



Tom Smith
Principal

VANSVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HOME OF THE WILDCATS

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301-931-2830 Phone 301-931-2840 Fax
<http://www.pgcps.org/vansville>



Shawna Holden
Assistant Principal

August 6, 2011

**PLEASE BE AN ACTIVE MEMBER
OF PTA THIS YEAR!!!**

Dear Students, Parents and Guardians,

It is hard to believe that the summer break is coming to an end. We have been preparing to welcome over 800 students back to another year full of academic achievement. ONCE AGAIN...our students in grades three thru five hit a homerun on the Maryland State Assessments (MSA). Overall, 91.9% of them scored advanced or proficient exceeding the state standards by six percentage points. In Math, the percent was 87.8% which exceeded the state mandate by three percentage points. We are very proud of their hard work and all the stakeholders. The school is also measured by attendance rates for all grades. Once again, Vansville exceeded the state mandate with an average daily attendance rate of 97.1%. We thank you all! This will be our third year in a row to exceed the state mandates in reading, math and attendance. For 2012, the mandates will increase. Will we be successful again? Oh Yea!!! How can we do that? We ask that every child and home be totally committed by doing all work, attending school regularly and displaying appropriate behavior as not to interfere with the learning of others. We also ask that ALL parents be proactive by staying in constant communication with their child's teachers, monitoring their student's work and supporting school functions. We must have the mindset that our children will be a product of our high expectations. The *Vansville Family Handbook* is an essential reference tool for your use. This handbook will provide you with information that is specific to Vansville Elementary, including discipline, cafeteria procedures, dress code and other policies. In an effort to support the saving of our environment, we will be placing this document on the school's website <http://www1.pgcps.org/vansville>. Please take the time to review this document with your child so they are well aware of the expectations we have here at Vansville. In addition to this environmental awareness endeavor, our monthly newsletters will no longer be reproduced but will be posted on the school's website.

Within the next few days, you should receive transportation information from the system's transportation office. This information will also be posted on the school system's web page (www.pgcps.org). We ask that you review proper etiquette when riding a bus along with showing your child their morning and afternoon bus stops. Riding a bus is a privilege and not a right. We strongly encourage you to allow your child to ride the bus the first day of school in order to establish a safe routine. Parking will be limited.

School hours are 7:45 a.m. until 1:55 p.m. Parents may begin dropping their children at 7:25 a.m. Prior to that time, there is no adult supervision except for those students that have been approved for the Before and After Care Program. Please make sure you notify the school prior to 10:00 a.m., August 22, if your child will be picked up by an after care provider. We also ask that you send a note the first day to identify how your child will get home at dismissal. If a note is not received, the assumption will be the child is to ride the assigned bus (based on your home address) home.

Class lists will be posted the evening of Friday, August 19 for those wishing to see who your child's teacher will be for the 2011-2012 school year. On Monday, August 22, students in grades 1-2 will meet their teachers in the cafeteria. Students in grades 3-5 will meet their teachers in the gym. Students are to look at the lists posted in these locations to identify their teacher. Pre-K and kindergarten students will go directly to Wing B, 1st floor, where staff will assist them with finding their classes.

We ask that you add the following dates to your calendar:

August 18	Pre-K and Kindergarten Orientation 2:00 pm
August 19	Grades 1-5 New Student (those never been to Vansville) Orientation 10:00 am
August 22	First day of school for students. <u>School hours are 7:45-1:55. Students are considered tardy after 7:45. PUNCTUALITY IS EXPECTED AND MONITORED!</u> Breakfast treats will be provided for those children wanting breakfast.
August 23	First day that complete breakfast service will be available in the cafeteria.
September 5	Labor Day Holiday-Schools and Offices Closed
September 12	Back-to-School Night Grades Head Start to 2 nd , 6:00-7:00 PM
September 14	Back-to-School Night 3 rd - 5 th Grades, 6:00-7:00 PM

We are excited about the opportunity to work with you and your child. We value the partnership that will develop.

Tom Smith,
Principal

Imagine, Believe, Achieve