

Baden Bobcats Newsletter

May/June 2023 Paw Print Edition



BADEN ELEMENTARY

HOME OF THE BOBCATS

Ms. Antron Huff, Principal

OUR VISION

Baden embraces all students recognizing that each child brings with him/her unique talents, strengths, challenges, and needs. Teachers at Baden are highly qualified and motivated to teach free-thinkers to be life-long learners. Baden expects that each child will succeed at rigorous levels, be prepared and accepted to college, and become positive role models in the community.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is that all students are fully prepared for higher education and the opportunity to embark on college. No exceptions! No excuses! Just results! Baden seeks to provide its students with a rigorous, well-rounded fine arts education coupled with positive development, a solid foundation in character education and advanced technological skills for innovation in today's world. We strive for excellence through data-driven instruction and proven research-based best classroom practices. At Baden, we are a community of accountable stakeholders, learning together.

FROM THE DESK OF PRINCIPAL HUFF

As we come to the end of another school year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and partnership throughout the year. Your involvement in your child's education is invaluable and greatly appreciated. I would also like to express my appreciation to our dedicated and hardworking teachers and staff. Their commitment to our students' success is the best, and I am proud to work alongside them.

As we prepare for SY24, we are in need of parent volunteers to serve on Baden's PTA. The roles that need to be filled and their descriptions are outlined in the Google Form below. If you are interested, please complete and submit the form by May 19th, 2023. <https://forms.gle/JeRNvS65X6yrtTGV8>

Spring picture day is scheduled for Thursday, May 18th, 2023. To ensure that your child's individual picture is taken, parents or guardians must either order pictures in advance at mylifetouch.com using the picture ID code EVT6KC3WS or pay on the day of the event.

Please be advised that students will only have their individual pictures taken if payment has been made either online in advance or on the day of the event. Students will be permitted to be out of uniform on this day.

If you haven't already done so, join our classroom community on ClassDojo to connect with families, share classroom moments, and much more. [Join Class Dojo Link](#)

IMPORTANT dates to remember

Spring Picture Day: May 18th, 2023

3rd QTR Awards Ceremony: May 19th, 2023

Career Day: May 22nd, 2023

Career Spirit Week: May 22nd - May 26th, 2023

Memorial Day – Schools and Offices Closed: May 29th, 2023

Prekindergarten Moving Up Ceremony: June 2nd, 2023

Kindergarten Moving Up Ceremony: June 5th, 2023

Field Day: June 7th, 2023

5th Grade Moving Up Ceremony: June 8th, 2023

Sixth Grade Moving Up Ceremony: June 9th, 2023
2-Hr. Early Dismissal for Students: June 12th, 2023
Last Day for Students - 2-Hr. Early Dismissal for Students: June 13th, 2023



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CAREER WEEK

2023

MAY 22-26, 2023

Monday: College Rep Day! Wear college shirts, hats, lanyards, etc. (**Uniform bottoms required**)

Tuesday: Your Future is Looking Bright! Wear sunglasses and neon (**Uniform bottoms required**)

Wednesday: Hero Day! Dress as one of your heroes, real or fictional.

Thursday: It all starts here! Wear Baden or Gwynn Park Middle colors. (**Uniform bottoms required**)

Friday: Career Day! Dress up for your future career.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

As we transition into the end of another school year, I want to wish all Baden families a safe and fun-filled Summer! It has been an absolute pleasure getting to know our scholars and watching them grow throughout this year. Our focus this month has centered around mental health awareness and emotional regulation. Guidance lessons have assisted in providing students with healthy coping strategies and initiating safe conversations about the importance of mental health and finding long term support networks. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the percentage of youth seeking screenings for anxiety and depression has significantly increased (Website: [Mental Health America](#)). Students and families continue to face additional stressors with school work, relationships, and navigating major life changes. In order to ensure that children are receiving the proper support and resources during particularly stressful and challenging times, it is vital that parents and families: monitor any changes in their child's behavior, provide support/initiate safe conversations at home, and seek out professional assistance when needed. Additionally, it is equally important for parents to monitor their own mental health and find resources when necessary. For more information on this topic, you can visit the following resource: [Mental Health Guide for Families](#). If you have concerns related to your child's mental health, please reach out to the professional school counselor at margaret.horstkamp@pgcps.org for more resources.

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NURSE CARTER'S CORNER

It's that time again! May is National Allergy and Asthma Awareness month. Allergies are among the most common medical conditions affecting children in the United States. According to the American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology.

- 8.4 % of U.S. children under age 18 have allergic rhinitis (hay fever);
- 10% have respiratory allergies;
- 5.4 % have food allergies; and
- 11.6 % have skin allergies (hives or eczema)

With so many children living with one or more allergies, it's important for families to learn how allergies are managed in the school setting.

Schools are prepared to manage food allergies, environmental allergies and latex allergy. It's important to let the school nurse know (in writing – email works best) if your child has allergies. If their allergy is severe, and requires an Epi-pen, please make sure they have one in the nurse's office along with the signed Physician's Medical Order form (PMOF). Epi-pens save lives!!! Never leave home without one if one has been ordered for your child (or yourself).

If your child has asthma, please make sure they have a PMOF on file, along with an inhaler to be kept in the nurse's office. Almost all insurance companies will authorize 2 inhalers. One for home and one for school. Children in elementary school are not usually authorized to carry their inhaler on them. In order for an exception to be made this must be ordered by their physician and signed off by the school nurse-after consulting with the physician. Please do not send your child to school with an inhaler in their backpack or lunch box, this is in direct violation of PGCPs policy, and endangers the health of other students.

At the end of the school Year

- Plan to pick up any unused medication on the last day of school.
- Ask for any forms or health care plans that need to be completed for the next school year.
- If your child is transitioning to middle school, or will be attending a new school, plan to meet with the new school nurse in the first week of school. Use this opportunity to discuss your child's condition and provide the signed PMOF and any medication needed for the school year.
- If you're providing an epi-pen for the next school year – make sure the medication will not expire before the end of the school year.

Although allergies and asthma can certainly make a child feel tired and/or unwell, it is not practical or in their best interest to keep children home from school during allergy season. Encourage your child to fully participate in school programming.

Together, (along with your child's physician) we can determine a plan of care that will assist your child in managing their symptoms in school.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to Nurse Carter, the school nurse.

Main -301-888-1188

Direct - 240-681-2349

Fax 301-888-2205

email: pamela.galloway@pgcps.org

Attendance

Baden ES 2022-2023 Absence Reason Notification

In an effort to provide a standardized Absence Reason Notification for all PGCPS schools, and to make submission and collection of documentation for student absences easier, a template has been created for all schools to use. This template will serve as the official means of parent/guardian notifications for student absences.

Important Handbooks

This year's Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook and Code of Conduct for Parents is linked below.

[Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook](#)

[Parent Code of Conduct](#)

SchoolMax

Please be sure that you have access to the Family Portal via SchoolMax. If you do not have a login and password, please contact Mrs. Huff or Ms. Woodridge. Use of this portal will keep you up-to-date on your child's attendance and grades.

If you have not logged into the parent portal for more than 6 months, your account will become disabled. The only thing we can do at the school level is to reset your password to get back in, or if your email address has changed, we can put in your new email address.

lisa.huff@pgcps.org

toshingw@pgcps.org

Student Emergency/Contact Form

Please complete all Google Forms that will be sent home on the first day of school, especially the **[Student Information/Emergency Card](#)**. You will find the Student Information/Emergency Contact Form **[here](#)**. It is extremely important that we have accurate emergency information on file for every child. We are also asking for email addresses as a form of communication with our families. Sending newsletters and other mass correspondence in this manner will save us time and ensure communication more efficiently.

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Birthday Treats/Celebrations

Parties, lunch celebrations, and treats/goody bags are prohibited this school year.

School Meals Application


The federal waiver that provided free lunch and breakfast for all students during the pandemic has expired. During the 2022-2023 school year, families who do not qualify for free or reduced lunch will pay for meals at school.

SY23 Elementary Meal Prices

 Breakfast: \$1.60/day

 Lunch: \$2.75/day

We encourage all families to consider applying for free and reduced price meals! Visit <https://www.myschoolapps.com/Home/PickDistrict> to apply online today!

 How to pay for lunch: MySchoolBucks is an online payment service through which parents can securely pay for meals and monitor student cafeteria purchases. Meal payments can be made online or through the mobile app. <https://www.myschoolbucks.com/ver2/getmain>.

We have a principal lunch account. If your child borrows the funds from the principal account. You must pay the account back as soon as possible. If you completed a free and reduced lunch application, Food and Nutrition Services will respond to you in reference to your application. Baden Elementary School does not have any information about your application.

Morning Routine/Drop-offs

If you are dropping off at the main entrance door, **please do not park in or block our bus loop between 8:45am-9:30am.** We need to ensure that our buses can arrive safely and on time each day. ***This means, you must park in the Baden Community Center parking lot for student drop-offs.*** Students will walk down the sidewalk from the parking lot and enter through the main entrance of the school building. **The morning drop-off area will be monitored by staff until 9:30 a.m. Students who are car riders, and arrive after 9:30 a.m. must be escorted into the building and signed-in by a parent or guardian.** Your cooperation is appreciated!

School Dismissal Routine

In order to ensure the safety of our students, children who are being picked up for early dismissal must be signed out each day. We check I.D. and match students according to those individuals listed on the emergency card or through

a written note only. [Students will not be permitted to be signed out for early dismissal after 2:45pm.](#)

Communicating Changes for How Your Child Goes Home

We will not be able to accept verbal permission or changes in your child's dismissal arrangements over the phone for safety reasons. **You must communicate this in writing via email before 1:30pm to your child's teacher and to the Main Office staff.**

lisa.huff@pgcps.org

toshingw@pgcps.org

School Visits

If you are interested in volunteering or observing your child during the school day, this must be set up in advance. Please note, classroom visits/observation appointments are not scheduled through the classroom teacher. All volunteers must first complete fingerprinting and background screening through the PGCPS Fingerprinting Office. Please visit the visitor screening page on the PGCPS website, to begin your visitor approval process. Once the above fingerprinting and background screening is complete and we have this information on file at the school, please click the link below to make an appointment.

Please visit the [VISITOR SCREENING PAGE](#) on the PGCPS website, to begin your visitor approval process.

You can also find information pertaining to our school at:

School Website: <https://schools.pgcps.org/baden/>

Office Hours:

Baden's office hours are from 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. daily.

Address: 13601 Baden Westwood Rd, Brandywine, MD 20613

Office Number: (301) 888-1188

Registrar/Secretary I: Lisa Huff lisa.huff@pgcps.org

Secretary II: Tishana Woodridge toshingw@pgcps.org

Administration: Principal Huff antron.huff@pgcps.org

School Nurse: Pamela Carter pamela.galloway@pgcps.org

Guidance Counselor: Margaret Horstkamp margaret.horstkamp@pgcps.org