

# Amherst County Public Schools



## Family Newsletter



July 31, 2023

### A Message from the Superintendent!

Hello Team Amherst:

**This is the first of our monthly newsletters for the 2023-2024 school year. I hope that everyone had a relaxing summer and your students are ready for the start of another school year. We have been preparing for the opening of school all summer and are looking forward to a great school year. The purpose of these newsletters is to provide parents, families, and the community with information about the school division as well as links to information that we hope you will find beneficial. I stated the greeting as "Hello Team Amherst" to reintroduce you to the "Team Amherst" approach. We are all a part of the same team with the same outcomes in mind for our students which include: to be physically and emotionally healthy; to maximize their potential; be career and life ready; and be able to contribute to the community upon graduation. I am excited about the opportunity to continue to build positive relationships between the school division, our families, and our community.**

**Today, new teachers reported to work to begin their orientation process in the school division. On August 7, 2023 all staff report to their schools to begin preparing for their students. We will have an Open House at all schools on August 9, 2023 from 1:00 - 7:00 PM. Amherst County High School will also host a Freshman Parent Orientation on August 9 from 5:00 - 6:00 PM. We will conduct a transition day for students in Pre-K, Kindergarten, 6th grade and 9th grade on August 15. Students entering Pre-K and Kindergarten will attend their respective schools from 9:00 - 12:00. Students entering the 6th and 9th grades will attend their respective schools from 8:00 - 11:00. Transportation will be provided. Please be on the lookout for additional information from your student's respective school. Finally, the first day of school for the 2023-2024 school year is August 16, 2023.**

**Our theme this year is ENGAGE. Last year we focused on Showing Up as part of the Show Up Amherst initiative. This year we not only need to Show Up for each other but we need to ENGAGE with each other. Our staff will focus on engaging with students, families, and the community. I am asking that our families and community members ENGAGE with our students and our schools. Engaging with our students can be as simple as taking an interest in their activities or monitoring their progress at school all the way up to volunteering. The schools, families, and community need to ENGAGE with our students to be a positive influence and let them know that we care about their future. If we do not ENGAGE with them the negative influencers will.**

**Amherst County Public Schools will continue with our #ShowUpAmherst initiative this year. This initiative is part of our character education program and is designed to emphasize the importance of being present for school and to be physically and mentally ENGAGED. Each school in the division will hold events throughout the year that are designed to encourage students to show up to school and ENGAGE. Data from the 2022-2023 school year suggests that Show Up Amherst had a positive influence on student attendance. To kick off Show Up Amherst this year we are hosting a Show Up Tailgate at Amherst County High School at the first home football game on September 1 from 5:30 - 7:00 PM. This is a free event and we encourage our students, staff, families, and community to attend.**

**Amherst County Public Schools will also continue to focus on student attendance. We realize that instructional time lost during the pandemic has had a negative effect on our students. We need our students in school on a daily basis. Research suggests that students learn best when they receive quality in-person instruction. We are going to do all we can to provide a quality educational experience. We are asking you to do everything within your power to have your children attend school daily.**

**I ask that you continue to work us to help us build the "team." The school division is asking that our families and community work alongside and join "Team Amherst" as we work to provide our students with the educational opportunities they need to be successful upon graduation. We have volunteer opportunities at all of our schools and we encourage our families and community to join us. If we all pull together and work as one team with a common goal, there is nothing that can stand in our way. This is the start of another exciting year for Amherst County Public Schools and I thank you in advance for your support.**

Sincerely,

William

# UPCOMING EVENTS

AUGUST 9

Open House! 1:00-7:00 pm All Schools

AUGUST 15

Transition Day!  
Only Pre-K, Kindergarten, 6th grade, and  
9th grade students attend

AUGUST 16

First Day of School!

## School Supplies



School supply lists  
can be located on  
every school  
website.

Please contact your student's  
school if you have any questions!





Summer is flying by! We are preparing for the 2023-2024 school year, and you can too! Registration forms are available to be filled out online. Visit the Parent Portal at [www.amherst.k12.va.us](http://www.amherst.k12.va.us) to log in. Please contact your child's school if you have any issues logging in.



“Join us for Open House at all schools on Wednesday, August 9th from 1:00-7:00 pm. Meet your child’s teachers, visit classrooms, and set up your transportation needs. Parents of high school freshmen will have orientation from 5:00 - 6:00. We look forward to seeing you soon!  
#ShowUpAmherst  
#TeamAmherst



**OPEN HOUSE**

Amherst County Public Schools

Wednesday August 9th, 1-7PM



# BACK TO SCHOOL

Transition Day is August 15!

Elementary Transition for

Pre-K, K & New to School 1st Graders: Time: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Middle School Transition for

6th & New to School 7th Graders: Time: 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM

High School Transition for

9th & New to School 10th Graders: Time: 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Student Transportation is provided!

## Student Transportation

Our dedicated transportation team is responsible for providing safe and efficient transportation for all eligible students to and from schools each day. Please be patient during the first weeks of school as our transportation staff work diligently on the bus routes and students and families adjust to the schedule.

Once bus routes have been finalized, information can be found on our website, click the link below.

[Bus Route Information](#)

If you have any questions, please contact the Transportation Department at 434-946-9707



# ACPS Kindergarten Registration 2023-2024



It's not too late to register  
your child for kindergarten

Children must be age 5 on or before September 30, 2023

Contact the school in which your child resides to  
set up an appointment to complete the  
screening process.

Online registration forms can be completed at

<https://amherst.psisjs.com/public/formbuilder/form.html?formid=10940353>

Additional information about entrance requirements can be found on the  
[ACPS Website](#) under Families

Amelon Elementary School  
Lea Gray, Principal  
Phone: 528-6498

Central Elementary School  
Ron Proffitt, Principal  
Phone: 946-9700

Madison Heights Elementary School  
Jeremy Hutchinson, Principal  
Phone: 846-2151

Amherst Elementary School  
Amanda Cassise, Principal  
Phone: 946-9704

Elon Elementary School  
Leila Saunders Principal  
Phone: 528-6496

Temperance Elementary School  
Lantz Martin, Principal  
Phone: 946-2811



## Inscripción en el jardín de infancia Curso escolar 2023-2024



Aún está a tiempo de matricular a su hijo  
en la guardería

Los niños tienen que tener 5 años de edad en o antes del 30 de septiembre de 2023

Póngase en contacto con el centro escolar en el que  
reside su hijo para concertar una cita y completar el  
proceso de detección.

Los formularios de inscripción en línea se pueden  
completar en

<https://amherst.psisjs.com/public/formbuilder/form.html?formid=10940353>

Encontrará más información sobre los requisitos de acceso en [el sitio web de ACPS](#), en la sección Familias

Amelon Elementary School  
Lea Gray, Principal  
Número de teléfono: 528-6498

Central Elementary School  
Ron Proffitt, Principal  
Número de teléfono: 946-9700

Madison Heights Elementary School  
Jeremy Hutchinson, Principal  
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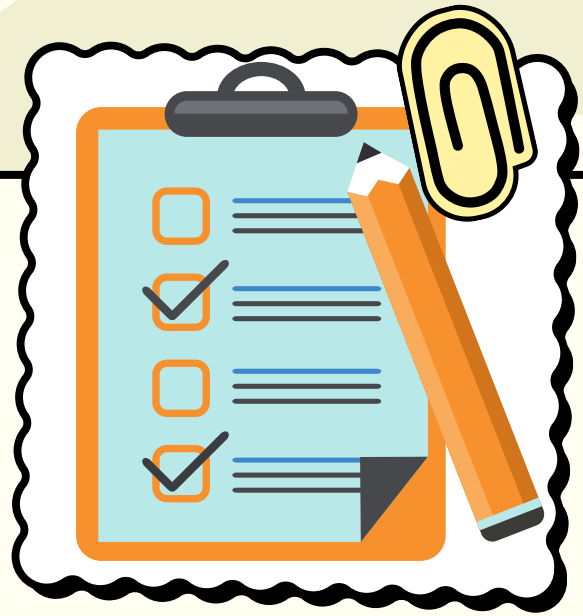
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Número de teléfono: 946-2811

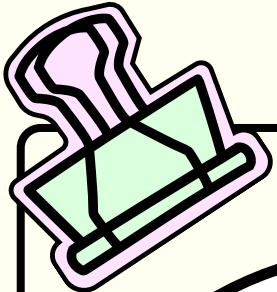
# Survey!

Attention Parents of Students with Disabilities! We need your feedback on our programming and support here in Amherst, and invite you to complete the survey linked below. This data collection process is completely anonymous, and helps us ensure we stay connected and engaged with the families of Amherst County!

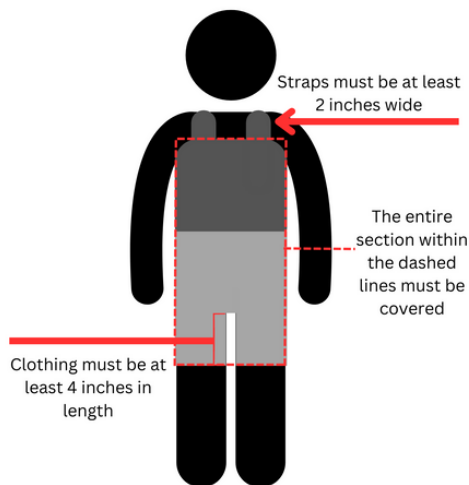
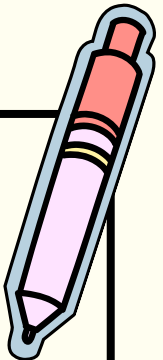


[English Version of the 2022-23 Indicator 8 Parent Survey](#)

[Spanish Version of the 2022-23 Indicator 8 Parent Survey](#)



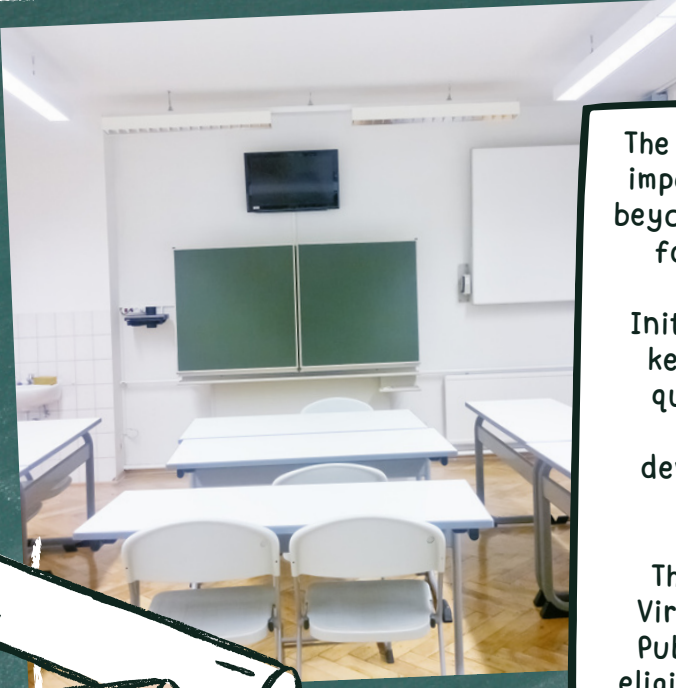
## Student Dress Code



All students are required to adhere to the student dress code. Information regarding the dress code can be found on each school website and in your student's Student Handbook. Please contact your student's school if you have any questions!



# Virginia Focus on School Readiness



The years before a child enters kindergarten directly impact a child's ability to thrive in kindergarten and beyond. School Readiness means preparing all children for kindergarten by supporting birth-to-age-five programming, including the Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI/Smart Start). Virginia's focus includes key classroom practices such as the use of high-quality curriculum and assessment, teacher-child interactions and individualized professional development. It also includes strengthening family engagement.

Through generous grant funding provided by the Virginia Department of Education, Amherst County Public Schools is able to provide programming for eligible four year olds. Acceptance for all programs are based on eligibility and availability of slots.

## Amherst County Public Schools' Smart Start Pre-School Program

Free, full-day preschool program that meets all Virginia State Standards for preschool education for your 4-year-old (Child must be 4 on or before September 30th of the school year applying for).

No cost for Breakfast, Lunch, and Snack. All school supplies provided. Transportation available.

To learn more about our 2023-2024 Smart Start program, please see the information in the documents linked below.

[English 4 Year Old 2023-2024 Preschool Flyer](#)

[Información general sobre el programa pre-escolar Smart Start](#)

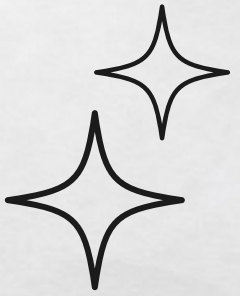
[Click here to access the paper or electronic application](#)

## Three Locations

- Amherst Elementary
- Central Elementary
- Madison Heights Elementary



# #SHOWUPAMHERST



The #ShowUpAmherst planning team was invited to present at this year's Virginia School Board Association Conference on Education to share about how the program was developed. Great ideas and promising initiatives were shared among school divisions in Virginia!



## SUMMER ACADEMIES

Our Summer Academies wrapped up in July! The Power Scholars program had 104 students who focused on math, reading, and enrichment activities. Families were invited to a student showcase to meet staff and view student work. Great job, #TeamAmherst!



Power Scholars Pledge  
I am a scholar  
I am the future  
I am intelligent  
I am unique  
When the time comes  
I will be a leader  
Where there is injustice  
I will take a stand  
I will be an ambassador  
I will be a leader for life!



# TEAM AMHERST

Join #TeamAmherst! We are looking for highly qualified and motivated educators to join the ACPS family. We offer an excellent 2-year mentorship program and support throughout your career with us. We look forward to sharing even more about our division with you.

**Apply online at [amherst.k12.va.us](http://amherst.k12.va.us)**

Contact Human Resources with any questions at 434-946-9376. We look forward to hearing from you!

**JOIN TEAM AMHERST!**

Amherst County Public Schools

**PROFESSIONAL**  
Secondary English Teacher (MMS)  
Imaging Technology Teacher (ACHS)  
Secondary Social Studies Teacher (ACHS & MMS)  
Secondary Math Teacher (MMS)  
Elementary Teacher (CES)  
Special Education Teacher (Adaptive Curriculum - CES)  
Speech Language Pathologist

**CLASSIFIED**  
General Maintenance Worker  
Part time Parking lot Attendant  
Custodians  
Bus Drivers

Questions?  
Contact Human Resources  
[hr@amherst.k12.va.us](mailto:hr@amherst.k12.va.us)  
(434)946-9376

**APPLY ONLINE TODAY!**

**HAVE YOU HEARD?**

**ACPS CHANGED  
THEIR BACKGROUND  
CHECK POLICY.  
BACKGROUND CHECKS AND  
FINGERPRINTS ARE NOW  
REQUIRED EVERY 5 YEARS.**

**PLEASE CALL HUMAN  
RESOURCES IF YOU HAVE ANY  
QUESTIONS AT 434-946-9376**

Effective August 2022, Amherst County Public Schools changed their requirement for volunteers to be fingerprinted from every 10 years to every 5 years. If you have not had your fingerprints done since 2018 and would like to continue to volunteer or attend field trips, you will need to visit Human Resources. Please call 434-946-9376, and we can help you.



# #SHOWUPAMHERST COMMUNITY TAILGATE



**EVERYONE IS INVITED!**

**COME OUT AND #SHOWUP FOR OUR STUDENTS, STAFF, FAMILIES, COMMUNITY AND EACH OTHER! JOIN US FOR A COOKOUT AT THE OUTDOOR CLASSROOM AT THE FRONT OF AMHERST COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL. HOTDOGS AND HAMBURGERS WILL BE PROVIDED. ENJOY FOOD AND TIME TOGETHER BEFORE THE BIG GAME! THIS IS A FREE COMMUNITY EVENT.**






**September 1, 2023**

**5:30-7:00 pm**

**Lancer Stadium  
139 Lancer Lane**

**KICKOFF @ 7:00 PM**

If you would like to remain for the game and cheer on our Lancers, tickets can be purchased at the gate!





# BACK TO SCHOOL TIPS



**It is normal to feel nervous about going back to school. Listen to your child and reassure them that many students take a bit of time to get adjusted to the routine of the school year.**

## Homework:

Provide your child with a structure so that expectations are clear. Allow for a quiet, organized space to complete work where your child can ask you for help when needed. Snacks can often help replenish energy to maintain focus and complete challenging work.

## Bedtime:

**Bedtime can be a difficult adjustment after a break from school. Start gradually getting back into an earlier bedtime and earlier wake time to prepare for school starting.**

- **Morning Routine:**
- Start discussing with your child what the morning routine will look like once school starts. Break down the routine into steps that your child can easily remember. Begin practicing steps to be sure you allow enough time. Consider creating a visual schedule that your child can refer to, and be sure to encourage your child when you see them complete a specific step.

*We are so excited and can't wait to see you soon!*

