

ARUNDEL MIDDLE SCHOOL

1179 Hammond Lane Odenton, MD 21113 410.674.6900 (f) 410.674.6593



Wildcats

SEPTEMBER 2019

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome, and welcome back! I am thrilled to begin my 5th year serving the families of the Arundel feeder community. During this time, we have experienced a lot of growth, both academically and in numbers. When I first arrived at Arundel Middle, there were 980 students walking our halls. This year we begin the year with nearly 1,100! Before I say more about our growth, I want to share my sincere excitement for another new year. My faculty, staff and I are very happy and excited to welcome your children back to school.

Arundel Middle continues to receive accolades and recognitions for the accomplishment of our children. Our Orchestra and Band each achieved the highest ratings possible during the state music competitions last year. As a result, our Honors Orchestra has been invited to perform at the *Maryland Music Educators Association Conference* this October. Last year, Arundel Middle packed the high school auditorium for three consecutive nights as our students demonstrated their talent on stage for our Dance recitals. Arundel Middle will be the first middle school in the county to have 3 dance studios this year. I am very happy to announce the return of the Arundel Middle School Theater program. Our teacher/sponsors are feverishly planning a spring production as I write this article.

Academically, Arundel Middle Students posted the 2nd highest growth in the county for this year's English/Language Arts PARCC assessment results. While our overall math performance was stable last year, we continue to narrow the performance gaps among all our student groups. We are dedicated to achieving the AACPS motto of ***Elevating all students and eliminating all gaps.*** And at Arundel Middle: ***All means all.***

In addition to academics and the performing arts, our staff is diligently working to build a sense of community among our students and staff. Discipline rates did not rise last year, even though we experienced the largest increase in enrollment in many years. We continue to grow community building programs such as PBIS, Advisory, AVID, Restorative Practices and more! Arundel Middle is leading the way to create a warm, welcoming, safe and nurturing environment in which our children and adults can thrive and grow.

As mentioned above, another area of growth is our enrollment. As new neighborhoods spring up and older ones grow, Arundel Middle School is projected to enroll 100 additional students each year over the next 2 to 3 years. If you have driven past our facility, you have seen a flurry of activity including road construction and roof repair. Our enrollment cur-

UPCOMING DATES

SEPTEMBER

- 9 AMS PTA Meeting/6:30pm/
Media Center

- 18 **6th Grade Back to School
Night/6pm/Gym**

- 19 **7th & 8th Grade Back to
School Night/6pm/Gym**

- 19 PBIS Spirit Day/Arun. Middle
Pride/Wear Green and White

- 24 Activity Buses begin running
on Tuesday & Thursday

- 26 PBIS Spirit Day/Wacky Tacky
Dress Day!

- 30 **School Closed-Rosh
Hashanah**

OCTOBER

- 7 Interims go home

- 8 **2 Hr Early Dismissal/No
Activity Buses**

- 9 **School Closed-Yom Kippur**

- 15-16 **School Closed for Stu-
dents/Parent Teacher Con-
ferences**

- 30 Spooky Strings Concert/
Gym/7pm

- 30-31 School Picture Days/8-7-6
Nov 1

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL (CONT'D)

rently exceeds state-rated capacity. As such, the Board of Education recently approved a plan for a 10-classroom addition, including an expanded cafeteria, to our building. The process is in the beginning stages with construction anticipated to begin next summer. In the meantime, we are very full!

To maintain safety and uniformity, to facilitate smooth transitions from one class to another, and to feed everyone in three 25-minute lunch periods, **we have explicit structures to which all children and adults** are held. Please review the information contained in this newsletter that discusses some of these expectations. Thank you for your understanding and support in complying with our rules and routines.

Please take time to discuss your expectations with your child for this year. Set goals and establish a daily/weekly schedule devoted for homework, reviewing graded papers, and previewing upcoming assignments. Thank you in advance for your cooperation to ensure all children are safe, accounted for, and focused on learning at Arundel Middle.

Middle school is a time when your children will want to close you out and keep secrets. It is also the most critical time for your deep involvement in their lives. Make it your business to **always** know what your child is doing and who they are with. The consequences of a poor

decision made on the part of a preteen, may be too heavy to bear if not caught in time. Our School's mission is to *provide a rigorous learning environment that challenges students to meet the demands of post-secondary education while actively participating in a global society*. Your involvement is required.

To become involved, please consider joining the PTA. As such, you will become an active participant in the decision-making processes of our school. Our PTA will be present during *Back to School Nights*. This year, we will host two *Back to School Nights* the first of which will be for 6th graders and their parents on Wednesday, September 18th. On Thursday, September 19th, we invite 7th and 8th graders to join us for our 2nd *Back to School Night*. **Both events will begin at 6:00 pm in the gymnasium.** This will be an opportunity for you to meet and greet your child's teachers and experience a day in the life of a middle school student.

Information on bus transportation, school supplies, important dates, and much more can be found in this edition of our newsletter. On behalf of the entire Arundel Middle School faculty and staff, I welcome you and your children back to school.

George Lindley
Principal

SCHOOL AND OFFICE HOURS

School begins at 8:15AM. Doors open for students at 8:05. All students are to be in their classrooms by 8:15am.

School ends at 2:55PM. Bus riders will be dismissed at 2:55pm with walkers and car riders dismissed 5-10 minutes later.

The Main Office and switchboard hours are: Monday through Thursday 7:45AM to 4:15PM
Friday 7:45AM to 3:45PM

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SAFETY REMINDERS!

Each student must have a completed Emergency Card on file in the office. Parents must take the responsibility to update any telephone number changes, addresses, etc. immediately.

- **You must show a government issued ID to sign a student out of the school. PLEASE bring your ID with you every time you come to the school.**
- **The ID will be scanned into our Raptor system** and the following information will be collected: your photo, your name, and your date of birth. This information will be utilized to check you in, create an ID badge, and compare your information against sexual offender databases throughout the country.
- Only persons on the emergency card may sign a student out of the building.
- All visitors to the building must sign in and out and wear a visitor's badge.
- Parents and students should review the procedure for going home in case there is an unscheduled emergency.

We thank you for your help as we try to keep your children safe!

OUTSIDE FOOD, DRINK, AND WATER BOTTLES

For safety and hygiene purposes, all food and drinks are to be consumed in the cafeteria exclusively, unless explicit permission is granted by an adult (for example, lunch bunch). If a student is not purchasing breakfast in the cafeteria or gym foyer, he/she must eat breakfast at home. **No outside breakfast food/drink may be brought into the building to eat upon arrival** (for example, Dunkin' Donuts breakfast sandwiches or a Starbucks coffee). All outside food must be consumed or thrown away before entering the building. Students may bring a packed lunch to store in their locker to take to the cafeteria to eat during lunch.

Parents may bring an outside lunch (Chik-Fil-A, Subway, McDonald's, etc.) for their student to pick up in the main office. Parents may join their student for lunch in the cafeteria after checking in at the Main Office and receiving a Visitor's badge. Please be sure you have proper identification.

Arundel Middle School is equipped with water fountains in the hallways, including a refrigerated water fountain located in the cafeteria. Our water fountains were tested for lead last spring and found to be lead free. There are **no traces** of lead in any of Arundel Middle's water fountains.

Plastic disposable refrigerated bottles of water are sold in our cafeteria during lunches. Open container rules have not been enforced in past years. As such, water bottles are discouraged, but will be permitted under the following criteria: the container must be crystal clear, plastic, resealable (preferably with a screw top), either disposable or reusable, and a maximum capacity of 20 ounces or less. No liquid other than water is permitted outside of the cafeteria. Soda, milk, and other flavored drinks must be consumed in the cafeteria.

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CELLPHONES

Anne Arundel County Public School system allows students to bring cell phones to school, but the phones are to be turned off and out of sight at all times. Cell phones may be used for instructional purposes at the sole discretion of the teacher. **Social media, photography and videography are not allowed in any circumstances.** To make a call, students must ask permission of their teachers or other staff members to use their phone.

When entering the building, all cell phones and ear buds must be turned off and put away. Students violating this and any other directions from staff regarding cell phones will be subject to the following consequences:

First Offense: Verbal Warning from any Staff Member.

Second Offense: Teacher/Administrator may take the phone and keep it on his/her person; phone will be returned at the end of the period.

Teacher may take the phone, give it to an Administrator and the Administrator will keep the phone until the end of the day.

Teacher may take the phone, give it to an Administrator and it will be kept in the office until a parent/guardian picks it up.

Subsequent violations may result in a referral and additional disciplinary action.

In the cafeteria, phones must be off and away unless adult permission is granted.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

A Special Thank You to our super student packet stuffers. We couldn't have done it all without you!



Joshua Butler
Ashley Butler
Nathan Simmons
Mason Tyus
Zaiden Lane

Sasha Russey
Sadie Riley
Sadie Quigley
Michael Pozdol
Chase Riley
Isabelle Furmage
Kylah Anderson
Clara Boudreau
Asima Abdul-Mateen
Ellie Carris

Aaron Fox
Andrew Fox
Nathan Montagne

And an extra **Thank You** to Mrs. Butler and Mrs. Montagne for helping to keep us all on track!

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EMERGENCY CARD VERIFICATION REPORT

Parents/Guardians: Your child will bring home an Emergency Card within the first weeks of school. It includes vital contact information regarding your child. With the Emergency form, you will receive the letter as shown below with important details of which to take note. Please look over the form **carefully** and update any information that is incorrect or missing. **Please SIGN, date, and RETURN the form to school.** If you need further assistance, contact the school at 410.674.6900.

IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT YOU RETURN THIS EMERGENCY CARD. In an emergency, we must know how to reach you.



ANNE ARUNDEL
COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2674 Riva Road, Annapolis, MD 21401 | 410.222.5000 • 410.222.5500 (TDD) | www.aacps.org

Please return to school by Thursday, Sept 13.

September 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The *Emergency Card Verification Report*, attached to this letter, displays the current information on file for your child. Please provide any updated information in the areas indicated in red, and identify a preferred communication method for announced calls and/or text messages. This report can also be used to add a new contact or remove an existing number.

AACPS has upgraded the student information system. Moving forward, only household and emergency contacts will be stored electronically. Please feel free to list additional contacts on the emergency form as they will be retained in the main office as your child's school.

The reverse side of this letter has descriptions and definitions of permissions regarding publication of photos and other information (including honor rolls) about your child, access to social media for instructional purposes, and the availability of information to military and institutions of higher education.

Please review and update this information as applicable, sign and date the Emergency Card Verification Report, and return it to your child's school by **Friday, September 13, 2019.**

Contact your child's school if you have questions about this information.

Only use the *Update* areas if you are making a change.

Sample
Emergency
Verification
Report

Sample Emergency Card Verification Report for ANDREW SMITH Jr. (Student ID: 204537, Grade: 07). The form includes fields for contact information (Home, Cell, Work, Email), emergency medical information, and a section for permissions regarding social media and data sharing. A 'Would you like your Honor Roll student's name to appear on the publicly published lists?' checkbox is present.

In case of an emergency dismissal, what should your child do?

Is this your current address and where the child resides?

Does this contact have permission to pick up your child from school? — An 'emergency' contact cannot pick up a student from school in a non-emergency situation (such as a regularly scheduled early dismissal) without prior verification from the appropriate staff.

Do you need to delete a contact?

Sample Contact Information for ANNA SMITH. The form shows contact details (Address, Phone, Email) and a 'Permissions' section with checkboxes for 'Contact lives with student', 'Contact is emergency contact', 'Contact can pickup student', 'Emergency Contact', 'Contact is Active Duty Military', and 'Transfer Requested'. A 'Delete Contact' button is also visible.

Which phone number would you like as your preferred number for attendance calls? — Check only one.

Do you need to update your email and/or phone numbers?

ELEVATING ALL STUDENTS ... ELIMINATING ALL GAPS

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ORDER A 2019-20 YEARBOOK

Yearbooks for Arundel Middle School are available and can be ordered at Jostons.com.

If you have questions, please email Ms. Allemand at jallemand@aacps.org.



EARLY DISMISSALS AND LATE ARRIVALS

EARLY DISMISSALS:

Students who are going to leave early should bring a note from the parent to the Main Office in the morning, before class starts, simply stating:

- Student's name
- Grade of student
- Reason for leaving early
- Time to be picked up
- Name of person picking student up, if other than parent/guardian.
- Parent / guardian signature

At the Main Office, the student will be given an Early Dismissal Pass. Student's time of dismissal will be 5 minutes earlier than stated so the student has time to go to the locker, if necessary.

Students are expected to show the teacher the pass in the class that he/she will be leaving and bring the pass with him/her to the office.

If it is a last minute doctor's appointment, please call the office at 410-674-6900 and let us know as soon as possible so that we can arrange for your student to meet you in the office. We try very hard not to call students on the PA system during instructional time. Please explain the procedure to your student.

The Parent/Guardian **MUST COME IN** to the Main Office and sign the student out. **A picture ID must be provided to the secretary.**

If the student is returning to school, they must come to the Main Office to be signed back into school. The parent/guardian does not need to come in with them.

LATE ARRIVALS:

We ask parents to make every effort to ensure that their student arrives at school on time. Repeated lateness will result in a letter home and possible referral to the schools pupil personnel worker.

Students are let into the building at 8:05AM. Those that arrive after 8:13AM are considered late and must come to the Main Office for a late pass. Parents may email Ms. Tammy Wonder at twonder@aacps.org with late student information as shown below.

Students that are late should bring a note stating the reason. Oversleeping and missing the bus are considered unexcused lateness. All students without a note/parent will be coded *unexcused*. Note should include:

- Student's name
- Grade of student
- Reason for being late
- Parent/guardian signature

Students that are late to school will do as follows:

- Enter school through the main entrance as all other doors are locked.
- Get a Late Pass from the Main Office.
- Provide Late Pass to the classroom teacher.

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STUDENT ATTIRE

(From the AACPS Student Handbook)

Students are to dress in clothes that promote a safe and respectful learning environment. Clothes that create a disruptive environment or cause a health or safety hazard or do not align with the rules established by the respective schools are not appropriate and not acceptable at school. School personnel will enforce this dress code, including, but not limited to, requiring that the student remove or change the item, taking reasonable steps to notify the student's parents of the violation, and, for repeated violations, initiating progressive discipline for insubordination.

Headwear — Only for health, safety, or religious reasons

Shoes — Must be worn at all times

Clothing —

- Cannot show profanity, obscenity, violence, or symbols of hate
- Cannot promote alcohol, tobacco, drugs or look-alike drugs
- Cannot promote gang colors, gang affiliation, gang initiation or gang-related signs
- Cannot show underwear, midriff, bare chests, and backs
- Cannot show bare skin between upper chest and mid thigh
- Examples of inappropriate dress:
 - pajama bottoms
 - tobacco or alcohol brand t-shirts
 - tank tops
 - midriff tops that do not reach the waistband of shorts or pants

Please check your student's school clothing each day to ensure that they do not have bare skin visible between the upper chest and mid thigh and that both males and females have ***no exposed underwear***. Any student who does not adhere to the dress code could be required to wear a rental gym uniform over his/her inappropriate clothing.

IMMUNIZATION INFORMATION

Parents of 7th grade students:

All students who will be in the 7th grade for the 2019-20 school year **MUST** have one Tdap and one meningococcal vaccine.

Students not in compliance will be excluded on the first day of school.

Please make an appointment with your child's physician as soon as possible to receive the required vaccines.

If your child ***has*** received the required vaccines, please call the Health Room to verify we have the required documentation.

VIDEO MONITORING AT ARMS

Arundel Middle School is equipped with a video camera system. It covers selected interior and exterior public portions of the building and grounds. It is NOT monitored constantly, but it is monitored during emergency situations. During certain events, when the safety or security of students may be in question, authorized personnel from local, state, or federal police or fire emergency units may be given access to view images projected on the camera system.

If you have any questions about the system, please call Doyle Batten, Supervisor of School Security, at (410) 222-5083.

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SCHOOL BUS INFORMATION

School bus stop information is available on the AACPS website. Questions related to bus stops/routes should be directed to the Transportation Office at the Board of Education (410-923-7890).

Buses will arrive at school between 7:45 and 8:05AM and will normally depart between 3:00 and 3:05PM. Car riders and walkers are dismissed at approximately 3:00PM, ten minutes after the bus riders' dismissal.

Cars are not allowed in the bus lane from 7:45-8:15AM and from 2:15-4:15PM or during Tuesday/Thursday after school activities.

According to transportation policy, students must board and depart from the buses at the stop closest to their house.

If your student needs to ride a different bus to a sitter (long term) for example, you must obtain and complete an *Exceptional Transportation Request* and return it to the Main Office.

For the opening of school, all students should have their bus numbers written down. (AM, PM, and activity)

Activity buses run on **Tuesdays** and **Thursdays** after school beginning Tuesday, September 24. These buses are only for students who are eligible to ride a bus to and from school. Activity bus stops differ from regular bus stops. Bus riders who stay after school, under the supervision of a staff member, will receive a pass to ride the Activity bus. Students staying after school with a staff member must tell parents the day before to avoid telephone calls and worried parents. Activity buses normally depart from the school at 4:10PM.

Students that need to leave an activity early must be picked up in the Main Office. Students will not be allowed outside until 4:05PM.

REMINDER: Skateboards are NOT allowed on school buses.

BE AWARE...

Students and staff are reminded that school buildings and school lockers belong to Anne Arundel County Public Schools and that no article, big or small, that is considered to be a drug or a weapon by our policy standards will be permitted to be brought onto school property or into school buildings. It should be further understood by all students and staff that this statement is intended to extend beyond the school area and shall include school buses for daily transportation as well as any other reason or means we may transport students

and staff. Students and staff must understand that any action will not be tolerated in any format or at any level and that appropriate disciplinary action will result. We further remind students and staff that principals may request, without announcing it, the Anne Arundel County Police Department to bring a drug dog to the school during normal school hours/school sponsored or sanctioned activity.

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CAFETERIA INFORMATION

All food and drink brought from home may only be consumed in the cafeteria. Any food or drink that is not eaten at lunch must be discarded before students leave the cafeteria. Please keep this in mind as you pack a lunch or give money for cafeteria items. **Online Meal Benefit Application is available on the AACPS website [HERE](#).** We thank you

for assisting us in maintaining a safe environment, free from distractions and conducive to learning.

Prices for meals and milk:

Breakfast (\$1.50) Lunch (\$3.00) Milk (\$.55)

Additional a la carte items are available with prices posted in the cafeteria.

Prepaid Lunch Account Information

Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS), Division of Food and Nutrition Services, offers you the convenience of pre-paying for breakfast, lunch, and a la carte purchases.

mypaymentsplus.com

How does the Pre-Pay system work?

- Students deposit money on account by cash and/or check and access it with their Student Identification #, which is also their PIN#.
- Students bring purchases to register, enter confidential PIN #, and transaction is completed.
- If funds are not sufficient to cover purchase, cash and/or a deposit may be accepted.

What are the advantages to a Pre-Pay System?

- Money may be deposited on a weekly, monthly, or yearly basis.
- Eliminates the need for students to carry money to school every day.
- Provides faster service to students, allowing more time for dining.
- Provides an account history for parents/guardians.

How do I establish a Pre-Pay account?

- ⇒ Pre-payments may be made to the student's account on-line at mypaymentsplus.com or by cash or check payable to the name of the school cafeteria.
- ⇒ Include name and address of payee, student's name, and PIN # on check. PIN # (Student ID #) can be found on reports cards and schedules.
- ⇒ Submit payment online to mypay-

paymentsplus.com or to Cafeteria Manager. Funds are immediately available upon submission of payment.

- ⇒ Households with more than one student at the same school may send one check or cash if the amount of money to be placed into each student's account is designated. List the name of each student with the amount of money designated for each student's account. Accounts may not be shared between children.

Can I check my account balance? Yes. Contact the Cafeteria Manager for account information or sign up with mypaymentsplus.com

What happens to the account if my student transfers or withdraws from the school? Upon request from the Parent/Guardian, the Cafeteria Manager will refund the balance of money on the account.

What happens to money remaining on account at the end of the school year? Monies remain on account and are carried forward to the new school year for students who continue to be enrolled at the same school. Graduating students and students promoted to Middle School or High School will automatically have monies refunded.

Can my student's Pre-Pay account also be used for the purchase of a la carte items? Yes. Parents (full price, reduced price and free) may also limit a la carte items on account with written requests.

If you have questions, contact Food and Nutrition Services at 410-222-5900.

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SEPTEMBER 2019

Come Join Our Team!



**School Food & Nutrition Services of
Anne Arundel County Public Schools
Is looking for you!**



- Substitute positions available
- Work September through June
- Perform kitchen tasks
- Experience not required – **Will Train!**
- Work schedule of just a few hours a day
- Prepare and serve meals
- Satisfactory work performance may lead to a permanent position

For more information call **410.222.5900** or visit **www.aacps.org**
(see below for directions to submit online Employment Applications)

To Apply Online Now

Go to www.aacps.org and click on the **Join Our Team** tab.

Click on **APPLY NOW**

Select **Support Staff–School Based**

Search (type in **Food**)

Click on **Temporary Food Service Worker 1 (Substitute)** to complete application and submit

Anne Arundel County Public Schools prohibits discrimination in matters affecting employment or in providing access to programs on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, sexual orientation, genetic information, gender identity, or disability.



AAAPS - Food & Nutrition Services - DPS/LGB 2190/B (Rev. 08/17)

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¡Únete a Nuestro Equipo!



Los Servicios de Comida y Nutrición de las Escuelas Públicas del Condado de Anne Arundel

¡los están buscando!



- Posiciones disponibles como sustituto
- Trabajo de septiembre a junio
- Realizar trabajos de cocina
- Experiencia no requerida – **¡Los Entusiasmados!**
- Horario de trabajo de pocas horas diarias
- Prepare y sirva comida
- Rendimiento satisfactorio del trabajo puede llevar a una posición permanente

Para Más información llame **410.222.5900** o visite **www.aacps.org**
(ver abajo para instrucciones para presentar aplicaciones de empleo en línea)

Para Solicitar En Línea Ahora

Vayan a **www.aacps.org** y haga clic en la ficha que dice **Únete a nuestro equipo**.

Haga clic en **APLICAR AHORA**.

Seleccione **Personal de Apoyo–Basado en la Escuela**.

Buscar (escriba **comida**).

Haga clic en el **Trabajador de Servicio Temporal de Alimentos 1 (sustituto)** para completar la solicitud y enviar.

Escuelas Públicas del Condado de Anne Arundel prohíbe la discriminación en asuntos que afectan al empleo o en la prestación de acceso a programas sobre la base actual o percibida de raza, color, religión, origen nacional, sexo, edad, estado civil, orientación sexual, información genética, identidad de género o discapacidad.



AACPS - Food & Nutrition Services - DPS/LGB 2190/8a (New 11/18)

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HEALTH ROOM INFORMATION

WE HAVE A NEW NURSE THIS YEAR, Ms. REDDICK!

Medications

According to Anne Arundel County Public School policy, a Parent's Request to Administer Medication form (PRAM) **must** be completed by a parent and a physician for any medication or over-the-counter products to be administered. All medication must be delivered by a parent or adult in an unopened container (if over the counter) or a pharmacy labelled box (if prescription.) Inhalers for asthma or Epi-Pens for severe allergic reactions are the only medications that may be carried by students. The PRAM must be completed and the portion of the form checked by the doctor that states "the student is able to self-administer and carry the inhaler or Epi-Pen." A contract will be signed with the student and the school nurse and will be reviewed quarterly to confirm that the student is safely able to carry the medication.

Physical Education Restrictions

If your student is ill or injured and requires PE restrictions, please contact your student's

PE teacher and provide a note to the Health Room from the doctor stating exactly what the restrictions are with a specific period of time given.

If your student may need an inhaler with vigorous exercise, please have the PRAM paperwork completed by the doctor and deliver the needed medication to the Health Room.

Emergency Forms

When you are completing the Emergency Form that will come home the first week of school, it is very important to list all home, cell, and work numbers where you can be reached in case of emergency. Please include the names of 2 other adults that may be contacted in the event that we are unable to reach a parent or a guardian.

If this information changes during the school year, please make sure that you inform the Main Office, so that this information can be corrected.

VISION AND HEARING SCREENINGS

Vision and hearing screening is provided to students in 8th grade and students new to AACPS and students referred by parents or staff. The screening will be held Tuesday, January 12, 2020. Make-ups and rescreening will be Wednesday, January 29. Parents

may request screening through the school's nurse if they are concerned for their child in any grade.