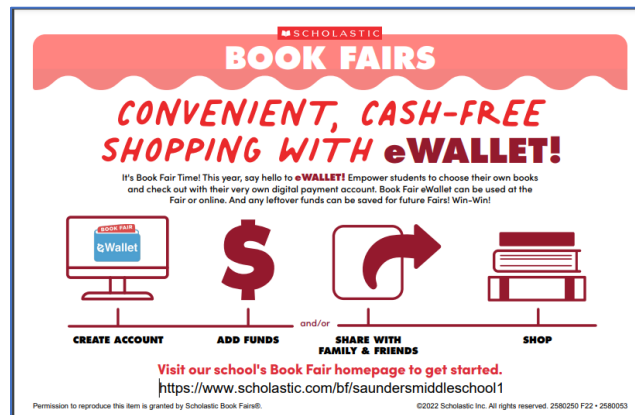


Dear Saunders Families,

I hope you are enjoying the month of March! We are quickly approaching Spring Break and the close of the 3rd quarter. Here are some important events and reminders:

1. **Girls Basketball and Wrestling:** Congratulations to our Wrestling and Girls Basketball teams on outstanding seasons.
 - o Varsity Girls Varsity Basketball was undefeated.
 - o Junior Varsity was 8-2.
 - o Our Wrestling team is 5-1 and will compete for the Regional Title at Gar-Field High School this Saturday!
2. **Earthquake Donation Drive:** Our students met the goal of over 200 items last week for earthquake victims in Turkey and Syria. On Monday of this week, students pried me in the face for reaching their goal!
3. **Saunders Book Fair:** The Book Fair will take place this week in the library. Dates will run in 3.20 - 3.28. See picture below for directions on how to set up e-wallet account and a link to the Saunders online fair.



4. **Fun Friday and School Dance:** March 31 is the PTSO/NJHS Fun Friday and School Dance. The theme of the dance will be "Dress as your Bestie Dance Party." There will be volleyball, basketball, and the dance party! Tickets will be sold by the PTSO in the cafeteria during lunches from 3.20 - 3.30. Tickets are \$3.
5. **Bus Safety and Behavior:** I have addressed students both in assemblies and morning announcements concerning bus safety and behaviors. Riding the bus to school is a privilege for students. Any student not following bus rules will receive consequences. Students failing to follow expectations may be removed from the bus for three days, one week, two weeks or an entire quarter. Please discuss with your student the importance of proper bus behaviors.

6. **Grades and Close of Quarter 3:** The last day of the third marking period is March 31. Middle school report cards will be mailed on April 19. Please make sure that you are checking ParentVUE to track student grades and missed assignments that need to be made up. The most accurate view of student grades is ParentVUE, not Canvas. If you need support navigating, please reach out to the front office 703-6709188. We will be happy to support.
7. **Safety/Behavior Updates:** This year at Saunders, we are making efforts to make our school environment safe and focused on learning. We have increased our security team and we are currently installing a new camera system. This system will be fully functioning in April. It is my first priority that your child is in a safe environment focused on learning. Most of our students are exhibiting positive and safe behaviors, however some students continue to make poor decisions that violate the Code of Behavior and compromise the safety of our school. We will follow the Code of Behavior and PWCS Regulations when issuing discipline for behaviors that interrupt a safe learning environment. Please speak with your student regarding consequences of breaking school rules and expectations. It is essential that we partner to keep the students safe at Saunders. Our goal is to be completely free of weapons, drugs, physical violence, or any behaviors that interrupt the learning environment. Every student deserves a positive safe school to attend.
8. **Attendance:** Make sure that your student is attending school every day. If your child must be out, have them bring a written excuse to the front office upon return to school. Currently our chronic absenteeism rate (18 or more days) is 14%. We can do better. Missing just two days a month—excused or unexcused—can add up to a child being considered chronically absent. Visit our [Attendance Family Resource Webpage](#) for more information on ways to support your student and make regular school attendance a priority.
9. **Asbestos Letter:** Attached to this communication is a letter from the division concerning asbestos checks that are completed annually at Saunders. This letter assures our families that our building is safe from asbestos.
10. **Summer Program for Sixth Grade:** We are planning to host a summer program for our new sixth graders for next year on August 8, 9, and 10. There will be more information to come.
11. **Spring Sports Tryouts:** This is a final reminder that all Spring tryouts begin 3.27. Students must have all paperwork (physical and concussion papers) in by 3.22. Contact the following coaches with questions:
 - Soccer - Mr. Baroz
 - Baseball - Mr. Holman
 - Softball - Ms. Lowry
 - Track - Mr. WRIGHTEN

This Week:

- March 20 - 28 - Book Fair
- 3.20 @ 5:15 pm - Girls Basketball vs. Hampton (home)
- 3.22 -
 - All paperwork (physical and concussion) must be turned in for Spring athletes.
 - Choir Assessment @ Manassas Park
 - Reading Field Test
- 3.25 @ 9:00 am - Wrestling Event - Central Regionals @ Gar-Field High School

Upcoming Events:

- 3.27 - Spring Tryouts begin for students
- 3.28 - Orchestra Pyramid Assessment @ Saunders
- 3.31 - PTO Fun Friday & Dance - End of Grading Period
- 3.31 - 4.10 - Spring Break!
- 4.10 - Teacher Workday
- 4.10 - 4.21 - Culture and Climate Survey
- 4.11 - Students Return to School
- 4.14 - School Assembly
- 4.18 @ 5:15 pm - Track Meet (home)
- 4.19 - Report Cards to Students
- 4.24 @ 5:15 pm - Softball, Soccer, Baseball (home)
- 4.28 @ 5:15 - Track Meet (home)

Mr. Jeremy Byrd

Principal

Saunders Middle School

byrdjw@pwcs.edu