



POQUOSON CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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PCPS Families and Staff,

We are VERY EXCITED to share some updates and good news with you as we know everyone has been anxiously anticipating the completion of the Middle School Renovation Project! The completion is ahead of schedule and it looks as though we may likely be able to move into the building very near the start of the school year or not long thereafter! This transition and move back into the building is not going to be without challenges, so we have been engaged in contingency planning along the way. As a result, there are a few things we feel would be helpful for you to be aware.

1.) The entire PCPS team has done a tremendous amount of planning in an effort to anticipate the various components that go into reopening a school. This includes obtaining a Certificate of Occupancy, construction cleanup, furniture set up, technology installation, and the ability to transport all instructional supplies from various locations in the division to one central location.

2.) As we are sure you are aware, all construction projects will have bumps in the road! While we are making plans according to timelines provided to us, there are always going to be situations that may result in delays. In the event a delay occurs, we ask for your patience and understanding. Rest assured, we will adjust and accommodate as best we can.

3.) Previously, the middle school was housed in multiple locations: the elementary school, the outdoor learning cottages adjacent to PES, and the high school. In planning for the move back into the middle school, the district restored these spaces to their previously identified purposes so as to return to a normal operating status and balance student populations. By staff and students moving back into the middle school as soon as possible, the high school and elementary school will be able to resume normal operations in their buildings and we also avoid the need to adjust/change the middle school schedule after the start of school.

4.) The timespan between which we anticipate receiving a Certificate of Occupancy and the start of school is very narrow and literally down to a few days before school is scheduled to start. Simply put, our building may not be completely ready for student occupancy on September 6th. Therefore, the first four days of school will be virtual half-days for Poquoson Middle School students in order for the final finishes to be completed and for the school to be fully operational for our students. Rest assured that during these initial few virtual days, students will participate in engaging activities to get to know their teacher and peers, receive introductions to the curriculum, and will begin activities for each class. To this end, we will have a Chromebook distribution for PMS students the week before school begins. More details of that will be forthcoming. **All other students attending PPS, PES, and PHS will begin school in-person as scheduled, on September 6th**

5.) During this transition time, the PMS Main Office will remain open and fully operational and will continue to be housed at the outdoor learning cottages located in front of PES.

6.) Lastly, to facilitate students becoming acclimated to the new middle school, PMS will hold their Open House on September 9th. More details about the PMS Open House will be forthcoming. There will also be a community Open House at a later date. The tentative plan is for the building to be open for in-person instruction no later than September 12th.

We have much left to do in a very short period of time, but we are excited by the prospects of occupying the new building as soon as possible. We will be strategic throughout this process and will do all we can to make this transition as smooth as possible. We are grateful for the support of the community, the guidance of our School Board, as well as the continued support from City Council and the City Manager's office, without whom this entire project would not have been possible.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arty Tillett". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Arty" and last name "Tillett" clearly distinguishable.

Arty Tillett
Superintendent of Poquoson City Public Schools
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