

SEPTEMBER 2022

# THE BULLDOG BULLETIN

Updates for the Westview Elementary Community



## Principal's Corner

Dear Westview Families,

Welcome to the new school year! I am very grateful to be the principal of this amazing school and partner with you to create the best learning community. There is a revival of a saying going around the neighborhood that "Westview is the Bestview!" Just sayin'. I hope you had a summer with many joyful and restorative times as a family. I was able to travel, read, walk and hang out with family and friends and I'm feeling refreshed to start another year. It has been a wonderful feeling to see so many of you during student connection days, kindergarten transition days and even at morning drop off and pick up. This year we will be living out the theme of Connect, Collaborate, and Celebrate! You may hear these messages in district communication, too. The last few years have taken a toll on all of us in education and we have a lot of healing to do together. This is a year for resetting our priorities in instructional practices. We can do hard things and have fun. It takes intentionality and togetherness to do our best. The staff is full of passion and compassion that comes through each day.

Please help welcome these new staff, as well as those that are familiar to us but with different roles!

\*Sam Anderson, PE Teacher; \*Stephanie Bertolani, AM Art Teacher; \*Sarah Boegel, PM Art Teacher (new to Art, not WV); \*Courtney Crist, Resource Teacher (new to Resource, not WV); \*Virginia Fritz, Social Worker; \*Kelly Golas, Speech Therapist; \*Maren Gustafson, 5th Grade Teacher (new to full year teaching @ WV); \*Christina Hanson, 3rd Grade Teacher; \*Katie Heberer, Physical Therapist; \*Rosey Jensen, 3rd Grade Teacher; \*Miranda Kriesch, EL Teacher; \*Ryan Lyrek, 5th Grade Teacher; \*Cindy Martin, Pre-K Psychologist; \*Trina Mellema, Food Service Associate; \*Aldie Meynard, Latino/Spanish-Speaking CFA; \*Lauri Nelson, Media/Instructional Clerk; \*Dan Nordstrom, Evening Custodian; \*Brooke Raske, 3rd Grade Teacher (new to full year teaching @ WV); \*Becca Savageau, Connections Pre-K Teacher; \*Ben Thies, Kindergarten Teacher; \*Traci Thurow, Connections Pre-K TA; \*Liz Vollbrecht, 5th Grade Teacher; \*MaKena Waage, (3rd) 4th/5th Strategies Teacher; \*Megan Wickstrom, Connections Pre-K Para; \*Katie Williams, Reading Recovery Teacher; \*Sarah Winfield, Lead Interventionist.

I look forward to this being a year where ALL OUR students make amazing growth! We are fortunate to work in a supportive Westview community with the best people who make an impact.

In unison,  
Tami Staloch-Schultz, Principal



## Attendance Matters!

*By Lisa Kissell*

We want your child to be at school, but also know kids get sick, appointments are scheduled and vacations happen.

Please let us know if your child will not be at school. There is a way to input your child's absence! There is a link on Westview's website and all you have to do is click on that link and an email goes straight to the office. It will ask you questions about your child's absence, and that includes days you may be gone for vacation, or early pick-ups, etc. You can still call 952-431-8380 or email [vv.attendance@district196.org](mailto:vv.attendance@district196.org).

Be sure to include your child's name, teacher and reason for the absence. If we do not hear from you, the absence is considered Unexcused. Your child is considered Tardy if they arrive after 9:40 a.m.

### **Excused Absences:**

- Illness
- Quarantine/waiting for test results
- Dr. and dentist appointments
- Religious holidays
- Family emergency
- Funeral
- Extreme cold temperatures

### **Unexcused Absences:**

- Oversleeping
- Don't feel like going to school
- Child isn't up-to-date on immunizations
- Babysitting a sibling or relative
- Don't have transportation to school
- Car trouble
- No one called to report absence

## Bulldog Breakfasts are Back!

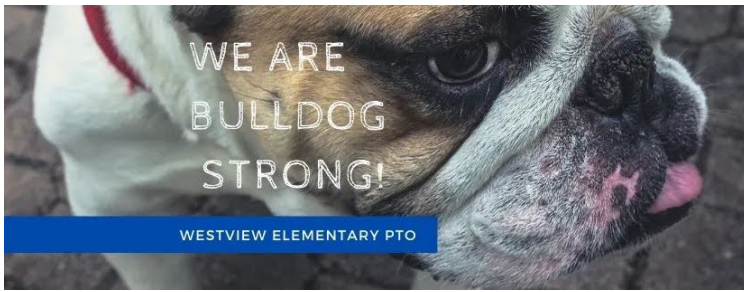
*By Lisa Kissell*

Hello Bulldog families! The school year is off and running, and we love seeing all the happy faces and how much they've grown over the summer!

We had a fabulous turn out for our 5th grade Bulldog breakfast! So much so that we need to ask the parents to use the Hayes Community Center parking lot or side streets, DO NOT park on Garden View. It is real hard with the chaos of all the cars and buses, so please park at the community center.

### **Upcoming Bulldog Breakfasts:**

- 4th Grade - September 20 at 8:45 a.m.
- 3rd Grade - September 27 at 8:45 a.m.
- 2nd Grade - October 4 at 8:45 a.m.
- 1st Grade - Oct. 11 at 8:45 a.m.
- Kindergarten - Oct. 18 at 8:45 a.m.
- Strategies (K-5) - Oct. 25 at 8:45 a.m.



## Westview PTO Highlights

*By Michelle Doepke*

Welcome back students and families! What a great kick-off we had to the school year with our first annual Mega Yard Sale PTO Fundraiser! Thanks to all those who donated items, time, money, and labor, we were able to raise over \$3,600 to support the WV PTO! A special thanks to Sarah Najafalipour for leading this event, and Rebecca Nutter for your expertise and finding a donation spot for all the leftover items.



Join us for our first PTO meeting of the school year on **MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19th** from 6-7 p.m. at Westview. Learn more about what we do, what we support, upcoming events, and how you can be involved. AND, get a tour of the new outdoor learning spaces at Westview! Children are welcome.

Future meetings will be held on Mondays: Oct 17, Jan 23, 2023, March 13, 2023, and March 15, 2023.

In Search Of: Leaders and Co-leaders with Spirit Wear, Grants/Donations, Community Garden, and First Grade Music Author Day. Time commitment varies from a few hours a month to a few hours a season, and can be shared with a friend! For more information contact [mruckmar@yahoo.com](mailto:mruckmar@yahoo.com).

Thanks for your support. We are stronger together.

## A Note from Miss Fritz

*By Virginia Fritz*

Hi Westview Families,

This is a link to online enrollment in Every Meal. It is a free, no-requirement necessary, weekend food program. Each week on Fridays, volunteers distribute food bags to take home for families that have enrolled. If they are interested, they can fill this out! <https://forms.gle/SmPUnXz26Taxesu3n9> Choose to enroll or discontinue services at any time - if you want to stop receiving the food bags, just let Miss Fritz know!

## School Picture Day

*By Gwen Krueger*

**School Picture Day is Wednesday, October 5th.**

Lifetouch Studios will be here to take individual student pictures. All students will have his/her picture taken in the fall for yearbook purposes. Information about purchasing pictures will be in your child's back pack on Friday, September 16. You may either order and pay online or send your order and payment to school. We have a retake day scheduled on November 9th.

## Mega Sale Update

*By Sarah Najafalipour*

Thank you so much to our volunteers, those that donated items to the sale, and those that participated in the sale itself. What started out as a "mini fundraising" idea, turned into a successful event that garnered \$3,651 in funds that will benefit our beloved Bulldogs! Three Bulldog Barks for all those involved!





# PARENT/GUARDIAN DROP-OFF + PICK-UP

The designated drop-off/pick-up area is located in Westview's main parking lot, along the curb. The parking lot has a one-way entrance and exit to facilitate the flow of traffic. Students should only exit/enter vehicles from the curb-side and should never cross the parking lot without an adult escort. Please do not pull up to or park on Garden View Drive along the school grounds or into the back parking lot, as those areas are reserved for school buses and daycare vans/buses. Parent drop-off/pick-up runs very smoothly and efficiently if we all work together. Please remain patient and drive with care.

## Morning Drop-Off

Students are expected to be in their seats and ready to learn at 9:30am. If your child eats breakfast at school, they should arrive at 9:15am. If your child does not eat breakfast at school, please time their arrival for 9:20am so there is sufficient time to unpack their belongings and complete their morning jobs prior to the start of the school day. When you pull up along the curb for drop-off, there is no need to wait until your vehicle is directly in front of the entrance. Parents should not be parking or idling elsewhere in the lot and allowing students to cross without an adult escort.

## Afternoon Pick-Up

Families that plan to do pick-up will be issued a household pickup-sheet with an alphanumeric code. This sheet should be visible on the driver's dashboard or held up when the designated school staff member walks down the line of vehicles entering codes to check-in rides for students. Parent-pickup students remain in their classrooms until their rides check-in and will be dismissed as early as 3:40pm. Walkers are also dismissed at 3:40pm and bussers are dismissed at 3:45pm. Just as with morning drop-off, please pull up along the curb in the main parking lot, where students can safely enter vehicles. Please continue to move forward through the loop as other vehicles begin to exit, so Westview staff can continue to check rides in and clear traffic. Do not jump the line if you see an opening. There will be a school staff member located near the building entrance with a large sign indicating that vehicles should move forward, in line, and eventually following the arrows to exit the lot. Again, it is important in the afternoon as well, that you do not park in the lot and wave for your students to cross the lot toward your vehicle. Any students that have not been picked up by 4:00pm will be waiting in the office and parents will be contacted.

**Note:** Just as Westview's playground area is reserved for student use during the day for recess, the playground is reserved for use by the Westview's YMCA SAC program after school, from 4:00pm - 6:00pm. Students should not be left to play on-site after school dismissal for their own safety and so Westview staff can ensure that all students have connected with their designated transportation home. Students and families are absolutely welcome to use the playground after 6:00pm on school days and on non-school days.



# Outdoor Learning

## Project Update

In the spring of 2021, the PTO launched an outdoor learning project with the goal of enhancing Westview's outdoor areas and providing students with additional options for outdoor learning. The projects are nearly complete, and classrooms are already enjoying these new areas!

### Science Court

Main uses: Independent reading, read-a-louds, quiet activities

New Features: STEM murals, new plants, new seating options, fairy garden

### Outdoor Classroom & Native Garden

Main uses: instruction, reading, science instruction/investigation, play

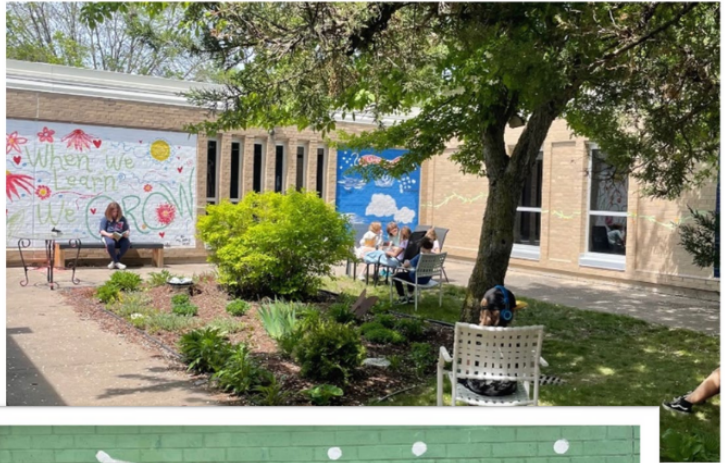
Features: Classroom-style seating, native plants with stepping path through garden

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our fundraiser! Company sponsors include:

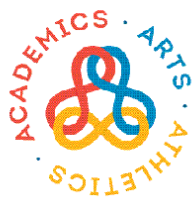
- Rebecca Claire Woodworking
- Sota Enterprises
- TruStone Financial
- Northrop Grumman

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We will be planting native flowers on Wednesday, 9/21 immediately after school. Join us with a garden trowel to help contribute to this cool new feature! Contact Melissa at [mwikstrom@gmail.com](mailto:mwikstrom@gmail.com) with questions.







**DISTRICT196**  
One District. Infinite Possibilities.

# 2022-23 School Year Calendar

## Start and End Dates

- Aug. 29-30** ..... Kindergarten Transition Days; (half days, first day for K)
- Aug. 31-Sept. 1** ..... First days of school for grades 6-12; Assessment days for grades K-5; Orientation Day for Pre-K families & staff
- Sept. 6** ..... First day of school for grades 1-5; School resumes for grades 6-12
- Sept. 7** ..... First full day for kindergarten
- June 7** ..... Last day of school

**No-School Dates**   = No school for **all** students   = No school for **some** students

- Sept. 2** ..... No school all students
- Sept. 5** ..... Labor Day (*no school grades K-12*)
- Sept. 30** ..... High School Data Day (*no school grades 9-12*)
- Oct. 7** ..... Elementary and middle school data analysis/instruction alignment and high school conferences (*no school grades K-12*)
- Oct. 20-21** ..... State teachers' convention (*no school grades K-12*)
- Nov. 3-4** ..... Conferences for elementary and middle schools (*no school grades K-8*)
- Nov. 4** ..... Staff development for high school staff (*no school grades 9-12*)
- Nov. 24-25** ..... Thanksgiving break (*no school grades K-12*)
- Dec. 1** ..... End of first trimester
- Dec. 2** ..... Staff development for all staff (*no school grades K-12*)
- Dec. 23-Jan. 2** ..... Winter break (*no school grades K-12*)
- Jan. 13** ..... Data analysis day for high school staff (*no school grades 9-12*)
- Jan. 16** ..... Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr Day (*no school grades K-12*)
- Jan. 20** ..... Data analysis day for elementary and middle school staff, and high school conferences (*no school grades K-12*)
- Feb. 9-10** ..... Conferences for elementary and middle schools (*no school grades K-8*)
- Feb. 10** ..... Staff development for high school staff (*no school grades K-12*)
- Feb. 20** ..... Presidents' Day (*no school grades K-12*)
- March 9** ..... End of second trimester
- March 10** ..... Staff development for all staff (*no school grades K-12*)
- March 27-31** ..... Spring break (*no school grades K-12*)
- April 21** ..... Data analysis day for all staff (*no school grades K-12*)
- May 29** ..... Memorial Day (*no school grades K-12*)

## Other Dates for Employees

- Aug. 22-23** ..... New Teacher Workshops
- Aug. 24-30** ..... Teacher workshop K-12 (Aug. 26 half day)
- June 8, 2023** ..... Staff workshop (*half day*)

JULY 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

SEPTEMBER 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

NOVEMBER 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

JANUARY 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

MARCH 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

MAY 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

AUGUST 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

OCTOBER 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

DECEMBER 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

FEBRUARY 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

APRIL 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

JUNE 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	