



SCHOOLS TO WATCH – VIRGINIA

PRINCESS ANNE MIDDLE SCHOOL – VISITOR'S GUIDE



Princess Anne Middle School



Designated in 2011

Princess Anne Middle School • Virginia Beach School District • Virginia Beach, VA • Dr. D. Alex Bergren, Principal • 2323 Holland Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23453
• Tel (757) 648-4950 • Fax (757) 430-0972
www.princessannems.vbschools.com

2015-2016 School Statistics

(Sources: Student enrollment as of March 21, 2016 compiled from Synergy. School data compiled from Synergy and the current VDOE school report card.)

Community: Urban coastal community located within the Hampton Roads region of Southeastern Virginia
Enrollment: 1490
Grade Levels: 6-8
School Schedule: Alternating Block

Student Demographics

- 80% White
- 7% Hispanic
- 5% African American
- 4% Asian
- 6% Multi-Racial
- 10% Economically Disadvantaged
- 16% Gifted Education
- 10% Special Education
- .4% English Language Learners

Fully Accredited by VDOE: 2013, 2014, 2015
Federal Accountability Status: 2013, 2014, 2015
Met all Annual Measurable Objectives

School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

Academic Excellence

- Effective instruction of students is the focal point around which all aspects of the school revolve.
- The PAMS strategic plan focuses on improving the performance of subgroups of students as well as the performance of the entire student body.
- An extended selection of advanced and high school credit classes are offered: Algebra, Geometry, Earth Science, French I & II, German I & II, Latin I & II, Spanish I & II & Keyboarding.
- We provide a variety of academic programs to meet the needs of our diverse student population, including gifted education, special education and English as a Second Language (ESL).
- Our curriculum design model emphasizes a deep understanding of important concepts; a thorough development of essential skills; and a consistent application to real-world situations.
- Curriculum and instruction are aligned with high standards and a balanced assessment system that accurately reflect student achievement.
- A PAMS time period facilitates opportunities for remediation and enrichment.
- Daily tutoring programs are offered before and after to provide instructional support.
- Teachers routinely analyze data to differentiate the content, process, product and learning environment of lessons according to students' readiness levels, interests and learning styles.
- Daily learning plans engage students in meaningful, authentic work through tiered assignments, curriculum compacting, community service projects, and problem-based learning.
- PAMS English department developed a paragraph model, the Panther POWER Paragraph, which is effectively utilized in all content areas.
- A mastery-based grading system is used to monitor and to evaluate student progress.
- PAMS joined forces with a private company to launch an interdisciplinary middle school program, EDGE, which assimilates technology competencies, and a carefully constructed STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, mathematics) curriculum with the Virginia Standards of Learning.

Developmental Responsiveness

- Teachers and staff create a personalized environment that supports each student's intellectual, ethical, social and physical development.
- School sponsored clubs, sports, and intramural activities develop social skills and strengthen peer interactions.
- The inclusion of special needs students into regular education classes benefits all students.
- Student Response Teams (SRT) generate instructional and behavior modification strategies to ensure student success.
- Various contests, incentives, and recognition programs are coordinated by the Parent Teacher Association (PTA).
- Team teachers meet and collaborate daily to discuss student needs, to communicate with parents, and to plan interdisciplinary lessons.
- Support classes, such as Academic Support and Independent Reading, are available to students who are performing below grade level.
- PAMS has a strong school culture which emphasizes kindness: Kindness Street, "Caught Being Kind," and #PantherKind.
- Various contests, incentive and recognition programs are coordinated by our Parent Teacher Association.
- PAMS boasts one of the most superior music programs in the city with students participating in marching band, orchestra, or chorus.
- Co-curricular activities such as Art Club, Diversity Club, Fitness Club, Garden Club, Panther Partners, Panther Paws for a Cause, Rachel's Challenge, and Lend-a-Hand Day support students as they strive to reach rigorous academic standards.
- We have active chapters of the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) and the Student Cooperative Association (SCA).

Social Equity

- PAMS is a welcoming and inviting learning community that cultivates relationships of mutual respect.
- As a school community, PAMS continually adapts instruction, assessment and scheduling to meet students' changing needs.
- A *Principles of American Citizenship* program exemplifies concepts such as fairness, respect and hard dedication.
- The Honor Roll and Principal's List recognize students' academic achievement.
- The Student Cooperative Association (SCA) establishes positive relationships within the school.
- PAMS TV Network, student produced and filmed morning announcements, enhance public speaking skills and media communications and relations.
- The PTA newsletter provides links to family support services and community resources.
- Activity buses are provided to help ensure all students who want to participate in after-school activities have access to our programs.
- Technology is available for all students and a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) system allows students to utilize technology within the classroom.
- Using VBCPS' Plan-Respond-Teach-Respond-Assess-Respond framework, teachers design clear, standards-based learning targets incorporating technology to foster engagement, critical thinking, communication, creativity, and globally competitive skills.
- Foreign language classes take part in in-depth studies that help develop knowledge and appreciation of other cultures and traditions.

Organizational Support

- The administration, faculty, and staff share a common goal: "student success."
- The administrative team establishes a common vision and promotes leadership within the school.
- Administrators provide support, resources and professional development to help teachers identify and achieve goals.
- PAMS nurtures a learning environment of collaboration and cooperation.
- The PTA provides a medium of communication and cooperation between the staff and the community.
- Parents and the community are an integral part of school planning and goal setting.
- Professional Learning Communities (PLC) within the school review content area goals and make adjustments based on available data.
- Content-rich professional development and provides teachers with high-quality learning experiences in which to participate.
- A common learning plan format provides a consistent approach to school wide planning with a focus on standards and 21st century learning skills.
- Leadership is encouraged within the school to assist student achievement.