



# The Puma Blast



Short Pump Middle School: The School with P.**R.I.D.E.** and **Heart**  
Vol. 3, Issue 14: December 17, 2018-January 4, 2019

Puma Families, this Puma Blast will encompass the last school week of 2018 and the first of 2019. We hope you have a wonderful and safe winter break.



## This Week's Events

### December 17

Orchestra Concert @ 7PM  
Basketball @ QMS, 4:45PM

### December 18

Band Concert @ 7PM  
Wrestling vs. TMS; basketball @ TMS, 4:45PM

### December 19

The last day of school before break will be a FULL day.

## Mr. McAuley's Selfie of the Week



Mrs. McCarter's and Ms. Meredith's class proved it isn't a 'stretch' to combine math and yoga. Students held poses as they thought critically to solve problems.

## Daily Announcements

Keep up-to-date with the daily school announcements! Click [HERE](#) to view them.

## Looking to the Future

January 8: Wrestling @ QMS; basketball vs. QMS  
January 10: Basketball vs WMS  
January 15: Chipotle Spirit Night  
January 16: Writing Benchmark (all students) through Puma Den

## Help Out Our School!

-Link your Kroger Card to SPMS to help SPMS help our students!

**How to link your Kroger Plus Card:** 1) Visit [www.Kroger.com/CommunityRewards](http://www.Kroger.com/CommunityRewards) and click Sign In. 2) Once logged in, select I'm a Customer/View Details. 3) Search for Short Pump Middle School by name. 4) Select Short Pump Middle School and click Enroll.

## Specialty Centers

The window to apply is open and has been open since November. **The application window closes on January 11, 2019.**

Click [HERE](#) or visit <https://henricoschools.us/specialty-centers/> for more information about the Speciality Center process, among other items.

## School Counseling

Need information about IB/ Specialty Centers/ Governor's School? Want to know what services school counselors provide? Need tips, strategies and resources to help your child to be successful? The SPMS School Counseling team has a new website! Parents and students can access information about programs and the various ways we serve the SPMS community. Visit the site [HERE!](#)

## The Sports Authority

If inclement weather is forecasted, the following link will be updated by 2 P.M. each day:  
<https://tinyurl.com/spmssportsupdates>

## Principal Advisory Committee

Once a month during lunch, Mr. McAuley will be meeting with student representatives (8-10) from each grade level. This will be an opportunity for students to discuss important topics such as inclusion, bullying, homework, athletics, school events, and the overall culture and climate of SPMS. There are NO prerequisites to attend; however, a willingness to share opinions and to listen to the ideas of others in a respectful manner is required. If a student is interested in being a part of this leadership PACK, she/he should see Mrs. Weir in the office to pick up a form. As part of this form, the student needs to include a brief statement as to why they would like to be on the committee. Two slices of pizza, a small dessert, lemonade and bottled water will be provided by the school on meeting dates (students may bring their own food/drink if they prefer).



## Let's Keep It Safe, Pumas!

For the month of January, there will be various safety drills, including:

- Fire Drill
- Lockdown Drill



## OVER THE BREAK...

Remember, it's important for students to relax, unwind, and unplug. You all deserve this time!



## Winter Music Concerts

**Orchestra-** The orchestra concert has been rescheduled for Monday, December 17th @ 7PM (SPMS). Participating students should arrive at 5:15 for rehearsal.

**Band-** The band concert will occur Tuesday, December 18th @ 7PM (SPMS). Participating students should follow the following arrival time schedule:

- Jazz Band @ 6:15PM
- Advanced Band @ 6:30PM
- Beginning Band @ 6:45PM.



## PTA Corner

-When ordering pizzas, you can also help SPMS PTSA earn money by ordering from Papa Johns and using the promo code SPMS when you check out online.

-To join, volunteer, donate, and more, click [HERE](#).

-Upcoming Spirit Nights

- Tuesday, January 15th Chipotle (near the mall)
- Thursday, Feb. 7th Red Robin
- Monday, March 11th BWWings 4-8pm
- Saturday, March 23rd Skate Nation 2-4pm

## Message from the Library

- Thank you to everyone who supported the library by shopping at Barnes and Noble.
- The January book club meeting will take place on January 30. January's genre is graphic novel or manga. Winter break is a great time to start reading your book for book club.
- Please look around the house for library books that may be "just hanging around" and get those back to the library as soon as possible.



## Maggie Walker Governor's School

The process for applying to the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School is through an online application in PowerSchool. If your student did not receive a letter or you do not see the MLWGS application as an option when you log in to PowerSchool, please review the "Criteria for Applying" document on the web [HERE](#) for further information. If your student does not meet the criteria listed but would like to be considered as an applicant, parents are required to write a letter and submit it as soon as possible, as there will be a deadline determined. If you feel like your student met the requirements and did not receive a letter, please contact Mrs. Mayo, 8th grade School Counselor, as soon as possible at (804) 364-0837 or [jcsmayo@henrico.k12.va.us](mailto:jcsmayo@henrico.k12.va.us).

## Specialty Center Applications

It's that time of year! HCPS Specialty Center Applications for students entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade during the 2019-2020 school year (current 8<sup>th</sup> grade students) are available now. For specific information, click [HERE](#).

## Library News and Notes

- January Book Club: January 30<sup>th</sup>. Genre: graphic novel/manga
- Help support your library! Send in your Box Tops for Education to the library or drop them off in the front office. Every one counts. Thank you!!!

