



Independence Nontraditional School

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 Stephanie Bretzke, Principal
 CEEB Code: 471-342

Independence Nontraditional School: <https://independence.pwcs.edu/>
 Prince William County Public Schools: <https://www.pwcs.edu/>

2025-2026 School Profile

Independence Nontraditional School is the first nontraditional school in Prince William County for students from kindergarten through grade twelve. The school provides a full curriculum and range of services and programs, including music, foreign language, advanced placement (AP), and engineering courses as well as internships within the career and technical education trades programs. The instructional program is divided into three sub schools that include a K-12 special education center, a middle level program, and a high school. Instruction is tailored to meet the individual needs of students and support is geared to ensure all students receive equitable access to educational opportunities available in PWCS.

Definition of Curriculum

Prince William County Public Schools provides a range of courses from remedial levels to advanced placement, dual enrollment, and those meeting requirements for standard or advanced studies diplomas. Both vocational and academic courses are available, allowing students to prepare for college, enter the workforce after graduation, or pursue post-secondary training in various fields.

Graduation Information

Students graduate through their base school within Prince William County after completing course work at Independence Nontraditional School.

High School Bell Schedule

7:30–7:43 a.m.	1st Shift Arrival/Breakfast
7:45 – 7:55 a.m.	1st Shift Homeroom
7:57–9:28 a.m.	1st Period
9:30–11 a.m.	2nd Period
11 a.m.	1st Shift Dismissal
10:50 –11:25 a.m.	Staff Lunch/Student Arrival/ Lunch
11:27 – 11:37 a.m.	2nd shift Homeroom
11:39 a.m.–1:03 p.m.	3rd Period
1:05–2:30 p.m.	4th Period
2:30 p.m.	2nd Shift Dismissal
3–4 p.m.	5th Period
4:02–5:30 p.m.	6th Period
5:30 p.m.	3rd Shift Dismissal

PWCS Grading Scale

Grading Scale	1.0 Weighted	0.5 Weighted	Unweighted	
A	90-100	5.0 points	4.5 points	4.0 points
B+	87-89	4.4 points	3.9 points	3.4 points
B	80-86	4.0 points	3.5 points	3.0 points
C+	77-79	3.4 points	2.9 points	2.4 points
C	70-76	3.0 points	2.5 points	2.0 points
D+	67-69	1.4 points	1.4 points	1.4 points
D	60-66	1.0 point	1.0 point	1.0 point
F	below 60	0 points	0 points	0 points

Grade Distribution 2024-25

A	B	C	D	F
17%	34%	29 %	14%	6%

Class Percentile

All courses with Carnegie units of credit are used to compute GPA and percentile, shown on student transcripts. Starting with the class of 2022, PWCS reports class percentile instead of class rank. Courses are not evaluated on a pass/fail basis. Transcripts from other districts with pass/fail grades won't affect GPA and percentile unless a corresponding letter grade is provided. All students earning an Advanced Studies or Standard diploma are included in the senior class percentile.

Course Offerings

AFDA	World His/Geo I
Alg I Part I Elect	World His/Geo II
Alg I Part II	HPE I
Algebra I	HPE II
Algebra I Part II	Child Dev & Parenting
Algebra II	Independent Living
Geometry	Beg Band
Astronomy	Int Band
Biology I	Intro to Culinary
Chemistry I	Life Planning
Oceanography	Nutrition & Wellness
Earth Science I	Production Systems
Econ and Finance	Psychology I
English 9	Sociology
English 10	Spanish I
English 11	Spanish II
English 12	Spanish II
Sustainable Energy and Renewable Tech	

Graduation Requirements

Students entering 9th grade in 2018-2019 and beyond

VDOE Diploma Type:	Advanced Studies	Standard Diploma
Units of Credits	26 units	22 units
English	4	4
Mathematics	4	3
Science	4	3
Social Studies	4	3
Foreign Language	3 of 1 (or) 2 of 2	0
Health/Physical Education	2	2
Economics & Personal Finance	1	1
Fine Arts or CTE	1	1
Other Electives: must include at least two sequential electives	2-3	5

Additional requirements for both diplomas:

- Earn **five** verified credits by passing the specified courses and their associated end-of-course Standards of Learning test or other state-approved assessment. Students can take a total of 11 tests during their high school tenure.
- Pass a CTE credentialing exam, complete one advanced course, or engage in a High-Quality Work-Based Learning experience as defined by the VDOE.
- Virtual Course for Credit or Non-Credit
- CPR/First Aid/AED Training

School Counseling Staff

Karre Stokes	Director	stokeskl@pwcs.edu
Catherine Fermo	Middle School	fermoce@pwcs.edu
Kennea Otoo	High School A-D	otooke@pwcs.edu
Clare Barclay	High School E-J	barclcs@pwcs.edu
Dr. Sylinda Banks	High School K-Q	bankssg@pwcs.edu
Adrienne Mattison	High School R-Z	mattisad@pwcs.edu
Charles Brinkley	College & Career	brinklew@pwcs.edu
Patti Wells	Records	wellspace@pwcs.edu

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