School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

Academic Excellence

- Designated PWCS School of Excellence every year since eligible, 12 years;
- Designated Virginia VIP Board of Education’s Excellence Award; 8 years;
- Received AdvancED SACS Accreditation, 2012-current
- Recognized by Northern Virginia Magazine as a “Top 25% Elementary Schools”
- 85.9% of 8th graders enter high school with an Algebra high school credit;

2017-2018 SCHOOL STATISTICS

- Designated in 2010
- Re-Designated 2015

- Community Size - Suburban
- School Enrollment - 685
- Grade Levels - 5, 6, 7, 8
- School Calendar - Traditional
- Free and Reduced Lunch 29.4%
- English Learners 10.7%
- Students With Disabilities 7%

2017-2018 School Demographics

- Hispanic 12.5%
- African American 37.2%
- Native American 0%
- Asian 20.5%
- Filipino 0%
- Other %
- White 25.7%
- Two or More 3.9%

Mary G Porter Traditional School
Prince William County Schools
15311 Forest Drive, Woodbridge, VA 22191
Tel (703) 580-6501
Principal - Kaitlyn Engelmeier-For
www.porter.pwcs.edu
• 4.7% of 8th graders enter high school with a Geometry high school credit;
• 88.2% of 8th graders enter high school with a Foreign Language high school credit;
• Maintains Standards Based Grading in both the classroom and through parent communication via teachers’ gradebooks;
• Pride ourselves on offering the best and most innovative technology experience for our students; via iPod carts, Chromebook carts, an iPad lab, 3 stationary technology labs, 2 mobile labs, a MacBook mobile lab, MakerSpace, and a 3-D Printing lab.
• Teachers and students alike, utilize multiple resources and tools for learning: Thinking Maps, Co-teaching, Integration/Thematic units.
• Teachers maintain and ensure that assigned homework is a meaningful component of instructional program and adheres to time restrictions suggested by PWCS homework regulation.
• Porter 5th graders represented PWCS at National Math Con Competition in Chicago, IL. (one Porter student placed in top 10 of all US fifth graders);
• Two Porter VEX Robotics teams competed in the VEX States 18 competition. One team was awarded Tournament Champion and went on to compete in the ‘VEX WORLDS’ competition! And the other team was awarded the ‘Excellence Award’;

Developmental Responsiveness
• Porter Traditional School is a School of Choice; there are performance expectations, attendance expectations, uniform expectations, and volunteer hours expected of both students and parents;
• Stop.Walk.Talk. is part of Porter’s Bullying Prevention Program. It is an online program that allows students to anonymously report bullying;
• Our Teacher to Student Mentoring Program is designed for students who need an extra adult to help mentor and monitor them; for anything from attendance to academics.
• Our Student to Student Mentoring Program is for our very active students in the elementary level, as well as our middle school students who are interested in serving as mentor. This program allows middle school students to act as positive role models to our younger students;
• “Porter Gives Back” was created by the Porter PTO to support the belief system of giving back to the community and to provide an example of volunteering for our students.

• “Pause Before You Post” is a guidance lesson presented at the middle school level. It serves to instruct students as to the importance of thinking about what they are posting online, before they put it up.

• The GO GREEN Encore class consists of students who have an interest in preserving and maintaining the quality of the Earth’s systems and the organisms that live on it.

• The Fit Team Encore class is for 8th grade fitness enthusiasts who want to extend their exercising and knowledge of health and wellness through exploration of different types of exercising, including medicine weights, yoga, Pilates, resistance bands, and much more.

• Pep Band is a precursor to Marching Band without the marching. Pep Band performs anywhere between 3-5 events to support Porter Athletics and is offered for students in 5th thru 8th grade.

• Jazz Band gives Porter students an opportunity to explore different rhythms, play in a more intimate setting, and explore self-expression in Jazz Band. Students learn how to improvise over music and expand their musical listening abilities.

• Solo and Ensemble Strings provides a chance for students to learn to play together in small groups. The small setting benefits students by teaching them how to work as a team, communicate non-verbally, grow their musical ears, build confidence in individual playing, and having a chance to play music that interests them.

• Our Porter Makerspace is an area for creating, building, inventing, and designing. It features high-tech equipment, such as 3-D printers and coding software, as well as consumable supplies for arts & crafts and repurposing.

Social Equity

• Class meetings take place in every classroom in the school, twice a week. They are a student-centered and allow the students to raise concerns or comments they have in the classroom—anything from a peer conflict to an issue at recess or other topics as they arise. Once the issue is raised, all students in the class have the opportunity to problem-solve and come up with a solution.

• We embrace the cultural diversity from our students and staff by displaying the country flags that our school community represents; and continue to do so as new students and staff join our community.
• The Porter Multicultural Club is a 7th and 8th grade club where students gather to celebrate cultural diversity! It is a place where students (and teachers) may learn about the backgrounds, cultures, traditions, and customs of their peers.

• Our Military Ambassadors Club is Porter’s support the development of social/ emotional skills for military-connected students and parents by providing resources and activities that help them connect to the community and successfully transition into a new school environment.

• Porter’s PEP Program is a parent outreach program designed to educate and empower English Learner parents to become decision makers and advocates for their children’s education.

• Porter’s Live 3-D Program stands for the three D’s critical to fostering community: Diversity, Disabilities, and Differences. Porter students are encouraged (through use of Star Qualities) to demonstrate 3-D behavior.

Our School Division’s philosophy of “all students will learn to their fullest potential” drives Porter’s Gifted Education program... it is designed to foster the academic development of advanced learners.

**Organizational Support**

• Porter’s Educator Support Team is strong and supportive; it consists of administration, a teacher mentor group, grade level colleagues, and an individual teacher mentor.

• Porter’s co-team of mentors were nominated as Lead Mentors of the Year!

• Monthly faculty meetings are used to model new strategies for all teachers.

• Monthly technology staff development is both staff driven, and staff led.

• Porter’s Support Staff is substantial and excellent at assisting with the diverse learning needs of our students: Math Resource, Reading Resource, ELL Resource, Speech Resource, Learning Dynamics, and Gifted Resource.