



Panther Pride



Virден Elementary School: Educate - Inspire - Transform

Debra Bommarito, Principal

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Web Address: northmacschools.org

Welcome Back!

DATES TO REMEMBER

August 9	PTO Meeting 6:30
August 19	Attendance 8-11:05
August 22- Sept. 1	1:20 Dismissal
August 26	Pre-K Screening
Call school office to schedule appt.	
September 5	No School
September 8	Open House/Book Fair
September 14	11:05 Dismissal
September 16 -	Grandparent Day
September 23	Homecoming
	Dismissal 11:05
September 29	Picture Day
September 30	Breakfast With Books
October 5	11:05 Dismissal
October 10	No School
October 14	Quarter Ends -1:20
October 26	Fall Festival
October 27	P/T Conferences 1-8
December 6	Winter Music Program
March 6	ISAT Testing Starts

Welcome back to a new school year. We hope everyone had a wonderful relaxing summer.

SCHOOL HOURS: 8:00-2:50

Students will be considered tardy if they arrive at school after 7:58 a.m. All students should have entered the building by 7:58 a.m. At that time the covered play area doors will be locked and you must **walk your child** into the building for a late pass. Please set your morning routine to allow your child to be at school on time. After 3 tardies in a grading period, parents will be contacted by the school. Students are expected to be at school the full length of the day, except for the occasional after school appointment.

Absences

State Law requires the school to have contact with all student guardians/parents when the child is absent. It is extremely important that you call your child in to the school office if they will not be in attendance. The call should be made before 8:30 a.m. It is also vital that the school have a working phone number for each student.

Handbook Highlights

Please familiarize yourself with the following highlights from the handbook.

- ♦ Deliveries such as flowers and balloons will not be accepted at the school.
- ♦ Party invitations/gifts may not be passed out at school. The PTO is putting together a directory of student addresses. Simply sign the form in the first day folder and return to school. Directories will not be pre-sold. You may purchase one at Open House if you wish. This is an easy way to get addresses of your child's classmates.
- ♦ The School Messenger system will be activated to announce school closings and any other school announcements. You **MUST HAVE** a working phone number on file with the school office. If you change your number, please let the school know.
- ♦ Absences/Tuancy - Please review the guidelines in the handbook. They may have changed somewhat. Students who are absent because of a medical/dental appointment **must bring in a signed doctor** note (or have the note faxed to the school) in order for the absence to be considered excused.
- ♦ Physical Education - Students have PE every day. They must have tennis shoes for safety reasons. Also, remember that students may not wear any type of shoe to school that is backless (i.e. flip flops, backless sandals, etc).
- ♦ School lunch prices - Lunches are \$1.75 for K-2 students and \$2.00 for 3-5 students. Students must always maintain a positive balance in their account. Please send money on a regular basis. Also, students may **NOT BRING ANY TYPE OF SODA** to school. They may purchase a milk at school for \$.35 or bring some type of juice/water. Breakfast is \$1.50.
- ♦ Parents of students who have any type of allergy should contact the school nurse so the school is aware of this.
- ♦ For student birthdays, we suggest you send non-edible treats, such as pencils, small items, etc to celebrate birthdays. **The only food items which will be allowed are peanut free items such as the ones listed in the school handbook. CUPCAKES, CAKES, SNACK CAKES, COOKIES, ETC will returned home uneaten.** This is within the School Food Nutrition Guidelines. These types of special treats will be allowed for holiday parties.
- ♦ Parents are encouraged to monitor regularly their child's grades through Family Access. If you need your password, please contact the school office. If you have any concerns, you should contact your child's teacher.
- ♦ Please put your child's name on coats, mittens, hats, backpacks, etc. The lost and found box regularly fills with items that go unclaimed.

Again, PLEASE READ the student handbook, which is located in the student agenda.

Virден Elementary has gone PBIS!

Last year Virден Elementary implemented a new discipline system. It is Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS). All students will be expected to follow three basic rules:

1. Be Respectful
2. Be Responsible
3. Be Safe

Supports and interventions will be put in place to help students who have a difficult time behaviorally in the school setting. Staff members will do everything possible to help all students be successful. Students who follow school rules will be eligible for special rewards. Watch for special celebration notices to come home from your child's teacher.

After School Plans

Students do best with consistent routines. They should be aware of how they are to get home each day. Only in cases of emergencies should these plans change. If it is necessary to change plans, please let the school know between 2 and 2:30. Please do everything possible to keep plans the same for students each day as this greatly reduces their stress levels. It is also for their safety. The office should not receive change of plan calls on a regular basis.

New School Counselor

Mrs. Hampton will be available to provide some counseling to students in the afternoon each day. If you feel your child would benefit from speaking with her, please call her at Virден Elementary School.

Homework

Homework is a vital process to student learning. It allows students to practice skills learned at school. It also plays an important process in the grade assigned for the class.

Please start early in the school year and establish a specific place and time for your student to do work. At the elementary level, some students may need parental monitoring to complete this work.



Bussing/After School Pick-Up

Most bus students will be dismissed at 2:50 p.m. Students who ride Rural Route buses will be dismissed at a later time—around 3:30 p.m. This is new this year.

Parents who pick their child up after school are **STRONGLY ENCOURAGED** to pick up from the Covered Play Area. This is the only area monitored by staff after school. Students may not be met at the school office—meet them on the CPA.

For any district information, including school calendars, breakfast and lunch menus, homework help, and so much more! .. Log onto the school district website! That address is:

www.northmacschools.org

Viriden Elementary School

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North Mac School District #34.



Morning Procedures

Students should not arrive at school too early. Those eating breakfast should arrive between 7:40-7:45. Those not eating should not be at school prior to 7:50.

Second and third grade students will wait for their teacher in the music hallway. Fourth/Fifth grade students will wait in the halls by the library. All students will sit quietly and read a book (either one they bring or one provided by the school) K and 1st graders will wait in the gym. All students should be at school by 7:55 a.m.

Parking

- * The school drive is **one-way** in the morning and after school. Please observe the signs.
- * Park only in marked spots. Buses come and go throughout the day. Parking in the bus lanes is prohibited.
- * Pick one spot to always pick your child up at after school. This makes it easier for your child. Also, students are in the parking lots after school. Please drive with care.
- * State law makes it against the law to talk on a cell phone while driving in a school zone.



- ⇒ There are some early dismissal days throughout the year to allow staff members to collaborate with each other. Please mark those dates on your calendar. Most are on Wednesdays.
- ⇒ School will be dismissed early during the first two weeks of school.
- ⇒ The PTO is an active parent organization. This organization does a great deal for all students in the school. Please support it with your attendance at their monthly meetings and with their finances.
- ⇒ Reminder: Do not let your child bring video games, IPODS, excessive money, cards, or other valuables to school. Also, if your child has a cell phone, they **MUST** be **turned off** prior to entering the building and placed in a backpack.

GO PANTHERS!