

**SAMUEL TUCKER ELEMENTARY**  
**STRONGER AS A TEAM**  
**BRIGHTER AS A SCHOOL**  
**PARENT HANDBOOK 24-25**



**Adaarama Kelly, Principal**  
**Tiana Dominick, Assistant Principal**  
**Jerylen Daniels, Assistant Principal**

# ***Important school information for parents with children that attend Samuel W. Tucker Elementary School***

ACPS is about equity, empowerment, and inspiring students to thrive. Therefore, ACPS places racial equity at the center of everything we do as a school division. This challenges us to ensure our students are engaged in classroom instruction and have access to the educational resources needed to enhance their learning experiences.

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>ADMINISTRATORS' MESSAGE</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>HISTORY OF SAMUEL W. TUCKER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>MISSION AND VISION OF ACPS</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>SAMUEL W. TUCKER VISION STATEMENT</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>TUCKER AFFIRMATION</b>	<b>6</b>
77	
<b>CONTACT US</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>GENERAL INFORMATION</b>	
Important Dates for the School Year	9
Arrival at School	10
Hours of Operation	10
Attendance Policy and State Law	11-12
Before and After School Services and Activities	12
Dismissal Procedures	13
Emergency Announcements	14
Moment of Silence	15
Dress Code	15
Grouping	15
Home-School Communication	15
Course Assignments	16
Breakfast and Lunch	16
Outside Food in the Cafeteria	16
Birthday Celebrations in Classrooms	17
Lost and Found	17
Parent-Teacher Association (PTA)	17
Progress Reports	17-18
Conferences	18
Quarterly Recognition Programs	19
Visiting the School	20
Playground Safety	20
Volunteers	20

**ADMINISTRATORS' MESSAGE**  
**SAMUEL W. TUCKER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

435 Ferdinand Day Drive, Alexandria, VA 22304 Office: 703-933-6300 Fax: 703-212-8465

July 2024

Dear Samuel Tucker Elementary School Families,

Welcome to the 2024-2025 school year! We are thrilled to embark on this journey together, embracing our theme: "Stronger as a Team, Brighter as a School." This year, we are dedicated to fostering a supportive and inclusive community where every student can shine and succeed.

At Samuel Tucker Elementary, we believe that teamwork is the foundation of our success. By working together—students, parents, teachers, and staff—we create a vibrant and enriching environment where everyone thrives. Our commitment to collaboration ensures that each student receives the support and encouragement they need to reach their full potential.

Enclosed in this handbook, you will find important information to help you navigate the school year smoothly. These sections contain essential guidelines and policies to ensure the safety, well-being, and academic success of our students. Please take the time to review them carefully and discuss them with your children.

We encourage you to stay actively involved in your child's education and the school community. Your participation in school events, PTA meetings, and volunteer opportunities makes a significant difference and strengthens the bond between home and school.

As we move forward into this exciting new school year, remember that together, we are stronger and brighter. Let us inspire and support one another, fostering a community where every student can flourish.

Thank you for being a vital part of our Samuel Tucker Elementary family. We look forward to a fantastic year ahead!

Proudly Yours,

Adaarema S. Kelly

## **HISTORY OF SAMUEL W. TUCKER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Samuel W. Tucker Elementary School opened its doors to our students and families on September 5th, 2000. This was a milestone event in the city of Alexandria, as Tucker Elementary was the first new school to be built in more than thirty years.

During the summer of 1999, a School Board appointed School Naming Committee recommended that the school be named in honor of Samuel Wilbert Tucker (1913-1990), a distinguished lawyer and civil rights activist who was born and raised in Alexandria. On November 16th, 1999, the School Board voted unanimously to name our school Samuel W. Tucker Elementary School. It is a name that all Tucker students and staff members are proud to have. All of our students learn about Samuel W. Tucker during the first few weeks of school.

On October 19th, 2000, the tenth anniversary of Mr. Tucker's death, Samuel W. Tucker Elementary School was officially dedicated. School Board Chairman Steve Kenealy expressed confidence that Tucker Elementary will live up to the grand expectations of the man for whom it is named. "It's a school that brims with excellence and grand hope for the future, as well as educates and celebrates children from all walks of life." Following his remarks, Dr. Kenealy, Dr. Berg (superintendent), and Mrs. Elsie Thomas, Samuel Tucker's sister, unveiled the portrait of Mr. Tucker that still hangs in the entryway of the school.

## Mission and Vision of ACPS

Alexandria City Public Schools has pledged to provide an equitable, high quality education which is accessible and engaging to all students in a five-year strategic plan approved by the Alexandria City School Board on June 26, 2020.

Equity For All 2025 is a bold and courageous roadmap that is timely and will position ACPS as a national leader in redefining PreK-12 education as a deliberately inclusive and supportive experience where all succeed.

Going forward, racial equity will be at the center of every decision that the school division will make.

The plan's **mission** is to ensure success by inspiring students and addressing barriers to learning.

The plan's **vision** is: *Empowering all students to thrive in a diverse and ever-changing world.*

**ACPS 2025:** *Equity for All has five core values that ensure ACPS is **Welcoming, Empowering, Equity-Focused, Innovative** and **Results-Driven**.*

*In addition, it has five primary strategic goals: Systemic Alignment; Instructional Excellence; Student Accessibility and Support; Strategic Resource Allocation; and Family and Community Engagement.*

[2025 Strategic Plan: Equity for All \(PDF\)](#)

## Samuel W. Tucker Vision Statement

Samuel W. Tucker Elementary School is a model learning community where all members of the community are committed to the achievement of high academic standards and the positive nurturing of young people. Our children learn in an atmosphere that celebrates their diversity while honoring their individuality. The potential of each Samuel Tucker Student is maximized through participation in an instructional program that is based on research, proven best practices, and data informed decisions.

### Core Beliefs

The following beliefs shape our values and define our vision as well as our daily practices:

- **We believe** each student can achieve academic success with the right support, motivation, and love.
- **We believe** meaningful learning takes place in a positive, orderly, nurturing, and student-centered environment.
- **We believe** our diversity enriches our learning environment, and we value the richness that this diversity brings.
- **We believe** teamwork among teachers, staff members, and parents is vital to achieving success in our educational program.
- **We believe** open and transparent communication supports trust, accountability, and growth.
- **We embrace** a friendly, welcoming environment for all who walk through our doors.

<b>SCHOOL MASCOT</b>	The Tucker Tiger
<b>SCHOOL COLORS</b>	Green, Blue and Orange
<b>SCHOOL MOTTO</b>	A Proud Tradition...A Great Future

# Tucker Affirmation

I am Brave, Important  
Capable and Smart  
Confident, Unstoppable  
A Tiger who has heart!



# SAMUEL W. TUCKER BEHAVIOR CODE

Samuel W. Tucker Elementary School staff believes that all students learn better in a well-disciplined, structured environment where school-wide standards are explicitly taught and positively reinforced. It is expected that all students will follow these standards. To achieve this, students are given opportunities to practice appropriate behavior in all situations and are held responsible for their own actions. Students are recognized through our school's PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports) framework. **No students are permitted to prevent others from learning.**

## Standards of Conduct:

Tucker Tigers are:

- R. resilient
- O. on time
- A. accountable
- R. respectful
- S. safe

## Incentives for Appropriate Classroom Behavior:

- Tiger Tickets – Caught-Being-Good coupons redeemable for prizes
- Class Dojo points
- Classroom Reward/Incentive Programs
- Quarterly Citizenship & Super Effort Awards
- Daily, Weekly, Monthly, Quarterly, and Annual PBIS award recognition
- Annual Samuel W. Tucker Award

## Corrective Action/Progressive Discipline:

- Loss of privileges
- Notes on Daily Assignment Sheet/Parent Phone Call
- SST Conference/Intervention
- Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Reteaching of Expectations
- Restorative Conversations
- Restitution when appropriate
- In-school or out of school suspension as aligned with ACPS guidelines

## The Big Three:

For any of the following "BIG 3" offenses, children may/will be referred to the office of an administrator if further disciplinary action, beyond the teacher's actions, is required:

- A student shows blatant disrespect to an adult in the building.
- A student uses inappropriate and foul language at school.
- A student physically harms another in anger.

*Please note: The behavior code at Samuel W. Tucker Elementary school is based on the Alexandria City Public Schools 2021-2022, "Student Code of Conduct Grades K-12", listed on the ACPS website.*





**Samuel Tucker**

Main Office: 703-933-6300  
Health Room / Clinic 703-933-6307  
Tucker Campagna Kids: 703-751-1752  
Campagna Center - Main Office: 703-549-0111  
One-Kick: 703-751-0000  
Patrick Henry Recreation: 703-746-5557

**PTA Slate of Officers:**

President Shaina Gaines  
Treasurer Tony Benson  
Secretary Sarah Walsh  
VP of Communications Matthew Berger  
VP of Events Amy Mathis  
VP of Education & Teacher Appreciation Jen Hurst  
VP of Fundraising Molly Hall

For general questions or information, please email the PTA:

**PTABoard@TuckerTigersPTA.org**

Please Note: PTA General Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month. This will begin in September 2024.

**Alexandria City Public Schools**

General Information 703-619-8000  
Family Information - call or text  
(Spanish/English) 703-619-8055  
(Amharic/English) 703-927-6866  
Emergency Hotline 703-866-5300  
Transportation 703-461-4169  
Superintendent's Office 703-619-8001  
Food Services 703-619-8048  
ACPS TV Cable Channel 71

**GENERAL INFORMATION**



**Important Dates for the start of the school year:**

July 19 Step Up to Kindergarten  
Grades 1-5 Open House 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM  
July 22 First Day of School  
August 1 @ 6:00pm Family Picnic (Rain Date: Thursday, August 8<sup>th</sup>)  
August 13 @ 6:30pm Back To School Night - 1st-3rd Grades

**August 14**

August 15 @ 6:30pm  
August 28 @ 6:00pm

**August 30**

**September 2**

**No School for Students**

**(Teacher Professional Development Day)**

Back to School Night - K, 4th, & 5th Grades  
Annual Title 1 Night & PTA Meeting  
(Dinner Served)

**Labor Day - No School for Students**

**Labor Day - No School for Students**

**Extended Learning/Intersession:**

The dates for this school year will be the following:

**October 14-25, 2024**

**April 1-11, 2025**

With the adoption of the Fiscal Year 2025 budget, the ACPS Board of Education approved funding for the following fee structure:

**Eligible Free/Reduced Lunch Participants (EBT & SNAP Eligible)** -\$10 for each two-week session

**Full Pay Participants**-\$125 for each two-week session

All students are strongly encouraged to participate in Extended Learning Time opportunities. Each day will focus on both acceleration and enrichment. The acceleration portion of the day will be used to preview the curriculum for the following grading period. The other portion of the day will be focused on improving student achievement in literacy and mathematics through enrichment activities.

**Back to School Forms: Parents, please complete all Back to School Forms.**

## Arrival at School

**Walkers:** All students walking to school will be directed to walk along the townhouses to the gym entrance to avoid congestion at the Parent Drop off doors.

**Parent Drop-Off:** Parents driving their children to school are asked to use the **Parent Drop-Off** area at the Ferdinand Day Drive entrance when dropping students off in the morning. **Please do not leave your car unattended in the Kiss and Ride (Parent Pick up) area, as this is also a Fire Lane, and no parking is allowed. Please do not park along the fence by the big field.**

**Kindergarten Drop-Off:** All parents dropping off Kindergarten students should do so at the Kindergarten Playground.

**Bus Loop:** The bus loop is located on Cameron Station BLVD and is exclusively for buses. Cars are not permitted to stop or park in the bus loop at any time.

**Late Arrivals:** **Please park your car in the parking lot area and walk your child into the building if you arrive at or after 8:00 a.m.** Children who are tardy to school must be signed in with the attendance clerk by the parent or guardian. Please use our computer sign-in station.

**Walkers and Bike Riders in the Cameron Station Neighborhood:** Our students living within a 1-mile radius of the school and in the Cameron Station neighborhood may walk or ride a bike to school.

Residents living on the South side of Cameron Station Blvd are encouraged to walk on the street and follow it down to Tucker. Residents living on the North side of the street are encouraged to stay on the North side until reaching the crossing guard at Picosin Lane and Cameron Station Blvd., where they can safely cross to the South side of the street. Bike riders should use the bike path, while walkers use the community sidewalks. An additional crossing guard will be stationed on Ferdinand Day Drive to facilitate students crossing the street to the cafeteria entrance. Staff members will also assist walkers in this area.

## Hours of Operation

**Regular school hours** are 8:00 a.m. to 2:35 p.m.

**Classrooms** open at 7:45 a.m.

All students must be seated in their classrooms by 8:00 a.m. Academic instruction begins promptly at 8:00 a.m.

**Breakfast:** Breakfast is from 7:40 a.m. until 8:00 a.m.

**Early Dismissal School Days:** School hours are 8:00 a.m. until 12:35 p.m.

## Attendance Policy and State Law

Poor school attendance often results in less than satisfactory academic progress. Therefore, we strongly discourage families from taking vacations during school days. Every absence impacts your child and their classroom, and extended absences have been shown to harm a student's education. Consistent and punctual attendance is key in ensuring a child's academic success. Please help us help your child succeed in school by:

- Sending your child to school on time every day, unless they are have a temperature of over 100°F, are vomiting, or have diarrhea;
- Scheduling family vacations and travel around the school calendar;
- Scheduling doctor and dental appointments around school hours;

Parents, please verify with your child's teacher that your child has completed all "missed work."

Parents, please try to notify the main office of your child's absence by 8:30 a.m. Send a written note explaining the absence to their child's teacher when they return to school.

**Excused absences** are granted for two reasons: **illness and family emergencies**. In each instance the absence must be verified with a note from parents or guardians when the child returns to school. Absences for any other reason are considered unexcused.

<b>There is no expectation that teachers provide work during a planned absence.</b>
---

**Excused absences:** Per the **Virginia Administrative Code (8 VAC 20-730-10)**, student absences may be excused pending verification from the parent/guardian or another designated professional. Examples of excused absences may include but are not limited to the following conditions:

- a. Medical Illnesses (Physical or Mental). A principal must request that documentation from a physician be provided after the student has accrued three consecutive absences or ten or more absences within a given school year.
- b. Medical and dental examinations.
- c. Observance of a religious holiday.
- d. Student court hearings.
- e. Students who have been approved to participate in school-sponsored activities (inside and outside the school building).
- f. Students who have been assigned In-School (ISS), Alternate Instructional Support (AIS) Center, or Out-of-School Suspension (OSS).
- g. Family emergencies (loss of a loved one, unexpected residence dislocation, critical injuries to family members, etc.). Parents/guardians are expected to plan extended travel and vacation days around ACPS scheduled breaks and approved holidays.
- h. ACPS transportation services-related delays.
- i. Civic Engagement for secondary students (one school day per school year).

**Pre-Arranged Excused Absences Pre-Arranged Absences:** Request Forms may be submitted in specific situations. Examples of activities that may constitute a pre-arranged excused absence include, (with documentation), but are not limited to:

- a. Visitation with family members deployed in the US Military and Armed Forces
- b. Visitation with incarcerated caregivers
- c. Appointments with military recruiters
- d. Appointments with college/university admissions departments,
- e. School students, ages 12 and under, who cannot be left at home alone/unsupervised while a parent/guardian is on professional travel for employment-related activities.

Pre-Arranged Absences Request Forms must be submitted **at least five days prior** to the scheduled absence, and advance approval of each pre-arranged absence must be granted by the school administration. In addition, documentation of a student's participation in the above noted activities must be provided no later than three days after the event is complete.

**Please Note:** After 15 consecutive days of absences (excused and unexcused), your child's placement at Tucker will be lost. Re-registration will be required in order to return to school, in which your child might be placed on our waiting list.

### **Before and After School Services and Activities**

**Extended day care** is available through the Campagna Center, One-Kick Martial Arts and Patrick Henry Recreation. Children are supervised in the cafeteria from 7:00 a.m. to 7:40 a.m. and again from 2:35 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. For more information about these programs, please contact them at:

- **Campagna Kids:** 703-549-0111.
- **One-Kick Martial Arts:** 703-751-0000
- **Patrick Henry Recreation:** 703-746-5557

### **After School Activities**

The Tucker PTA will offer after school programming twice a year. Additionally, after school academic support will be offered to selected students. Afternoon activity buses provide transportation home at the conclusion of the activity.



## Dismissal Procedures

School is dismissed at 2:35 PM

Early dismissal time is 12:35 PM

### Parent Pick-Up:

Parents who pick their children up in the afternoon, please park your cars in the school parking lot or at Booth Park and come to the Pavillion. Students will exit from the Gym doors. Kindergarten student pick-up is located at the Kindergarten playground beginning at 2:35.

### Bus Loop:

The bus loop is located on Cameron Station Blvd and is **exclusively** for buses. Cars are not permitted to stop or park in the bus loop at any time.

### Change in Pick-Up time for your child(ren):

Early dismissals are disruptive to classroom instruction, learning, and the staff preparing for a quick and safe dismissal. If you need to pick up your child early because of an appointment, please send a note or message to your child's teacher, phone the main office, or email us **before 12pm** whenever you need to pick your child up before 2:35 p.m. or whenever you need to change your child's after school plans. We will not and **do not** accept change in dismissal from students. Change in dismissal procedures **MUST** be in writing or with a phone call. Your child will be called when you arrive. We suggest arriving 10 minutes prior to when you need to leave to give your child time to collect their belongings and leave class. We cannot have your child waiting in the office for you.

**Regular established dismissal procedures will still be followed if any calls to the school to change those plans are past 12pm.**

**Anyone picking up a student from the school must be listed on the student's emergency profile in PowerSchool and must provide a photo ID.**

## Dismissal Tags for our Kindergartners

**According to Alexandria City Schools policy, kindergartners** will receive a **green sticker** bus label indicating that they are **Kindergarten** or "**K**" students. This sticker label will alert the bus driver that an adult must meet the child at the bus stop for pick up **DAILY**. If no parent or guardian is present to receive the kindergarten child, the child will be returned to the school; the child's parent will be contacted to pick up their child.



### Emergency Announcements

In an emergency, you may check the following communication networks for school closings, schedule changes, and frequent updates beginning at 6:00 a.m. You may

also subscribe to an email service, ACPS E-News, that will deliver the latest information and emergency announcements directly to your email address at home or work. To subscribe, simply log onto our website and click on ACPS E-News.

Television Channels	Radio
WRC-Channel 4 WTTG-Channel 5 WJLA-Channel 7 News24-Channel 8 WUSA-Channel 9 ACPS Cable TV-Channel 71	WMAL-1600 AM WTOP-103.5 FM
ACPS Website <a href="http://www.acps.k12.va.us">www.acps.k12.va.us</a>	ACPS Emergency Hotline 703-866-5300

**During delays, students should report to school at the following times:**

<b>One-hour delay</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>
<b>Two-hour delay</b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>

### **Delays for Bus Riders**

**1-hour delay:** Arrive at your bus stop one hour later than usual. For example, if your bus typically arrives at 7:20am, you should arrive at your child's bus stop at 8:20 a.m.

**2-hour delay:** Arrive at your bus stop two hours later than usual. For example, if your bus typically arrives at 7:20am, you should arrive at your child's bus stop at 9:20 a.m. Inclement weather will occasionally require a one-hour or two-hour early closing. Parents, please make arrangements for child care in these types of emergencies. If your child attends the Campagna program, please refer to the Campagna Parent Handbook or call 703-224-2382 for policies related to early school closure.

## Moment of Silence

In compliance with the laws of the state of Virginia and the [Virginia Code: § 22.1-203](#), Daily Observance of One Minute of Silence: In order that the right of every pupil to the free exercise of religion be guaranteed within the schools and that the freedom of each individual pupil be subject to the least possible pressure from the Commonwealth either to engage in, or to refrain from, religious observation on school grounds, the school board of each school division shall establish the daily observance of one minute of silence in each classroom of the division.

During such one-minute period of silence, the teacher responsible for each classroom shall take care that all pupils remain seated and silent and make no distracting display to the end that each pupil may, in the exercise of his or her individual choice, meditate, pray, or engage in any other silent activity which does not interfere with, distract, or impede other pupils in the like exercise of individual choice. The Alexandria City Public School Board has adopted **Policy IE**. This policy requires all schools to begin the day with a mandatory moment of silence. All students, staff, and guests in the building observe this time by remaining silent for the specified sixty-second period. Students are permitted to engage in any silent activity which does not interfere with, distract, or impede others.

## Dress Code

Students will wear seasonably appropriate clothes to school.



**The Alexandria City Public Schools Course Assignments Policy** is the basis for Tucker's practices. Course assignments outside are integral to a student's learning experience because it strengthens basic skills, fosters independent study habits, extends classroom learning, provides enrichment and remedial activities, and develops responsibility, initiative, and self-discipline. Parents can help make this effective by setting a defined time and suitable place for study, encouraging independent completion of assignments, fostering a positive attitude towards a task, and providing guidance or help when necessary. Assignments are regularly given in grades one through five. Children typically are given work four nights per week, Monday-Thursday. An assignment sheet or Agenda will be sent home daily. Parents are asked to review the assignments, initial the appropriate box, and return the form daily. In addition, kindergarten children will take home reading assignments and suggestions for enrichment activities Monday through Thursday evenings.

### **Class Placements**

This year, we have worked very hard to ensure the balancing of classes. Careful consideration has been given to input from staff and families, as well as student learning styles. Our classrooms have been balanced both academically and socially, and our class lists are structured to provide equitable class sizes at each grade level. Moving students is difficult without causing imbalances and inequities. Class placements are determined with thoughtful consideration of input from staff and families, as well as the diverse learning styles of students. Our goal is to create balanced classrooms both academically and socially, ensuring equitable class sizes at each grade level. Therefore, requests to move students are challenging and may lead to imbalances and inequities.

### **Breakfast and Lunch**

Samuel W. Tucker Elementary School has been selected to participate in the Community Eligibility Provisions (CEP) Program for the 2024-2025 school year. CEP is a non-pricing meal service available to schools. Under the provisions of this program, all students will receive the option of free breakfast and lunch daily. Parents may still put money on their child(ren)'s accounts at [schoolcafe.com](http://schoolcafe.com) if they want their child(ren) to have the option of purchasing additional snacks for lunch.

### **Outside Food in the Cafeteria**

We strive to keep a healthy, positive atmosphere in our school cafeteria. If your child is not eating school lunch, please feel free to send healthy food for lunch. **Meals from "fast food" restaurants are not permitted.** Other students often feel left out and distracted when such lunches are brought to school. Thank you for cooperating in fostering healthy eating habits for all our children.

**Please do not pack carbonated drinks or glass containers in lunches made at home.**

### **Birthday Celebrations in Classrooms**

**No Food or balloons are allowed for birthday celebrations on campus. This expectation will be consistently enforced, with no exceptions.** Please discuss ideas for recognizing your child's birthday with your child's classroom teacher ahead of time. Your child's teacher may suggest unique ideas to celebrate your child's special day.

### **Lost and Found**

Articles lost by students will be kept on the coat racks across the main office where students or parents can claim them. Parents, please label book bags, backpacks, lunch boxes, jackets, and other personal items to ensure their timely return to the appropriate students. Unclaimed items will be donated after a reasonable length to a charitable organization.

### **Parent-Teacher Association (PTA)**

The students of Samuel W. Tucker Elementary School benefit from the efforts of a very active and supportive PTA. Its members work hard to support, extend, and enrich the educational program for every Tucker student.

PTA Meetings are usually held on the second Monday of the month, beginning at 7:00 p.m. We encourage you to participate actively in the Samuel W. Tucker P.T.A. Please email our PTA ([ptaboard@tuckertigerspta.org](mailto:ptaboard@tuckertigerspta.org)) to learn more about how you can get involved.

### **Progress Reports**

ACPS believes that the evaluation of students is the primary responsibility of the professional staff. Grades are a tool for communicating the level of academic achievement with identified standards. These regulations aim to systematize grading and assessment practices across the school division. Grades serve as a means of establishing clear learning targets and providing students with feedback regarding their academic performance.

Following Policy IKC, the following regulations should guide and inform the evaluation of student progress as reflected in the grading process.

### **Kindergarten**

The ACPS Kindergarten Progress Report is organized using a scoring rubric. The rubric reflects the student's progress toward mastering specific skills taught during kindergarten.

ACPS uses a modified standards-based progress report for students in grades one through five. Its purpose is to provide parents and guardians meaningful feedback about how their child is doing in relation to grade-level standards, including their child's progress over time. Aligned with the Virginia Standards of Learning and the ACPS Curriculum, the ACPS Elementary Progress Report provides parents and teachers with detailed information on the expected knowledge, skills, and performance measures for students at each grade level and how individual children perform against those expectations.

Aligned with the Virginia Standards of Learning and the ACPS Curriculum, the Secondary Report Card provides parents/guardians with a letter grade detailing student performance for each quarter.

A. At the **Kindergarten level**, teachers shall give narrative feedback about students' standards-based progress within each identified area of the Kindergarten Progress Report. In addition, the range of performance indicators and the level of proficiency kindergarten students are expected to attain utilize the following scoring criteria:

#### **Academic Areas Scoring Rubric**

- M: Meets the standard consistently and over time
- P: Progressing toward meeting the standard

- B: Beginning to demonstrate progress toward meeting the standard
- N: Not demonstrating understanding of the standard\
- NT: Not taught this quarter
- INA: Standard has been introduced but not assessed

B. On **Elementary Progress Reports (grades 1-5)**, teachers shall give rubric-based scores reflecting students' standards-based proficiency. Content areas assessed include Life, Work and Citizenship Skills, Language Arts, Social Studies, Mathematics, Science, Physical Education and Health, Art, General Music, and Band/Strings.

### **Academic Areas Scoring Rubric**

- 4: Consistently demonstrates a high level of conceptual understanding and skills mastery of standards taught this quarter
- 3: Frequently demonstrates concepts and skills of standards taught this quarter
- 2: Sometimes demonstrates concepts and skills of standards taught this quarter
- 1: Seldom demonstrates concepts and skills of standards taught this quarter
- NT: Not taught this quarter
- NA: Introduced but not assessed this quarter

### **Conferences**

Parents are encouraged to communicate regularly with teachers concerning their child's progress in school. Report cards are sent home each quarter for all students. In addition, conference days are scheduled during the first and third quarters to enable all parents to meet with their child's teachers. In addition, parents are encouraged to communicate with their child's teacher(s) whenever they have questions or concerns via ParentSquare.

## **Quarterly Recognition Programs**

We celebrate students who have demonstrated outstanding academic achievement and exemplary citizenship skills every quarter. In addition, classroom teachers will have informal classroom celebrations recognizing students in their classrooms and will receive a certificate or certificates for their accomplishments each quarter.

**MAP Honors:** Students in grades 2 through 5 will be recognized during the Winter and Spring administrations for meeting their expected MAP Growth goals in reading and math.

**Citizenship Award:** Students in kindergarten through fifth grade are named on the quarterly Citizenship Honor Roll when the following criteria have been achieved:

- **Kindergarten:** The student consistently respects the feelings, rights, and property of others; follows classroom rules; plays and works cooperatively with classmates; and expresses their feelings in appropriate ways.
- **Grades 1 -5:** Students must have 4s on Work/Social Skills 1 & 2 – Meets school standards for behavior, shows respect for peers, property, and authority

**Super Effort Award:** The Super Effort Award is given each quarter to up to two students from each homeroom that exhibit extraordinary effort or have shown considerable improvement in academics and behavior.

**Samuel W. Tucker Award:** Annually, at the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, we award one student per homeroom the coveted Samuel W. Tucker Award. An engraved plaque is awarded when the following criteria are met:

## **Visiting the School**

We welcome all parents into our school. The safety and security of every Tucker child is of utmost importance to us. For this reason, we require all parents and visitors to the building to enter through the main office, sign in on the computer if you are visiting or volunteering, and receive an ID badge before proceeding to any other part of the building.

## **Playground Safety**

Our playgrounds and fields are shared with the City of Alexandria. To ensure the safety of our students, adults are not allowed to interact with students while they are on the playground. We kindly request that parents refrain from approaching or observing their children during recess without prior permission from a school administrator.

## **Volunteers**

Samuel W. Tucker Elementary School is fortunate to have many dedicated and hardworking volunteers who generously donate their time and talents for our students. There are numerous ways parents can contribute, and we warmly invite you to get involved. Through our PTA, we will be offering many opportunities for families to volunteer which include our room parents program, so please stay tuned for more information. To start volunteering or to chaperone a field trip, please click this [link](#). For more details about volunteer opportunities, please call the office or reach out to your child's homeroom teacher.

