:02 a.m.- 10:37 a.m.

**Block 3** 10:44 a.m. - 12:19 p.m. (general student dismissal)

**Mini- lunch 12:19 p.m. -12:39 p.m.**

**Block 4** 12:39 p.m. - 2:14 p.m.

(Dismissal for students with block four classes)

Princess Anne High School has close to 100 buses entering our school grounds in the morning. So that West building students are transported safely and have safe access to and from the building, the West Building runs an adjusted schedule and bus times are adjusted accordingly. School starts at 7:00 a.m. and ends at 1:54 p.m. **Please note:** If your child rides a Special Education bus in the morning and has a block 4 class scheduled in the main PA building, please notify us, if needed, to request transportation at 2:14 p.m., which is the end of the main building school day.

**OPENING AND CLOSING TIMES** - The school opens at 6:45 a.m. and closes at 2:30 p.m. Before and after these times students are asked to be in the school only if involved in tutoring, a meeting, or other activities under the supervision of a teacher or staff member. Students arriving before 7:10 a.m. are asked to wait in the Cavalier Food Court. Students who must wait for rides after the 2:14 p.m. bus run must wait outside the building.

**NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION - *Fresh Start*** - Orientation for all students new to Princess Anne High School will take place on Thursday, August 27, beginning at 6:30 p.m. (Parent registration starts at 6 p.m). Parents will meet in the auditorium for about 45 minutes, while students will report to the gymnasium. Later, parents will join their students for touring the building, finding classrooms, and checking out club and activity opportunities. If you are a rising ninth grader or a new student, you should have already received information concerning our orientation, *Fresh Start*. Please be sure to attend this special activity!

**The following is a description of items that may be purchased at New Student Orientation Night or during the first week of school:**

- **Beach District Athletic Pass - three passes are** offered this year. For \$15, you can purchase a five-game pass, for \$50 you can purchase a year's pass good for any regular season athletic event at any Beach District high school, or for \$125 with an approved application, the Family Pass will admit all members of your family to all regular season games. See the student activities director, Ms. Alyson Myers, to purchase your pass.
- **Gym shorts - \$9.00 and gym shirts - \$5.00** - All students enrolled in PE should plan to participate actively unless physically unable. Adaptive PE is available for students with long-term health problems documented by a physician. A basic uniform is required for PE class to promote safety and hygiene and to encourage a serious attitude about fitness and health. The uniform consists of a red short-sleeve T-shirt and blue gym shorts, both screened with *PA Physical Education*. Gym shorts and shirts may be purchased from the school.
- **Goggles - \$5.00** - are required for lab science and some technology courses. If you already have them, you do not have to buy new ones. If you are unsure, check with your teacher during the first week of school.

**CALCULATORS** – It is highly recommended that students taking Algebra 2 and above purchase their own graphing calculators. The school will provide calculators for students to use in class; however, we have found that many students wish to purchase their own to take home each day to assist with assignments. These calculators, such as the TI-84 or TI-84+, cost approximately \$90.00 and may be purchased at Kmart, Wal-Mart, BJ's. Etc.

**PSAT/SAT/ACT PREPARATION AND PLANS** - Shortly after the opening of school, students will be able to enroll in the free PSAT/SAT preparation workshop in October. The PSAT is only given once during the school year and is a very important exam that gives students a profile of their strengths and needs and provides the eligibility scores for some scholarship and recognition programs. The SAT and ACT are given several times during the year and should be taken by any college-bound student one or more times in the junior and senior years. The SAT testing date is 10/10/09 and the regular registration deadline is 09/09/09 with the late registration deadline being from 09/10-23, 2009. See your counselor for information on the ACT testing dates.

**NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM** - Princess Anne High participates in the National School Lunch and Breakfast Program. This means that **all students** will enjoy low food prices at both lunch and breakfast. A full lunch will cost \$2.00, and a full breakfast will cost \$1.00! Each student will receive a free/reduced lunch application in the mail before school starts. If you think you may qualify, be sure to complete the application and return it as indicated on the form, or you may drop it off at school.

**STUDENT PLANNER/ CALENDAR HANDBOOK** – Student planners for 2009-10 will be distributed to every student during the first week of school. All students and parents are requested to read the handbook section of the student planner and be familiar with its contents, including *Code of Conduct* infractions and disciplinary measures. A school calendar is included as well as a listing of many events happening during the next school year. Also, please note the A/B monthly calendar with each school day marked as an "A" day or a "B" day so that you can better plan your schedule. These days will not change! We are enthusiastic about sharing student-life guidelines, student opportunities, and a detailed calendar in this attractive and useful student day-planner.

**CODE OF CONDUCT** - Also to be distributed during the first week of school is the Code of Conduct published by Virginia Beach City Public Schools. The Code of Conduct outlines for the administrative staff, teachers, students, and parents the guidelines and regulations for responsible student behavior. **PLEASE READ THIS BOOKLET CLOSELY, AS THERE ARE CERTAIN INFRACTIONS THAT LEAD TO LONG-TERM SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION FROM THE SCHOOL SYSTEM.**

**ATTENDANCE POLICY** - This past year's six-day attendance policy was highly successful. Our attendance rate was 95.87%, among the highest attendance rate among the eleven Beach high schools. Congratulations students and parents! **Students may not have more than six (6) absences, whether excused or unexcused, per class per semester. On the seventh absence, a student loses credit for the semester in the class. If a student is more than 15 minutes late for a class, he or she will be counted as absent from that class.** Remember, classes meet every other day; therefore, if a student is absent two consecutive days, he or she will have only one absence per class. See our student planner-handbook for more information.



**CELL PHONES** – *All cell phones must be turned off and be out of sight; otherwise they will be confiscated for a minimum of 24 hours before parents/guardians only are allowed to pick-up the phone. As per School Board Cell Phone Policy, no warning will be given and students will receive suspension on the first offense!*

Students, last year 277 students received ISS and OSS for cell phone violations. Please follow the School Board Policy and make sure your cell phone is turned off, all alarms are off, and the phone is put away. Many violations last year were for text messaging, checking email messages, and checking the time.

**CLASS LAB FEES FOR BUSINESS, TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION, FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE, and AP/IB STUDIO ART CLASSES** - Because your student will have the opportunity to use state-of-the art equipment and up-to-date software, all semester classes will have a lab fee of \$5 (except for Photography/Printing, which will be \$10 per semester,) and all year classes will have a lab fee of \$10. **These lab fees will be collected in the class during the first week of school (checks payable to PAHS).** The following classes will have lab fees.

**Semester Classes**

Keyboarding	Keyboarding Applications
Photography/Printing	Computers & Communications Tech
Construction Tech	Manufacturing Tech
Materials Technology I	Materials Technology II
Intro to Food Occupations I	Intro to Food Occupations II
Parenting and Child Development	Desktop Publishing

**Year Classes**

Computer Information Systems	Adv Computer Information Systems
Accounting	AP Studio Art and IB Visual Arts
Accounting Computer Applications	Basic Technical Drawing
Architectural Drawing	Introduction to Engineering
Electricity/Electronics I	Electricity/Electronics II
Intro to Design I, II	Information Technology
Independent Living	Engineering Drawing
Virtual Enterprise	

**SCHOOL PICTURES, SENIOR PICTURES, CLASS RINGS, YEARBOOKS, and GRADUATION ANNOUNCEMENTS** – Jostens and Life Touch/Prestige Studios have been selected to represent our school because of their service and value for our students. No purchase is mandatory; however, purchases made will in turn benefit the school. These companies will mail information directly home as a convenience to parents and students. Jostens will mail information concerning yearbooks to all students, information on class rings to juniors and information on graduation announcements to seniors. Prestige Studios has already contacted the seniors and will be in touch with other students as the year progresses. **Seniors, if you have not had your senior portrait made, please call Prestige Studios, senior portrait division, at 420-9417. For your senior picture to be in the yearbook, your portrait must be taken by Prestige Studios (no purchase is necessary).** Underclassmen pictures will be taken at the school in October.

**PARENT INVOLVEMENT –**

**PTSA membership** (Parent-Teacher-Student Association) provides informative programs for parents, teachers, and students, and lends support for the school as a whole. The **\$5.00 membership** per person supports this organization and gives each member a voice in our educational system. Janet Carter, PTSA President, hopes that each parent, teacher, student and concerned community member will join. Our goal is 100% (as many PTSA members as we have students). Sign up at New Student Orientation, Open House, or send a check to the school--enclose \$5.00 per member. Last year, our PTSA was awarded the Award of Excellence, the Exemplary Award, the Merit Award (for 100% faculty/staff membership), and the Certificate of Achievement for Membership in recognition of 57% increase, the Cardinal Award, and the President's Pin. Congratulations to our PTSA and its members!

**PTSA Open House** - The first PTSA meeting will be Thursday, October 1, at 6:30 p.m. This will be an opportunity for you to meet your son or daughter's teachers after a brief business meeting and program. Please note that Princess Anne High School is a PTSA, and we welcome student members. We are looking for interested students and parents to serve on the PTSA board. If interested, contact Ms. Janet Carter by email at [pa-ptsa@cox.net](mailto:pa-ptsa@cox.net), or leave a message in the PTSA mailbox at school.

**Booster Clubs:** Several parent groups besides the PTSA provide opportunities to support school activities and to benefit many students. The Athletic Booster Club, the Marching Cavalier Parents Association, the NJROTC Parents Association, and parents in the drama, chorus, orchestra and other programs provide invaluable support for the school. They invite you to get involved and help with their many projects and fundraisers for our students.

**All Night Grad Party** - Plans are already underway for 2010 All-Night Grad Party for seniors. Last year's all-night grad party was a huge success and a lot of fun. Many thanks and kudos go to chairman David Jelinek and the many, many parents who helped produce and support this successful evening. While senior parents may do much of this year's work, parents from all classes are needed. Please get involved and find out how to plan a great all-night party when your student's senior year arrives. More information will be available at the Open House on October 1.

**School Planning Council (SPC)** - The SPC has several openings for parent/community members. The SPC meets three times throughout the year, from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. on a weeknight. The purpose of the SPC is to monitor the school's Continuous Improvement Plan and help identify areas that need improvement. If you are interested in joining the SPC, submit a letter to Mrs. Griffin, Principal, expressing your interest. The community members already on the SPC will elect the new community members.

**Harris Teeter (VIC Card), Target (Target Charge Card), and Office Depot (school id: 70105209)** – These stores will contribute money back to PA based on your purchases. Be sure to designate Princess Anne High School as you purchase items at these stores. Money sent to the school supports scholarships for our students.

**SPORTING EVENTS - FALL TEAMS ARE NOW PRACTICING** - Call the school if you wish to participate. Our **first district football game is Friday, August 28, 7:00 PM vs. Ocean Lakes at the Sportsplex**. We want everyone to be there wearing our school colors--red, white, and blue and your Princess Anne shirt or sweatshirt. Be sure to support all our fall sports teams.

Opening dates for fall sports are:

Golf	2:30 pm, August 11	@ Bow Creek vs Kellam
Boys/Girls Volleyball	4:30 pm, September 2	@ PA vs. Kellam
JV Football	6:30 pm, September 10	@ FC
Cross Country	4:05 pm, September 9	@ Sportsplex vs.Kempsville, Landstown &Kellam
Field Hockey, Varsity & JV	3:45 pm, September 10	@ PA vs. Kempsville

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

Thursday, August 27	6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.....	<b>Fresh Start - Freshman/New Student Orientation</b>
Wednesday, August 26	8:00 a.m. - Noon.....	Schedule Changes - Seniors & Juniors*
Thursday, August 27	8:00 a.m. - Noon.....	Schedule Changes – Sophomores*
Friday, August 28	7:00 p.m. ....	Football v OLHS @ Sportsplex
Tuesday, September 8	7:20 a.m. ....	<b>SCHOOL STARTS</b>
Thursday, October 1	6:30 p.m. ....	PTSA Open House

**\*Schedule changes are for errors or omissions only, not for a change in a class or teacher.**

**All IB, MYP requests for changes must follow the schedule above and first be approved by Mrs. Cox**

**2009-10 VIRGINIA BEACH CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS TESTING SCHEDULE**

<b>DATES</b>	<b>TESTS</b>	<b>GRADES</b>
Sept. 21 – Oct. 9	Stanford 10 (SAT10)	9
October 14	PSAT	10-12, optional for grade nine
October 19-20	English 11 – Writing, Multiple Choice	Retake students and transfer students
October 21	English 11 – Writing, direct Prompt	Retake students and transfer students
March 1-2	Spring English: Writing Multiple choice	English 11 and MYP 10, retake and transfers
March 3	Spring English: Writing Prompt	English 11 and MYP10, retake and transfers
May 18 – June 2	Spring SOL Tests	9-12 SOL Courses
May 5 – 23	IB Tests	11 -12
May 5 - 23	AP Tests	9-12