

Westchester News 2018

 
September

Tuesday, Sept. 4 th	Opening Day
Wednesday, Sept. 5 th	Kindergarten Parent Boo Hoo Breakfast
Thursday, Sept. 6 th	Kindergarten First Full Day
Monday, Sept. 10 th	School Closed for Rosh Hashanah
Tuesday, Sept. 11 th	Back to School Night 6:30 – 8:30
Monday, Sept. 17 th	PTA Panera Night 6:00 – 9:00
Tuesday, Sept. 18 th	Identi-Kid Picture Day
Wednesday, Sept. 19 th	School Closed for Yom Kippur



Principal's Message



Welcome back for the 2018-2019 School Year! I speak for the entire WES Staff when I say how we are looking forward to working with our families this year to provide the best possible educational experience for our students.

We are very pleased to welcome new staff to Westchester Elementary. We are very excited about the added dimensions that these teachers will bring to our program. Please join us in welcoming the following staff members:

Kim Gantt- Part Time Resource

Aaron Mitton- Physical Education

Rebecca Moorman- Instrumental Music

Shasta Noriega- 3rd Grade

Sharon Alkalay- Speech Language

Lynsay Maltese- Kindergarten

I would like to encourage any parent who is interested in volunteering to call the school office (410-887-1089). We welcome parents to join us during the instructional day. You are valued partners.

BCPS School Safety

Baltimore County Public Schools staff and students will be trained this fall in a new protocol for responding to the unlikely event of an active assailant. Traditional responses to this type of incident have been to lock down and wait for the police to arrive. Case studies of several active shooter incidents have shown that using only this response resulted in an increase in casualties. Baltimore County Public Schools in partnership with the Baltimore County Police Department is adopting the option based "ALICE" response protocol to assist those in harm's way should this type of incident occur. Individuals would respond based on information that they have at hand regarding the situation. ALICE stands for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter and Evacuate. These measures provide the knowledge and skills needed to make the best decisions available for the safety of students, staff, and visitors. Additional information will be shared at Back to School Night, feel free to call Mr. Byers at 410.887.1089 with any questions you may have.

Additional Instructional Times 2018 - 2019

1. What is happening to the student/instructional schedule for the upcoming 2018-2019 school year?

Up until this coming school year, the student instructional day has been six (6) hours and thirty (30) minutes long. Starting with the 2018-2019 school year, the student instructional day will be increased by five (5) minutes thereby making it six (6) hours and thirty-five (35) minutes in length. Our new instructional day will be 9:15 to 3:50. Arrival begins at 9:00 am.

2. Why did we add five (5) minutes to the instructional day?

Education Article 7-103 establishes a requirement of 1,170 high school contact hours for all Maryland school districts. Inclement weather closures, delayed openings and early releases continually impact BCPS' ability to meet this requirement thereby requiring it to petition the Maryland State Board of Education for a waiver of the requisite high school hours. Because of this and as a condition of waiver approval, MSDE directed BCPS to increase its high school hours for the 2018-2019 school year. As a result of subsequent negotiations with TABCO and ESPBC on the subject, it was agreed that the instructional day for all BCPS students would be increased by five (5) minutes for the 2018-2019 school year.



Nurse's Message



Angela Horman, RN, BSN 410-887-1091 ahorman@bcps.org

Welcome back, I hope everyone had a wonderful summer. A few health related notes for the beginning of the year...

If your child requires medication to be administered at school routinely or for emergency care (ex: Epi-Pens, Benadryl, Albuterol, etc.) you will need to provide a Medication Order Form for each medication, signed by the prescribing physician. This form is located online at

http://dci.bcps.org/departments/academic_services/student_support_services/health_services/

Scroll down the page to “Frequently Used Health Forms:” and then “Medication Order Form”. This form is required for **any** medication administered to your child during the school day. A pink Discretionary Medication Form should arrive home from school soon, please complete and return this if you would like your child to receive Tylenol, TUMS, cough drops and Benadryl as needed for minor issues.

Children should be kept home from school for fevers >100, vomiting, and diarrhea (per BCPS policy). Children should not be sent back to school until they have been fever-free **without** medication for 24 hours. We want your children to arrive at school healthy and ready to learn.

Some classes that eat lunch either very early or very late may be snacking in the classrooms. Please select items that are not too sticky or messy, and please send in only nut-free items (due to the prevalence and severity of nut allergies at WES). Children should be reminded to never share food with friends while at school. Great choices would be: pretzel sticks, apple slices, carrot sticks, dry cereal, and popcorn.

The Health Suite always welcomes donations of pants. Currently, we are in need of boys size medium sweat pants, L and XL boxers, girls size L and XL sweatpants.

We are looking forward to a healthy, happy school year! If you have any concerns about your child's health, please feel free to stop in or call me.



Counselor's Message



Counselor's Corner

Racheal Jones/ 410-887-1088/ rjones14@bcps.org

Welcome to all new and returning students and families! I am looking forward to another wonderful school year!

Calling All Volunteers!

Westchester has been very fortunate to have many volunteers throughout the years! We appreciate help in classrooms, the cafeteria, and other areas of the building. If you are interested in volunteering this school year, please complete **both** the Volunteer Application and Online Volunteer Training (both must be completed annually).

- Volunteer Instructions can be found at:
http://www.bcps.org/community/volunteer_info/.
- Once complete, please turn **both** the Volunteer Application & Online Volunteer Training to the front office. *We will only contact you if there is a problem with your paperwork.*
- If you are interested in going into a classroom, please email that teacher directly. If you would like to help volunteer in the cafeteria or other area of the building, please contact me at rjones14@bcps.org.

Introductory Lessons:

At the start of the school year, I will be going into all classrooms (K-5) to introduce myself & remind students of my name, my role in the school, and ways they can see me if they need. Students can let an adult know or fill out a pass, which is available in their classrooms, outside of my office, and in the main office.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Quarter 1 Virtues:

- **Kindness:** The act of being friendly, generous, and considerate.
- **Patience:** The ability to accept delays and understand that things can happen in a different order than planned.
- **Respect:** Behaving in an appropriate and acceptable manner toward people and objects.
- **Helpfulness:** The quality of giving or being ready to give help.
- **Peacefulness:** The practice of being quiet, calm, and handle conflict with respect.



Change of Dismissal Plans



Occasionally, a student's dismissal plan needs to be changed. If this should occur for your child, we ask that you e-mail the teacher and the office of the change **and call the office as a back-up**. Teachers are busy with instruction and sometimes the teacher is absent, therefore, the e-mail is not always read prior to dismissal and the school is then not be aware of the change. The office e-mails are: jbaldwin3@bcps.org and lfoster3@bcps.org



Safety



The front parking lot will be open to visitors daily from 9:30 am - 2:30 pm. However during inclement or cold weather, we may block off the front parking lot in order to provide the students another area for their recess. The side parking is still available for parking and there is also parking available in front of the school on Old Frederick Road. If you need assistance getting into the building during the day, please contact the front office at 410-887-1088. Thank you for understanding our need for to safely accommodate our students.



Parent Visitation and Volunteerism



Your child's safety is extremely important to all of us. To ensure the safety of everyone, all visitors coming into the school building must report to the front office to sign-in and obtain a visitor's or volunteer badge, which must be visibly worn throughout the duration of the visit.

Parents are welcome to visit their child's classroom at any time. To ensure there is minimal disruption, we ask that parents have a specific room number and staff member to whom they will be reporting. The office staff will check with the identified teacher prior to any visitor or volunteer going to a scheduled appointment. We ask that all visitors and volunteers please wait in the office until the office staff indicates that the staff member is ready for the scheduled appointment. Visitors and volunteers should not walk throughout the school building to "visit" other classes or staff without a prior arranged, specific appointment. At the conclusion of your visit, please report back to the office to sign out. Additionally if you are dropping off a forgotten snack, lunch, assignment, etc. please leave these items in the office. The office staff will get these items to the teacher to give to your child. Thank you again for adhering to this policy and putting instruction and safety first!



Where to find Information



School Website: <http://westchesteres.bcps.org>

PTA Website: www.westchesterespta.org