

T. Clay Wood Elementary School

10600 Kettle Run Road • Nokesville, VA 20181

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Andrew Buchheit, Principal

September 10, 2026

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are encouraging our 5th graders to be true Quality Leaders and Learners each day to help us sustain the type of school community T. Clay Wood Elementary School strives to develop. Our 5th grade students are our role models for the rest of our school. We also hope to prepare our students for middle school and life beyond elementary school.

To celebrate and recognize the accomplishments and achievements of our 5th grade students, we highly encourage your child to participate in the T. Clay Wood Pride - "We Work, We Lead, We Care, We Share" Award program. Students who meet all criteria will receive a special award at the end of the school year. To be eligible for this very prestigious recognition each student must demonstrate very high scholastic achievement, the six pillars of character and volunteer in school and community projects.

This award is named after Mr. T. Clay Wood. Mr. Wood was a longtime community activist having served as a school board member and board of county supervisor in Prince William County. Our school is named after him and we hope to live up to his ideals of "Working, Leading, Caring and Sharing".

To be a T. Clay Wood Pride award recipient, your child must show outstanding qualities in three areas:

1. **ACADEMICS (We Work)**—Each candidate must receive a B average or higher at the end of their 5th grade year report card. Being on the Honor Roll or Principal's Honor Roll is not an easy task. Please help your child to set good study habits that will help them gain independent work habits.
2. **LEADERSHIP and Character (We Lead/We Care)** - T. Clay Wood recognizes the attributes of TERRIFIC character and Strong Leadership by the demonstration of using all 8 Habits and being trustworthy, responsible, respectful, fair, caring and a quality citizen. Students need to earn a TIMBERWOLF LEADERSHIP Award for the end of the school year. Each candidate must have no more than one minor infraction that results in a visit to the principal's office during the year. An encore teacher representative will also sign off that the student has been giving his best work and showing his best behavior in all encore classes.
3. **VOLUNTEERISM (We Share)** Volunteering is an active demonstration of one's character. It is through willingness to volunteer one's talents that a child displays a balance of learning and sharing. It will be an expectation that each candidate completes 20 hours of volunteering both within the school and outside of the school. A maximum of five hours may be counted from school sponsored membership such as SCA, Safety Patrol, announcers, or some other type of school helper. **Students can only earn a total of 5 hours maximum for all school events combined.** For example: if a student is in both SCA and patrols the maximum is still just 5 hours total. Other ideas could be - service activities, non-paid volunteer help., Church volunteer activities, community events, charitable organizations or events. You can also earn additional hours for the Service Leadership Club sponsored service activities. Chorus can count only if students participate in the parade or other community events.

I have attached the monitoring form. You should return this form to your child's homeroom teacher by **May 19, 2027** Please contact me with any questions you may have at buchhear@pwcs.edu.

Sincerely,

Andrew Buchheit



Prince William County

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