



August 3, 2018

Dear PCA North Lower School Families,

Our staff is very excited to welcome you to the 2018-19 school year! There is so much excitement surrounding our FIFTH year at the North Campus. So many of you have been with us since our inaugural year and share in the excitement of watching God grow our school, bringing new families each year.

To our new families, we say “welcome!” You have been prayed for already and will soon meet staff, students, and fellow parents who will welcome you with open arms. The phrase “doing life together” is often overused, but it is the best description of our North Campus. We do life together, helping minister to each other during trials and celebrating together during times of triumph.

Please take time to place these important dates for the beginning of the year on your calendar:

- August 13 – Back to School Day & All School Worship (*more details below*)
- August 15 – First Day of School
- August 21 – North Campus Curriculum Night is an event that takes a deeper look into the day to day learning in the classroom. There will be a general session, as well as time in the classroom. *Childcare is not provided for this event.*
- September 25 - Pioneer Picnic
- September 28 – Lower School Night at the Varsity Football game where our North and Plano campus students will be recognized at halftime.
- October 5 – Grandparents’ Day
- October 12 – Homecoming - We will travel to Plano for the parade and pep rally. *This is an early release day at 11:30.*
- October 31– Early Release at 11:30 / Parent/Teacher Conferences in the afternoon
- November 1– No School / Parent/Teacher Conferences

Back to School Day – August 13

While our All School Worship helps to “spiritually charge” us for the new school year, the Back to School Day is designed to help families get everything they need for a successful “organizational” start to the school year. We will be opening our Hub at 2:00 to provide more shopping time. Complete details for the day are as follows:

- Our New Family Reception begins at 2:15 in the Lounge at the North campus. Meet and greet other new families and pick up your family information packets, and hear from several of our different PCA leaders.

- From 2:45-4:00, families will have an opportunity to pick up their family information packet with carpool numbers, visit their child's classrooms and meet the teachers, unpack school supplies, and purchase items from The Hub display. Additionally, the North campus will have its own Back To School Fair in the atrium of PBC North. Families will have an opportunity to visit various information booths and learn about opportunities for involvement.
- From 4:00-4:45, families should begin making their way to the Plano campus for All School Worship.
- All School Worship begins at 5:00 in the Worship Center; there is no better way to begin the year than in praise and prayer! There will be a section reserved for North families.

First Day of School – August 15

Wednesday, August 15, is our first day of school! We will run our morning carpool and offer before school care beginning at 7:30 am on the first day. If you would like to come into the building with your student on the first day, you are welcome to do so. Please park and enter on the south side of the church campus.

Boohoo-Yahoo Breakfast – Our Parent Teacher Fellowship is sponsoring a breakfast immediately following the drop-off of students. Whether you are “boohooing” or “yahooing”, please join other parents as they meet in the church atrium between 8:15 am and 9:15 am for a light breakfast and tissues! It is a great chance to visit with other parents and either celebrate or commiserate the beginning of school.

Carpool

Beginning with our second day of school, we ask all parents to utilize our drop-off procedures. All families will drop off and pick up students utilizing our carpool line behind the church building. You will receive a carpool map with guidelines in your family packet at Back To School Day showing the entrance to the campus on school days and the route leading to the drop off and pick up driveway. Students are let out of their vehicles by the staff members on duty; parents should remain in their vehicles. Each family will be assigned a carpool number for afternoon pick up. Four number signs will be in your family packet for your vehicles, or for you to give to anyone authorized to pick up your child.

Students will not be released to anyone without a PCA carpool number or to anyone not on the parent authorization form. You will have an opportunity at Back To School Day to request additional carpool number signs. These signs will be printed and sent home with your student after the start of the year.

The back side of the carpool map will have guidelines on morning and afternoon drop-off and pick-up. As always, carpool will get faster as we “get it down.” The first several days are always a challenge and we ask for patience and adherence to the designed routes. Please help us by following the route as it is drawn on the map. For everyone's safety, our drop-off and pick-up route is a cell-free zone.

Communication

The majority of the communication to our families is via email. In an effort to streamline our communication, we provide as much news as possible in our weekly email called Just the Facts! Look for it each Monday.

Our e-newsletter, The Lions Roar, is published each Friday, with a North Campus section that will feature news and upcoming event details. Our PCA website is a great source for events, forms, athletic schedules, and other information. Just visit www.prestonwoodchristian.org, click on the Lower School tab, then select “North Campus” for our homepage.

Please be sure to “like” our [PCA North Facebook page](#) as well as our [PCA North PTF Facebook page](#) to keep up with the events, activities, and volunteer opportunities at the North Campus.

I am pleased to announce that in response to feedback in the parent re-enrollment surveys, PCA is currently embarking on a major upgrade in several information systems which will greatly enhance your user experience regarding information about your children. During the next calendar year, we are replacing systems you may be familiar with such as 24/7 Family Profile, NetCommunity, Current Family tab on our website, and more! As these changes roll out, you will notice positive impacts such as:

1. An improved re-enrollment experience (coming Jan. 2019)
2. More streamlined communication from divisional principals and administrative assistants
3. A better portal where parents access information about students including grades, courses, schedule data, better access to school directory data
4. Online forms – you’ll now have the ability to view and complete school forms online for your students (field trip, emergency contacts...)
5. More in-depth and specific Current Family information will be housed behind a log-in versus the info currently on our PCA website today

This project is a major undertaking involving virtually every area of our school, and I know parents and students will be pleased once everything is fully available. Please be patient with us as we evolve, and look for more information throughout the next year.

Curriculum Night

On August 21, you are invited to our Curriculum Night. At check-in, you will pick up your parent packet containing information pertinent to your child’s grade level. On this night you will spend time with your student’s teachers and gain insight into the class procedures and yearly curriculum. More information will be forthcoming, but you will not want to miss this special night.

Early Morning Care

Early Morning Care is available for students who need to be dropped off before the 8:00 am carpool start time. There is supervision in the Lounge beginning at 7:30 am to accommodate parents who need to bring their students to school early. The Lounge is located on the south side of the campus, just to the left inside the entrance. For the safety of children, parents must park and walk their children into The Lounge. There is no fee for morning care.

Extended Day

Extended Day is available for those families who need their children to have supervision after the school day has ended. There is an additional charge for participation in this program and registration is required. Visit our website to view the cost of the program and to register.

The Hub Spirit Shop

The Hub is PCA's own spirit shop – a one-stop location for all your spirit wear needs! It is located in the lobby of the Field House (gym) on the Upper School campus in Plano, directly in front of Lions Stadium. You can always visit The Hub during their store hours, which are posted on the website. The last Friday of the month is Spirit Day, where students may wear a PCA spirit shirt with jeans. Spirit shirts are also allowed on other special days, so you want to make sure you are ready when school starts. Our first Spirit Day is Friday, August 31!

The Hub will be open during tax free weekend at the following times prior to Back To School Day:

- Friday, August 10, from 2:00 – 7:00 pm
- Saturday, August 11, from 9:30 am – 12:30 pm

Lunch Information

We do not have lunch service on our North campus. Students will need to bring their lunch each day along with a drink.

School Hours

Students in Pre-K and Kindergarten will arrive by 8:15 am each morning and are dismissed at 2:30 pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. There is an early release time of 2:00 pm every Wednesday. Students in grades 1 through 4 will arrive by 8:15 am. Dismissal time for grades 1-4 is 3:15 each afternoon, with the exception of the early release time of 2:00 pm every Wednesday.

School Supplies & Bibles

No Shopping! Thanks to our fabulous PTF (Parent Teacher Fellowship) all of our students participate in purchasing school supplies delivered straight to the classrooms in a pre-packaged box. This insures that all of our students are using the same materials and saves you the frustration of trying to find specific brands! Your student account will be billed the cost of the supply pack in September. Students will have the opportunity during the Meet the Teacher time on Back to School Day to unpack their pre-packaged supplies and organize their workspace!

While our PTF does a great job with gathering the basic supplies for our students, there are a few items that they do not purchase and will be needed by our students at the start of school:

- All students should provide their own backpack and lunch carrier. Backpacks may not be on wheels.
- Pre-K3 and Pre-K 4 students will need a nap mat – these will need to come to school on Mondays and will be sent home for washing on Fridays. Please have them labeled with your child's name. Children may not have additional items with them at school for rest time.
- Students entering First through Fourth Grade will need to have their own copy of the New Adventure Bible – English Standard Version. These can be purchased at Lifeway, Mardel, or the Prestonwood Bookstore in Plano.
- Students entering Fourth Grade will need to purchase their own earbuds for their class iPads.

Student Handbook

The Student/Parent Handbook is available online through the PCA website. The handbook contains specific information concerning all policies and procedures governing PCA and the Lower School at the North Campus.

Uniforms/Dress Code

All uniform components – pants, shirts, skirts, etc. – *must* be purchased from DENNIS Uniform. DENNIS Uniforms may be purchased through their secure, easy to use website at www.dennisuniform.com. Any purchase over \$50.00 will have free shipping. Items purchased will be shipped directly to student homes.

Shoes, belts and accessories *do not* need to be purchased at DENNIS Uniform; however, they must meet the dress code guidelines as listed in the Parent/Student Handbook. We would also ask that you review the dress code requirements for accessories and haircuts as well.

We are excited about the blessings we know God has ahead for us this coming year. He has already shown His favor with the staff that is assembled and the families partnering with us. Enjoy the remainder of your summer and remember that we are here to help as you transition to a new year in a new school.

Sincerely,

Donna Gilson

Donna Gilson

Principal, PCA North Campus

