

Mary F. Williams Elementary School

3100 Panther Pride Drive • Dumfries, VA 22026
703-445-8376 • FAX 703-445-8378 • williamses.pwcs.edu
Danna Johnson, Principal

Dear Panther Cub families,

As we enter the second quarter, we would like to share some key information to help your student(s) stay strong through the colder months and on track to have a successful school year.

Cold/Flu season is nearing.

View [illness or injury exclusion criteria](#) for more information on when your child could be sent home from school/School Age Child Care (SACC) or when you should keep the child home from school/SACC.

The second quarter contains many scheduled days off for students:

- November 10 – Veterans Day Holiday
- November 22-24 – Thanksgiving Break
- December 21 – January 1 – Winter Break
- January 15 – Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday

We appreciate everyone's efforts to avoid taking extra days off before and after scheduled days off for holidays. Just a few missed days here and there, even if they're excused absences, can add up to too much lost learning time and leave your child behind in school. **This is as true in kindergarten as it is in high school.** Missing 2 days a month, or 4 ½ days in a marking period, adds up to 18 days a year (10% of the school year) which is considered chronically absent. Students who attend regularly are more likely to stay on track, and we are here to support you!

Remember to report your child's absences.

As a reminder, if your student is absent, please remember to contact us at (703) 445-8376 by 9:20 a.m. to report your child's absence. You may leave a message if you call before 8:00 a.m. and get the voice mail.

We want to express our gratitude to everyone who makes it possible for our students to come to school every day, on time, ready to learn.

Sincerely,

Danna B. Johnson
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Principal