

*2009– 2010 KMES*  
**HANDBOOK SUPPLEMENT**  
*Parent/Student Information*

*Kempsville Meadows*  
*Elementary*

**YOU CAN'T HIDE  
THAT LION CUB  
PRIDE!**



**VIRGINIA BEACH CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

A H E A D O F T H E C U R V E

[www.vbschools.com](http://www.vbschools.com)

*This handout is the Kempsville Meadows Elementary supplement to the VBCPS Elementary Parent/School Student Handbook. General information about citywide school policies, hours, attendance, grades, dress code, medication, student conduct, and other items is contained in the VBCPS Handbook. Please keep this supplement with the VBCPS Handbook to have a complete guide to your child's school.*

*(Handbook & Supplement available online at <http://www.kempsvillemeadowses.vbschools.com/>)*

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## KEMPSVILLE MEADOWS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**Can't Hide That Lion Cub Pride!**

736 Edwin Drive  
Virginia Beach, VA 23462



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### **PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE**

Welcome to Kempsville Meadows Elementary!

Ours is a school that's made great by the people who are here—and that includes you! Our teachers and staff are focused on connecting with every student and helping them learn in a caring and challenging environment. Our goal is to bring out the best in each of our students, helping each one be all they're capable of being as a 21<sup>st</sup>-century learner.

We hold high standards for our students' success—made possible by the combined efforts of the home and the school. We partner with all parents, encouraging them to continue to be involved in their children's' lives, help them with their homework, keep the lines of communication open with their child's teachers, and positively support the school.

Here are two specific ways you can show your involvement in this partnership:

**(1) Join the PTA** – This great organization of parents does many things each year to help our students and staff. We hope every adult in your family will be a “joining member” this year (for only \$4.00). PTA membership documents the high level of parent commitment to our school. Participate in the PTA fundraisers (or make tax-deductible donations to the KMES PTA) to help fund field trips and other PTA activities (over 92% of PTA funds come back to our school to help our students each year).

**(2) Be a Volunteer-in-Education (VIE)** – Our volunteers have donated literally thousands of hours to our school in working with students and helping teachers in a variety of ways. VIEs help during class trips or special presentations at school, and at special events. VIEs have also been a great help in our office and hallways during busy times of the year, assisting to extend a warm welcome to guests who arrive in our building. (If you have a business and would like to become one of our business partners, call the school and we'll put you in touch with our Partners-In-Education Coordinator.)

You can also be involved by serving on a PTA committee (more parents who step up to help make the work easier by sharing responsibilities among many). KMES benefits from your involvement and you will enjoy being a part of the “many hands” that make this school a great place!

This school year promises to be another exciting one! Our Lion Cub mascot identifies our “*pride*” and looks ahead to providing great learning for each student. We are privileged to be assisted in this endeavor by an outstanding support staff as we work together with our students in a beautiful school building! Thanks for your support as we learn together!

Sincerely,

Mr. Douglas S. Daughtry  
Principal

## KEMPSVILLE MEADOWS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

At KMES, we work with our students, teachers, administrators, parents, and the community to help all children achieve their maximum potential.

To accomplish our vision of providing education that will most benefit our students, we utilize available data and feedback from students, teachers, administrators, parents, and the community. We keep current with best instructional practices and hold ourselves and our students accountable to the highest standards—we continuously improve instruction to help our students.

We want each child to understand that he/she is unique. We promote a warm and inviting atmosphere that enhances student achievement in a safe and orderly learning environment.

We have knowledgeable, enthusiastic, caring teachers and staff members who are dedicated to connecting with each student to promote learning for each individual child. We consider each student's development and respect their individuality. We believe optimal learning takes place for each child when the school, home, and community work together for the student's good.

### **Communication:**

Our goal is to keep our parents well informed. Watch for regular updates from your child's teacher/s and administration, plus items from the PTA.

Our school website is the quickest way to access information. Each teacher also maintains a web page that is updated regularly. Teachers' and administrators' e-mail addresses are available. Access the KMES website at [kempsvillemeadowses.vbschools.com](http://kempsvillemeadowses.vbschools.com) (or through [vbschools.com](http://vbschools.com): click links to "Elementary Schools" then "Kempsville Meadows").

We encourage all our school families to sign up for MySchoolMail, which automatically sends KMES information to your e-mail inbox. Subscribe to each link in the list on the sign-up page to get all available school information.

To subscribe to additional division-wide online subscriptions such as School Closings, Cancellations & Emergencies, Apple-A-Day newsletter, lunch menus, and other helpful school information, sign up at [vbschools x-tra](http://vbschools.com/x-tra).

The VBCPS website also gives you details about the Virginia Beach school system, and contains links to other sites, such as the Virginia Department of Education (which has important educational information, including the Virginia Standards of Learning, Standards of Accreditation, and the federal No Child Left Behind/NCLB legislation).

**AlertNow** is a powerful and convenient notification system that allows the school division to send important information quickly to your phone and/or e-mail account about emergency situations such as school delays or cancellations due to inclement weather. At the school level, it will also allow us to remind you about various events and circumstances such as report card distribution, open house, delayed buses, class field trips, and more. Answers to questions about **AlertNow** can be accessed on the school division's Web site [www.vbschools.com](http://www.vbschools.com) by selecting the link found under the section *Your Favorite Pages* on the home page.

If you need to contact your child's teacher, you can phone 474-8435 and leave a message for the call to be returned. Teachers and administration are also available via e-mail. (Please allow up to 24 hours for a response.)

### **Kempsville Meadows School Planning Council (SPC):**

The Kempsville Meadows Elementary SPC is comprised of parents and staff members selected to serve a two-year term. To provide continuity, Council members' terms overlap. Selection of new members takes place in the spring for memberships becoming vacant in fall of the new school year.

#### **SPC members for school year 2009-2010:**

Natasha Brown, Parent	Janice Deur, KM Speech Pathologist
Kathryn Callahan, Parent	Deanna Moretz, Library-Media Specialist
Dawn Hazzis, PTA Pres. & Parent	Donna Faison, Sch. Improvement Coord.* & Guidance Counselor
Anna Little, Parent	Christine Goodman, Academic Coord.* & Reading Specialist
Mitzi White, Parent	Virginia Penn, Math Coach*

Valerie Cason-Williamston, Asst. Principal\*    Douglas Daughtry, Principal\*

*\* Indicates member of the School Leadership Team*

Meetings are open to parents and community. Watch for meeting dates and times in school/PTA newsletters.

### **Kempsville Meadows' Plan for Continuous Improvement:**

Beginning in 2009-2010, KMES will begin refining our Plan for Continuous Improvement (PCI) to reflect the School Board's strategic plan, "Compass to 2015." As this supplement is being written, our current mission and goals are:

**Mission Statement:**    The mission of Kempsville Meadows Elementary School, in cooperation with students, teachers, administrators, parents, and the community, is continuous improvement in the learning environment for all children to achieve their maximum potential.

- School Goals:**
1. Increase student performance pass rates by at least 5% in Math by the end of the school year.
  2. Increase minority student SOL Test performance pass rates by at least 10% in Math by the end of the school year.
  3. Continue to reduce drop-out potential through follow-up of excessive student absences and tardies to maintain 95% or better attendance for current school year.

To address our students' learning needs and implement "best practice" methods for attaining our goals, the details of our plan are fine-tuned each year by the KMES Principal's Advisory Committee and School Planning Council in cooperation with teaching staff. Student learning results are monitored through analysis of achievement data in regular common planning times, and adjustments to our practices are implemented as needed.

### **Preparation for School:**

Every school day is vital in the life of each student. Students simply cannot learn when they are not here. Late arrivals, early pick-ups, and other absences result in students missing vital learning opportunities that cannot be duplicated.

Please make every effort to have your child/ren here each school day on time (arrive as early as 8:10, but no later than 8:25 a.m.) and remain through the end of instruction at 3:00 p.m. Practice punctuality to help students see that you, Parent or Guardian, value the importance of their education.

When your child leaves for school each morning, please make sure that he/she has everything necessary for a successful school day. Items such as books, paper, pencils, signed notes, and lunch money are often forgotten. (Please note that KMES lunches and breakfasts can be purchased ahead of time by check. Specialty items are also available for sale to students at lunch each day. Details are available online and from our Cafeteria Manager.)

All personal belongings should be properly marked so they can be easily identified and returned to the owner.

### **Lost and Found:**

Each year, we collect a large number of "lost" articles of clothing and other items, including coats, hats, gloves, lunch boxes, purses, etc., whose owners cannot be identified. "Found" items with no identification on them are kept at the school for short while to allow for retrieval. If not claimed, they are donated to a local charity.

Please help your child keep track of his/her items by labeling them so they may be easily identified and returned.

### **Student Absence:**

Student absences are governed by Virginia Code (22.1-258). Please notify the school (474-8435) if your child is sick or will not be attending class due to other reasons. (Unverified absences eventually become "unexcused.")

For your convenience, an answering machine is available for leaving messages prior to 7:30 a.m. and after 4:00 p.m. Child safety laws in Virginia require schools to make a reasonable effort to contact the parents of any student whose absence has not been reported to the school, so expect a call from us if you haven't already provided notification.

Your child's teacher will inform you of any work that needs to be made up because of the absence. Teachers' responsibilities make it difficult to provide individual homework assignments and makeup work before the end of the school day. Arrangements can generally be made to pick up assignments in the office between 3:15 and 3:30 p.m. or to have them sent home with another student. Please contact your child's teacher for homework details.

### **Partners-in-Education:**

Partnerships are designed to link schools and the school division with business, military, or other public/private agencies to enrich the division's academic program and benefit partners through greater community involvement with the schools. Instruction at individual schools is strengthened through the talent, ideas, and special human resources that can be provided by participating "partner" organizations.

Call the school to get in touch with our Partners-in-Education Coordinator.

### **Assignment To Classes:**

Kindergarten classes are conducted in half-day sessions (a.m. or p.m.).

Students in grades K, 1, 2, 3, and 5 are assigned to self-contained, mixed-ability classes in which one teacher has responsibility for providing the majority of instruction. We believe this class structure enhances parent/teacher communications and provides an atmosphere that minimizes stress and uncertainty for students.

Students in grades 4 are taught in mixed-ability classes within a team structure—students spend half of the day with each teacher on the team. Each teacher instructs students in specific subjects and provides the grades for those disciplines.

We have cluster classes in each grade 2 through 5 for identified gifted students. Additionally, all KMES teachers are trained in gifted teaching methods (differentiated instruction) to help meet needs at all ability levels.

### **Student Activities:**

Kempsville Meadows Elementary School takes pride in its Student Council Association (SCA). The SCA is an exercise in government that provides students with a greater understanding of our democratic process. The SCA sponsors student elections, skating parties, donations to the Joy Fund (sponsored by the *Pilot* newspaper), and a number other fun student activities.

Depending on their grade level, students have the opportunity to serve on the student newspaper staff and participate in other school activities. Fifth grade students may apply to serve on our safety patrol.

Students in grades 4 and 5 may audition for the school chorus. The school division also offers a class in strings during the school day to students in Grade 5 (strings students cannot participate in chorus due to scheduling).

Assembly programs are arranged throughout the year and are designed to expand general knowledge and to develop a greater appreciation for various art forms. Parents and younger siblings are invited to attend all assembly programs.

The school enjoys a close relationship with the City Parks and Recreation Department, who sponsors activities and team sports for youngsters in the community. Please contact Virginia Beach Parks and Recreation at 471-5884 for information relative to programs and sign-up procedures.

**Parent Teacher Association:**

Membership and participation in the Kempsville Meadows Elementary School Parent Teacher Association (PTA) tangibly demonstrates your interest in your child's education. Kempsville Meadows students and staff benefit from the on-going support and activities of our PTA. Meetings are held on designated Mondays at 7:00 p.m., or special dinner event on another designated week night at 6:00 p.m. The PTA sponsors various programs such as the Reflections Contest and other fun activities during the year. A calendar of school and PTA events is sent home monthly to keep you informed of opportunities to participate in our school community. Your presence is valued and greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any PTA officer by e-mail, by phone, or by note at the school office.

**Kempsville Meadows PTA Officers for 2009-2010:**

President – Dawn Hazzis 965-2202 [dawn@hazzis.com](mailto:dawn@hazzis.com)  
Vice Pres., Programs – Rachel Smith 286-0857 [rachel.smith927@yahoo.com](mailto:rachel.smith927@yahoo.com)  
Vice Pres., Membership – Anna Little 963-0824 [annadavislittle@mac.com](mailto:annadavislittle@mac.com)  
Rec'ding. Sec – Anne Warrick 467-2548 [annewarrick@verizon.net](mailto:annewarrick@verizon.net)  
Treasurer – Dottie Rowell 467-4494

### **Transportation:**

Kempsville Meadows has **no walking zone**, so all students should ride their designated school bus to and from school. School bus routes serving each KMES neighborhood are available on the VBCPS website (vbschools.com), in addition to being published in the *Pilot Beacon* newspaper in late August.

(Please see the VBCPS handbook for other important transportation information.)

***For your child's safety, any requested change to your child's usual bus riding plan requires a note no later than 1 hour before dismissal.***

The bus-loading zone (see diagram, page "H") is supervised by staff, and is used only for the arrival and departure of school buses and for staff parking throughout the day. Private vehicles are not permitted in the "bus loop" (by Larkspur Swim Club) between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on school days (or at other designated times—look for signs).

**Please observe designated "No Parking" and "Reserved" areas.  
Our parking is limited.**

### **Dropping Students Off/Picking Students Up:**

***Parents are encouraged to have their children ride the school bus to and from school each day, due to limited space for traffic and parking.*** If students arrive for the start of school in a private vehicle, they must be dropped off **only** in the supervised drop-off area in the west parking lot. Arrangements for students being picked up at the end of the school day can also be made.

***For safety, any change to your child's usual plan for leaving school must be received in writing (signed by parent/guardian only; hand-deliver, fax: 474-8489, or e-mail) at least 1 hour before dismissal (no verbal changes).***

**For ARRIVAL: 8:10 – 8:25 a.m.** (so the student can get to class by the 8:30 tardy bell)

Pull in to the west parking lot and drive counter-clockwise (see diagram) to let students off by the doors to the art room (orange hall). Follow staff directions and do not block/delay others. **If your child cannot get to his/her class by the 8:30 bell, you must park in a designated parking space (visitor lot in front or staff lot on caf. side of school) and accompany the student to the office to sign them in to get them a pass for admission to class.**

For safety reasons, ***do NOT let students off on the roadway, across the street or driveway, or in any unsupervised area.***

**For DEPARTURE: 3:00 p.m.** (all students are dismissed at this time)

Students who are being picked up at dismissal can be sent to the daily student pick-up area at the front foyer if the parent gives advance notice. (This notice can be for a set period, or for the school year.) **Please note that students must be picked up at 3:00. All parents/drivers picking up students must park in a designated parking space (visitor lot in front or staff lot on caf. side of school), walk to the foyer, show picture identification, and sign the student/s out from the pick-up area. Any adult who arrives to pick up students must be authorized in writing by the parent/guardian to do so.**

For their safety, *students will NOT be sent out to a waiting vehicle, nor be left outside to wait for their ride.*

**To avoid confusion, we will not take the child's word that he/she is to leave school on a different bus, with another child, or in a different vehicle. We must receive information from a parent.**

**KEMPSVILLE MEADOWS ELEMENTARY  
PARKING, OFFICE, AND MAIN ENTRANCE LOCATOR**

