



SCHOOLS TO WATCH

EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS TO ACHIEVE EXCELLENCE

MODEL SCHOOL—VISITOR'S GUIDE



Philip M. Pennington Traditional School Prince William County



Redesignated in 2017

Philip Michael Pennington Traditional School

Principal: Joyce Stockton

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

2015-2016 School Statistics

Community: Suburb of Washington D.C.

Enrollment: 648

Grade Levels: 1-8

Student Demographics

- 17% Hispanic
- 0.3% Am. Indian/Alaskan
- 19.2% Asian
- 41.7% White
- 15.3% African American
- 0.3% Hawaiian/Pacific Isl
- 6.1% Two or more
- 17.6% Free/Reduced Lunch
- 9.1% English Learners

2014-2015 AYP: Met All Criteria

2015-2016 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

- **The National Math Olympiad and Virginia Math League** competition to promote critical thinking and problem-solving skills
- Participated in “**We the People Competition**” which teaches students how to research and analyze primary sources. It connects them to historical and current events to create an oral presentation. Students are posed questions from a judging panel on their expertise about an assigned topic relating to the Constitution.
- Pennington middle school students were co-presenters at the **Foreign Language Association of Virginia or FLAVA** by integrating technology into the foreign language classroom
- School wide tour of **Micron Technologies Manufacturing** to introduce students and parents to modern manufacturing and highlight STEM career
- 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
- Offering **Latin and Spanish club** to promote the study of foreign languages in a global society
- Fiesta Day Celebration—provides a real world opportunity for students to use their oral Spanish speaking skills to order their meal
- **Introduction to World Languages**-- Exploratory course to learn Latin, Spanish, French, Italian, Japanese and/or German

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

- We added a **new academic achievement award called “Blue jay High Flyers”** to recognize not only students with all A or A /B honor roll but students with excellent academic and behavior
- Pennington implemented a **Positive Behavior Support System (PBIS)** by explicitly teaching the behavior expectations for all areas of the school environment and a positive reward system to recognize the behavioral expectations

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
- 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
- Implementation of **Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports (PBIS)**
- Implementation of MTSS— (Multi-Tier System of Supports) comprehensive approach to identify students who need help before we get too far along in the school year

