

Alberta Smith Elementary Family Shark Bytes



September 6, 2026

To access the Family/Student Handbook click the link: [Family/Student Handbook](#)

To access the Family Shark Bytes Archives, click the link: [Archives](#)

To access the September PTA Newsletter, click the link: [Newsletter](#)

Announcements

What a fabulous week of school with all of our sharks! We've reviewed and practiced our SHARK Expectations of **Self Control**, **Honesty**, **Accountability**, **Respect** and **Kindness** each day as well as had Morning Meetings to greet and learn about each other.

Back to School Nights - These are the nights for parents to learn more about the academics and expectations of the grade level. You will go to your child's classroom at 6 PM and we will begin at 6:05. 5th Grade CBG will meet in the cafeteria. If you have two sharks in this age group, we will make an announcement when you can visit the other teacher. Students do not need to attend.

Tuesday, Sept. 8 **Back to School Night Grades 3-5 Parents**, 6-7 PM

Tuesday, Sept. 15 **Back to School Night Grades K-2 Parents**, 6-7 PM

Lunch Visitors - You are welcome to have lunch at school with your child **starting the week of September 21st**. Teachers eat with students the first two weeks of school to establish relationships and set the tone for the year. The next two weeks, the students are having lunch as a class without their teacher, but practicing SHARK expectations. Also be aware that due to schedule changes during the year such as Early Release Days, Field Day and SOL Testing, the cafeteria will be closed for lunch visitors.

License Needed - As a visitor, if you have school business beyond the front office (including eating lunch with your child), you must have your driver's license to check in at the office. Checking in Raptor without ID is no longer an option in the system. Thank you for understanding.

Use ParentVue to Monitor Grades - Now is a good time to make sure you have set up and/or can still access ParentVue to check your student's grades. Grades are updated, at minimum, once per two weeks in grades 2-5. [Click here](#) to set up or access your account.

Use Canvas to Observe Assignments - While official grades are housed in ParentVue/StudentVue, Canvas is the learning management system used by CCPS. Teachers will use Canvas to varying degrees based on the grade level (more is done in grades 3-5). Be sure to [click here](#) and set up a parent observer account.

SPIRIT WEEK SEPTEMBER 21st - 25th! Each year, thousands of schools and youth organizations nationwide participate in **Start With Hello Week**, a national call-to-action week dedicated to teaching empathy and empowering students to make new social connections using 3 easy steps. [Follow the spirit week calendar to see each day's theme and activity!](#)

Gifted Referral Window is now open - Chesterfield County Public Schools is committed to recognizing and nurturing advanced academic potential in all students through [engaging gifted programming options](#). Click [here](#) to learn more about CCPS Gifted Education and find the referral form. Gifted evaluations take place during specific windows each year, and students may be evaluated only once per school year. Referrals must be submitted by the appropriate deadline. The fall window opened this past Monday, 8/31 and the deadlines for the two referral windows are as follows:

- **Grades 2–12:** October 2, 2026
- **Grades K–1:** February 26, 2027

Referrals may be submitted by a parent, teacher, student, or community member. Students in grades 2–12 who reside in Chesterfield County but are not enrolled in CCPS may also be referred for an assessment opportunity during the fall window only.

To learn more about gifted education in Chesterfield County Public Schools, review the [Gifted Education Overview](#) flyer or visit the [CCPS Gifted Education webpage](#).

PTA News

PTA Membership - Start out the year by joining the ASES PTA! Know what's going on around school, what the next spirit event is, and make an impact for your child. [Click here to join as an individual, family or teacher/staff member.](#)

Reflections - This would be a great project for Labor Day Weekend! Click the link [Reflections](#) for more info.

Spiritwear - NEW designs have been added to our year-long Spiritwear Ordering Option- including tie dye house color shirts! Check them out here: [Sweet Pumpkins Designs](#) Search for Alberta Smith

Yearbooks

- The price is \$30 and will be hard cover.
- Orders will be taken until March 31st.
- If you are a PTA member you get a \$5 discount (code emailed to you from the PTA)!
- To access details, click the link [Ordering Info](#).

Any orders after March 31 will be made directly between parents and Candid Color since it will be shipped to your home for an additional expense. Please be aware that this is after the order comes in and might be after school has ended. NOTE: No extra copies are ordered.

Information for the 1 for Schools referendum Chesterfield County website:

www.chesterfield.gov/1forschools.

Blog Posts:

- [Chesterfield County and CCPS to Host Joint Public Meetings About “1 For Schools” Referendum](#)
 - [Voters to Decide on Local Sales Tax Plan. “1 For Schools.” on Nov. 3](#)
-

Attendance News

Start the year with a goal of good attendance

As we begin the 2026-27 school year, we are stressing the importance of daily attendance and ask that you make it a goal to help your student create good attendance habits. We know that attending school daily plays an important role in student success. It helps to:

- reduce stress
- make it easier to connect with friends and teachers
- support learning

Our team will do all they can to listen and partner with you to ensure students have a successful year. If you have concerns about your child's ability to maintain good attendance during this school year, please reach out to us now so we can help. Both excused and unexcused absences count toward the 95% attendance goal for students. Because the risk of spreading germs in a school setting is extremely great, a sick child should not be in school.

When a child is sick or there is reason for the student to be out of school, we request that you **call the clinic at (804) 639-2418 and leave a message stating the child's name, teacher and reason for absence**. There is voice mail to receive your message at any time.

OR You can fill out this [Google Form](#) if your child is absent instead of calling!

Please call or fill out the form prior to 9:00 a.m.

School Calendar

September

- **September 7 - NO SCHOOL**
- **September 8 - Back to School Night** for parents of students in **grades 3-5, 6-7 PM**
- **September 9 - 5th Grade Math MAP**
- **September 10 - 3rd/4th Grade Math MAP**
- **September 11 - Wear Spirit Wear or School Colors; 5th Grade NNAT**
- **September 14 - Wear House Colors; 2nd Grade NGAT**

- **September 15** - 2nd Grade NGAT
 - **September 15** - Back to School Night for parents of students in **grades K-2, 6-7 PM**
 - **September 21** - **NO SCHOOL**
 - **September 22** - Start with Hello Week Begins - **Wear House Colors!**
Watch DOGS Kickoff, 6 PM *Sign up using the QR code in the PTA Newsletter
 - **September 23** - **Wear Spirit Wear or School Colors**
 - **September 24** - [Fall Picture Day](#)
 - **September 25** - **Sand Shark** Unity Day - **Wear Red!** [Bruster's Ice Cream Spirit Night](#)
-

Sports Opportunities

Smith Sharks Softball - Fall Ball Registration is now Open and we need players to make enough Shark Teams! Email smithsharksoftball@gmail.com To access the required forms, click the links: [Athlete Information](#) and [Chesterfield Registration Form](#)

Evergreen Football - Since we don't have a football team, we are invited to play for Evergreen. They practice at our school so it's super convenient! To access information, click the link for the flyer: [Evergreen](#)