



SCHOOLS TO WATCH

EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS TO ACHIEVE EXCELLENCE

MODEL SCHOOL—VISITOR’S GUIDE



Philip M. Pennington Traditional School Prince William County



Designated in 2011

Philip Michael Pennington Traditional School

Principal: Joyce Stockton

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<http://www.pennington.schoolfusion.us/>

2010-2011 School Statistics

(Information from w ww.doe.virginia.gov/reportcard)

Community: Suburb of Washington D.C.

Enrollment: 628

Grade Levels: 1-8

School Schedule: Block Schedule

Student Demographics

- 7.7% Hispanic
- 57.1% White
- 13.7% African American
- 15.6% Asian
- 5.9% Other
- 9.3% Free/Reduced Lunch
- 7.1% English Learners

2008-2009 AYP: Met All Criteria

2009-2010 AYP: Met All Criteria

2010-2011 AYP: Met All Criteria

School of Excellence

School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

Academic Excellence

- Designated Prince William County School of Excellence and Virginia Index of Performance Award
- Rigorous class offerings to include Algebra, foreign languages for all middle school students, extended Language Arts/ Mathematics, site based gifted program, research skills, and information technology
- Consistently use data from common formative and summative assessments to increase the accountability of teaching and students’ learning
- Individual plans for all students are designed to identify each student’s strengths and areas of growth
- Teachers and students use multiple tools such as: portfolios, interactive notebooks, Thinking Maps, technology, and Socratic seminars
- Administration conducts data talk sessions and develops a plan of action for students who are not meeting grade-level standards
- Emphasize the “Pennington Way” through character education with the use of daily creed and monthly character traits, quotes, fables, poetry, fact drills, word of the day, and classic literature

Developmental Responsiveness

- First Traditional School of choice includes performance expectations, high behavioral standards, uniform expectations, student participation in community service program and parent volunteer hours
- Six through eighth grade transition activities help students acclimate themselves to their grade level expectations and new school environment such as: 6th Grade Orientation and 8th Grade Student Forum
- All students are required to complete community service hours to support their community's needs
- Students are recognized for numerous accomplishments: community service, most improved, extraordinary effort, citizenship, and "Caught with Character" (daily recognition of acts of kindness)
- Physical education fitness and wellness curriculum and school-wide activities help promote good choices for a healthy lifestyle
- Students are allowed to show case their talents and expand their interests through numerous clubs: Battle of the Books, Math Counts, Spelling Bee, National History Day, Robotics, Chess, Foreign Language, Student Council Association (SCA), Dance Team, Creative Writing, Band, Chorus, and Orchestra which extends the core curriculum

Social Equity

- Olweus Bullying Prevention Program provides weekly class meetings for student dialogue and promotes respect for diversity
- Family-friendly school activities that relate to different cultures and diversity as reflected in our student population
- English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Department offers programs and resources such as Parents as Educational Partners (PEP) to provide academic support
- Special Education Program provides a wide variety of services to students with a strong philosophy of inclusive practices that support the four core subjects
- Site-based gifted program provides enrichment and accelerated opportunities for advanced learners
- School-based counselor, itinerant psychologist and social worker assist parents with student developmental needs through a variety of initiatives such as: Social Skills, Lunch Bunch, Peer Mediation, Homework/Study skills, Organizational/Test-taking Skills, and Olweus Bullying Program

Organizational Support

- Administration provides strong shared leadership with a focused vision and mission driven by clear communication, professional development, modeling, and a professional learning environment for academic excellence
- Professional Learning Communities composed of collaborative teams work interdependently to achieve academic excellence
- Baldrige Quality Process is used to formulate our School Improvement Plan to develop strategies to achieve academic success
- Pennington Principles outline the school expectations and consequences for all stakeholders
- Strong ties to our community through our business partnerships with Lockheed Martin and TD Bank
- Parent Advisory Council (PAC), Parent Teacher Organization (PTO), and Parent Round Table sessions meet to address school needs
- Master schedules and common planning times are compiled collaboratively to provide adequate time for instruction in all core subjects, foreign languages, research skills, technology, art, band, orchestra, chorus, and physical education