



# PINEHURST PANTHER PRESS

From the Principal's Desk

November 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Wicomico County Public Schools has instituted a new Attendance Procedure for the 2019-2020 school year. Under the new procedures, it is extremely important to keep your child's school informed of any absences, as absences without supporting documentation will be marked as "unexcused". Absences will be considered lawful or unlawful. The chart, below, details the reasons a student may be absent from school. Please continue to send in excuse notes, doctor's notes, or other required documentation immediately upon your child's return to school.

## School Attendance The Rule of 5



**Students should be in school 5 days a week unless their absence is for a lawful\* reason.**

### Top 5 reasons to miss school when you're not sick:

- Medical appointment
- Pre-approved vacations (3 day maximum)
- Observance of a religious holiday
- Death in the immediate family
- Court summons

### 5 Reasons to Stay Home Sick

- Fever over 100.4
- Vomiting/Diarrhea
- Eye Infection/Pinkeye
- Body Rash
- Head Lice



**Students have 5 days to turn in an excuse note upon their return to school.**

**When a child is sick, parents may write a note to excuse up to 5 absences throughout the year. After the 5th parent-excused sick day, a doctor's note will be required.**



If students do not turn in an excuse note, their absence is automatically considered "unexcused."



Once students accumulate **5 unexcused absences** or more, they will need to make up missed time through an **Attendance Intervention Plan** to pass the term.

\*A complete list of lawful reasons for absence can be found in the full attendance policy at [www.wcboe.org](http://www.wcboe.org).

Please remember that vacation leave request must be submitted two weeks prior to leaving. Failure to do so may result in the days requested being mark unexcused. Please plan ahead and keep us informed of all absences – your student's attendance matters!

If you have any questions regarding the new Attendance Procedures, please feel free to contact our Home School Liaison, Mr. Bruce Glover, or myself. We are here to support you and your child.

We Are Pinehurst Pride!

Mr. Smith

Principal

Spotlight on...



# Lexile

## What is a Lexile Level?

A popular method used by schools to measure a student reader's ability is Lexile level or a Lexile Measure. A Lexile measure is a valuable tool for teachers, parents, and students. It serves two unique functions: it is the measure of how difficult a text is OR a student's reading ability level. The Lexile Framework was developed by MetaMetrics®, an educational assessment and research team, funded originally by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.

## What Does Lexile Score Mean?

A student receives his or her Lexile measure from one of two ways: taking a school-administered **RI (Reading Inventory) test**, which is specifically designed to measure Lexile or reading ability OR by taking a standardized reading test which converts the reader's results to a Lexile measure. If a student gets a 550L then he or she is a 550 level Lexile reader. 550L is the measure of his or her readability level. It is important to note it is never called a score! This encourages student achievement. (Information taken from: <https://www.scholastic.com/parents/books-and-reading/reading-resources/book-selection-tips/lexile-levels-made-easy.html>)

## Tips for Parents:

Your child is not a score. The Lexile measures are utilized to assist teachers when making instructional decisions for your child. You do not need to limit your child to reading only from a certain Lexile range. It is important for your child to choose books to read based on interests. At times, interest pushes children to read more difficult texts because they want to learn. This fosters curiosity and problem solving. Reading text aloud to your child is also beneficial and may help clear up misconceptions if a text is a bit difficult. Sometimes a child will choose a book to read that is below their Lexile measure because it looks interesting, this too is okay. The best thing to do is to talk with your child about the books they are reading and have fun.

If you have any questions or comments, please email Amanda Banks [abanks@wcboe.org](mailto:abanks@wcboe.org) and/or Christen Tacka [ctacka@wcboe.org](mailto:ctacka@wcboe.org).

## PBIS

It is clear that our Pinehurst Panthers understand our core values of kindness, love, support and demonstrate PRIDE daily. Thank YOU for reinforcing these values at home. This helps us to have a positive school climate that is safe, fun to be in and FULL of engaged learners! We will continue to have special monthly PBIS celebrations (Panther Parties) for students earning 50 Dojo points for the month with ZERO office/bus referrals. October's celebration, held on November 1<sup>st</sup>, was a "Monster Mash" and had students showing off their best dance moves. We have also hosted several school-wide assemblies. During the month of October, students attended two engaging assemblies which focused on bullying prevention and helped students understand what it means to be a champion. Our goals for these events include building community, celebrating our students, and having fun. We appreciate your support!



## Media Corner

### Thank you so much for supporting the Book Fair!

It was a great success. The Boards and Books night had a wonderful turnout and fun was had by all who attended! The students walked away with so many great books!

Our next Book Fair will be in the Spring!

**Grades 3-5** will start working on research projects to support the work they are doing in their ELA classes. Students will be learning how to utilize databases, find information and cite their sources.

**Grades 1-2** are going to be working in non-fiction books to identify text features, find important information and read for meaning.

**Pre- K and Kindergarten** are going to work on learning the parts of a book and the differences between fiction and non-fiction texts.

**Makerspace corner** needs some supplies!

Legos, Games or any other building materials

Cardboard tubes (paper towel/toilet paper)

Magazines (please make sure they are school appropriate)

Ribbon/String/fabric/felt

Any crafting materials are welcome!

If you need me for any reason, please feel free to email me at [kbyrne@wcboe.org](mailto:kbyrne@wcboe.org) or contact me via your student's Class Dojo Account!

~ Miss Byrne

## Music

In music, students are creating their own music using instruments, or their voices. Our room is decorated for fall and they have had some wonderful fall themed musical ideas with pumpkins, apples and scarecrows!

At home, ask your students if they can perform a song from music class for you!

Kindergarten: Pass the Pumpkin

1<sup>st</sup> Grade: Pumpkin Bones

2<sup>nd</sup> Grade: Tommy Ate a Cupcake

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: Weevily Wheat

4<sup>th</sup> Grade: Hey Mister Beat Boy

5<sup>th</sup> Grade: John Kanaka

Join the choir at our first performance, November 15<sup>th</sup>, at 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday in Downtown Salisbury! We will be singing songs to celebrate the season before the tree lighting!

All 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students are learning music for our holiday musical, "The Very Very Gingerbread Man." The performance will be December 11<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm. Students are excited about all of the characters that aren't in the traditional story!

## Title 1 Corner

Our Fall PAC meeting will be held on **Tuesday, November 12<sup>th</sup> from 8:15-9:00am**. Parent Advisory Council, PAC, meetings are held twice a school year. Title 1 families are invited. The following topics are discussed and reviewed at the PAC Meetings: Title 1 Family Engagement Plan, family engagement budget, student data, State Curriculum, State and local assessments, Partners in Learning Compact, and family engagement activities. Families may also provide input on professional development for teachers as it relates to understanding the school community and family engagement. A lite breakfast will be served! We hope you are able to join us for this event!

## Physical Education

Students just finished working on dribbling skills with their feet and now will be going into jumping and landing skills. We have also talked about different facts about our bones. Ask your child how many bones you have when you are fully grown???

5<sup>th</sup> grade Health – We just finished talking about first aid facts and in November we will talk about the Nervous System.

## ST Math at Home

Students are working on ST Math in school to complete games that increase their math skills, but your student also has access to ST Math at home. To start playing, your student can visit [web.stmath.com](http://web.stmath.com) and enter their lunch number as their username and password. If your student is struggling, help them by asking questions about what they see happening on the screen. The hardest part will be to have them struggle, but allow them to problem-solve, without giving the answers. We at Pinehurst appreciate your support in bridging the learning between home and school in math.

## PreK

Prekindergarten has begun a new unit entitled, “Our Environment”. The unit starts with investigations of outdoors and familiar environments. The focus then shifts to the coral reef environment. The students will engage in predicting, observing, and recording data. Children will also be engaged in letters sounds, counting, comparing, rhyming, etc. As the children learn about the coral reef, they will work toward the creation of a class mural/coral reef display.

## Kindergarten

Kindergarten got to enjoy a beautiful day at Wright's Market in October. Moving into November, Kindergarten will continue to focus on the fall season throughout the curriculum. Our young writers have been working diligently to complete their narrative writing pieces in preparation for their celebration. Kindergarten is really focusing on sight word recognition with repeated activities that expose our students to these words. Kindergarten is moving into understanding word problems for addition and subtraction. Kindergarten will celebrate Thanksgiving at the end of the month. Be on the look out for information on how parents can get involved, with this giving time right around the corner.

## 1st Grade

First Grade teachers would like to say thank you for all the support we are receiving from volunteering in the classrooms, snack donations, and keeping touch with us through Dojo messages. Some things that the First Grade teachers would love to have donated are:

Snacks, glue sticks, black flair pens, crayons, pencils, and black dry erase markers.

First grade was wonderfully blessed to receive a Community Foundation grant that will pay for field trips. Some upcoming trips will include, the Planetarium at Parkside, The Nutcracker at Wicomico High School, and Hansel and Gretel at Stephen Decatur High School. Please be looking for those trip forms to be coming home soon.

In math, students are working hard on learning strategies to solve real world word problems, addition and subtraction equations. Students are working on numbers that come before and after numbers, ten more and ten less.

In reading and phonics students are working on decoding skills, fluency, and beginning and ending sounds of words, problem, solution, setting, and who the main characters are in books.

Again, thank you for all your help and support in and outside of the classrooms.



## **2nd Grade**

In second grade, students have completed our first writing unit for writer's workshop. We have begun an exciting narrative writing unit and students are very enthusiastic about telling their stories. Students were visited by the fire department this past month in order to review fire safety tips. We even toured a real firetruck. Students are working towards earning their 50 dojo points in order to attend their Monster Mash Sock Hop at the end of the month. We have several field trips coming up very soon. Please make sure you are checking your child's Tuesday folders every week and emptying them out. Please remind students to be reading 20 minutes each night in order to practice their fluency and fill out their reading logs.

## **3rd Grade**

Students in 3rd grade have been very busy! In reading students are continuing to read independently and practice skills such as Character Development and Illustrator Contribution. In Writing Workshop, students are continuing to work on personal narratives, telling stories bit by bit. Students will begin writing a personal narrative which will become a book of their own. In math, students have been learning to solve multiplication and division number stories by using pictures and diagrams. Students will complete their first math interim assessment on November 7th.

## **4th Grade**

During the month of November, we will be reading stories about friendship, figuring out who you are, empathy, and memoirs. In writing, we will be continuing learning how to write narratives and creating our own. In math, we will be finishing Unit 2 (finding various ways to multiply and divide, how develop formulas to help solve problems, and classify various shapes). Fact fluency can help your child with these skills. It is important to have your child practicing their multiplication and division facts through 12 regularly. We will also begin Unit 3 in November. This unit focuses on fractions and decimals. Please continue to encourage your child to work on ST Math at home. It reviews skills taught in the classroom. Also, the weather is getting colder, please make sure that your child is wearing warm CAP attire clothing.

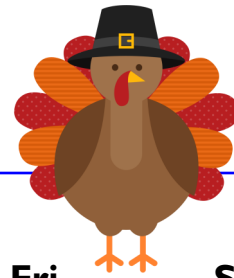
## **5th Grade**

In math, fifth graders are working on Unit 2 skills, including place value, expanded form, exponential notation, and multiplying using the U.S. traditional method. Please remind your students to practice their basic multiplication facts. This will help a great deal as we continue to solve multiplication problems using the algorithm. A great resource to practice multiplication facts is on ST Math. Encourage your child to get on ST Math 15 minutes each night to help reinforce the skills we are working on in class.

In Mrs. Todd's science class, students are learning the properties of physical and chemical changes and how to use triple beam scales and weigh objects to tenths of grams. In Mrs. Fitzgerald's science class, we are finishing up our unit on Earth and Human Activity. We have learned about how to conserve our resources by reducing, reusing, and recycling. We have also learned how to differentiate natural resources as either renewable or nonrenewable.

In Reading, the students have been learning about the text structure of non-fiction stories including the stories genre, authors tone, and message. We have just finished the novel *The Tiger Rising* by Kate DiCamillo. The children enjoyed the story of Rob and Sistine who were determined to set a caged tiger free as well as releasing their own caged feelings on the death of a loved one, divorce, and school bullies. In Writing, the students are in the beginning stages of writing an original narrative story with developed characters, detailed setting, problem, and solution. These writings will include dialogue and the use of descriptive words (adjectives) that will help bring their stories to life.

# November,



**Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat**

					1	2
3	4 Grade 2 Artist in Residency – Max Bent  Grade 2 Junior Achievement Leadership Day  Comptroller of Maryland Visit	5 Grade 2 Artist in Residency – Max Bent  Texas Roadhouse Gift Card Fundraiser Begins	6 Grade 2 Artist in Residency – Max Bent  End of Term 1  Mrs. Sartorio's class to Beyond the Limits	7 Grade 2 Artist in Residency – Max Bent  Grade 1-5 Math Interim  2:15 p.m. Grade 2 Artist in Residency Culminating Activity — Parents Invited	8 Professional Day - Schools Closed for all Students	9
10	11	12 Report Cards Distributed	13	14	15 Pinehurst Choir to perform at Salisbury Tree Lighting 5:30 p.m.	16
17	18 Buffalo Wild Wings Fundraiser — Benefit Arts Integration	19 Grade 2 Junior Achievement Leadership Day  PreK Family Night 6:00 p.m. Large Gym	20 Fall Picture Make-Up Day	21	22 Bookmobile Day  PTA Movie Night; Large Gym 6:00 p.m.	23
24	25	26	27 Schools Closed - Thanksgiving Holiday	28 Schools Closed - Thanksgiving Holiday	29 Schools Closed - Thanksgiving Holiday	30



**Telephone: 410/677-5810**  
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**School Hotline:**  
**410/677-5100**  
*For inclement weather, delays, and other related information.*  
  
*Kevin R. Smith, Principal*  
*Alexan Dargan, Assistant Principal*  
*Matthew W. Curtis, Dean of Students*