

WESTMINSTER ELEMENTARY

Panda Post

Hello, Westminster Elementary Families,

Happy New Year! Welcome to our back-to-school newsletter that contains essential information related to the school year. Please save a copy as it contains important information for the year. We look forward to seeing our students and their families at various school and PTO events. We encourage your involvement and hope that you will work with our students, staff, and PTO to partner with us in education. Our first PTO general meeting will be on September 9th at 6:00 p.m. Our Westminster Elementary staff look forward to seeing you at our Open House on **August 29th**.

•We will not be assigning specific nightly homework for grading. Instead, we would like all students to be reading and practicing math facts daily and enjoying family time, sports, or hobbies. Please see the chart below for recommended practice times for each grade-level. Teachers will send suggestions or exemplars of what your child is working on in class related to their content on a regular basis, but there will be no collection or grading of nightly homework. Exceptions to this practice would be long-term projects, instrumental music practice, or study guides needed to prepare for assessments. Our staff will be closely monitoring student progress with daily observation and classwork to ensure that your child is acquiring the skills they need to be successful. We would like to promote families to have the time to enjoy their evenings while still reinforcing and maintaining the skills our staff is teaching each day.

Homework Expectations by Grade Level	Reading (read a book)	Math (practice math facts)	TOTAL Homework Time
Pre-K and K	10 minutes	5 minutes	15 min
First Grade	10 minutes	5 minutes	15 min
Second Grade	15 minutes	5 minutes	20 min
Third Grade	20 minutes	10 minutes	30 min
Fourth Grade	25 minutes	15 minutes	40 min
Fifth Grade	30 minutes	20 minutes	50 min

**August/September
2024**

**Westminster
Elementary**



811 Uniontown Rd.
Westminster, MD
21158
410-751-3222

Website

www.wes.carrollk12.org.

School Administration

- Deborah Winson
Principal
- Sarah Andrews
Assistant Principal

School Colors

Blue and White

School Mascot

Panda

School Hours:

9:30-4:00

*Students may enter
the building at 9:00
AM*

•We hope you have saved the date for our Open House and Back to School informational parent sessions on **Thursday, August 29th.**

OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULE- 8-29-24	
New students to WES	1:30 pm
All grades open house	2:00-3:00 pm
Primary (Pre-k-2 nd) Back to School Session for Parents- cafeteria	4:15-5:15 pm
First Groups leaves the parking lot	Second group arrives
Intermediate (3 rd -5 th) Back to School Session for parents- cafeteria	5:30-6:30 PM



•Information regarding classroom assignments and bus assignments can be found on the Resources page of our school website (<https://wes.carrollk12.org/resources>). Classroom assignments will be available on **Home Access Center** on August 15th. This year, bus assignments will be online on **Infofinder-i**. You can enter your address to view your child's bus stop and bus number. Also, keep an eye out for the CCPS transportation forms which are sent out electronically this year.



It is **highly recommended that elementary students DO NOT bring personally owned portable electronic devices to school or on the school bus. Please note that procedures have changed for **cell phones, fit bits and smart watches** for elementary students. All portable electronic devices must be turned off and stored in backpacks when students enter the building and may not be used while at school. If there is an emergency, please call the front office. Thank you in advance for your support.

We are looking forward to a fantastic year of learning!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Deborah Winson
Principal

Mrs. Sarah Andrews
Assistant Principal

DebbieWinson@carrollk12.org

SarahAndrews@carrollk12.org

IMPORTANT DATES: UPCOMING

2024-2025 SCHOOL CALENDAR- [CLICK](#) HERE FOR THE FULL 24-25 CCPS APPROVED CALENDAR



September 2024-

9/5-Pub Dog Restaurant Night
9/9-PTO General Meeting at 6:00
9/10-Back to School Social
9/12-Instrumental Music Information Night at 6:00
9/27-Fun Run

Looking Ahead to October

10/8-PTO General Meeting at 6:00
10/9-Chipotle Restaurant Night
10/21-10/25-Book Fair

SCHOOL HOURS FOR THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR

Students will be allowed to enter the building at **9:00 a.m.** The first bell will ring at **9:25 a.m.** and the instructional day will begin at **9:30**. Dismissal is at **4:00 p.m.**

****On days Westminster Elementary School has an early dismissal, students will be released at 1:15 p.m.
(Scheduled early dismissal dates: Nov. 6th, Nov. 27th, April 4th, June 13th, tentative last day of school.)*

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

This year parents/guardians will receive the August/September and the May/June newsletters as they contain valuable yearly information. We will also be using weekly office newsletters to help keep everyone current and informed. WES will occasionally update parents/guardians by broadcasting valuable information to the email address we have on file through School Messenger. If you need to update the email address that you have on file, please contact the school at 410-751-3222 or email wesattendance@carrollk12.org. Grade levels will send out newsletters to parents at least monthly.

MISSED CALLS

When you receive a notification of a missed call from Westminster Elementary, **please listen to the voicemail** before calling. The voicemail has valuable information that allows us to quickly get you to whomever called.

IMPORTANT ATTENDANCE INFORMATION

All students who are not seated in their classroom at 9:30 a.m. are considered late. Please walk your children to the main office and sign them in if you arrive after 9:30 a.m. For safety reasons, dropping students late at the bus loop is not permitted. Please remember students leaving early must have a written or emailed note from the parent or guardian on the emergency card before 3:00 to be picked up before 3:45 PM in the main office. After 3:45 PM,

students will be sent to parent pick up. Late arrivals, early departures or midday absences during a school day will be recorded as a tardy on the student's report card. Parents will be notified if a student is excessively tardy.

REPORTING YOUR CHILD'S ABSENCE

A note is required from a parent when a student returns to school after an absence to ensure proper coding (a doctor's note may be requested). Please call or email the office at WESAttendance@carrollk12.org on the day of your child's absence or alternatively, send a note in with your child upon his/her return.

Absences for **FAMILY TRAVEL** or **TAKE YOUR CHILD TO WORK DAY** will be excused (when approved in advance). Students can make up missed work upon return. Both students and parents need to understand that some loss of learning opportunity is likely. For example, some schoolwork such as class participation/discussion or laboratory experiments are difficult, if not impossible, to make up and may negatively impact the student's grade. Parents of students already having excessive absences or poor grades need to understand the implications of any extended absences.

FREQUENT STUDENT ABSENCES

All students must attend school regularly to ensure maximum growth and learning opportunities. The State of Maryland defines satisfactory attendance as 94%, which means a maximum of 9 days of absence for the entire school year. Children need a quality education to be productive, successful citizens, and chronic absenteeism is a powerful predictor of poor academic achievement and risk of dropping out. If your child is absent for a few days, expect a call from either the teacher, school counselor, or nurse. If the situation is not resolved, you can expect a letter from the school counselor, administration, and the pupil personnel worker. If you are having difficulty getting your child to school for any reason, please contact the administration for additional help and resources. We want every child at school every day!

SCHOOL SPONSORED EVENTS

For a student to participate in a school-sponsored event after school, i.e., a band concert, students must be there during the school day.

ABSENCE NOTES OR CHANGES IN DISMISSAL PATTERNS

When your child is late, absent, parent pick up, early release, or there is a change to your child's normal arrival or dismissal pattern, please email wesattendance@carrollk12.org by 3:00 p.m.

ENROLLMENT FORMS

All required forms for registration for your child should be in our office by this time. If you still owe us any documentation, such as proof of residence or health forms please turn them in by Friday, August 30, 2024.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURE CARDS

Please complete, correct, and return this card immediately. This information is essential in helping our school to provide emergency care for your child. **In case of illness or accident, it is imperative that we have the names of several people to contact who are within 30 minutes away from the school.** If you are not at home or at the number where you can usually be reached, it is necessary that we be able to reach someone in case of an emergency. **Should information on this card change during the year, please notify the school promptly. It is imperative that this card be kept up to date!** Only legal guardians can authorize treatment for their child, so we need to be able to contact someone when an emergency occurs. The only people who may pick up a student during an emergency are those listed on the emergency card. A photo ID is required for all adults picking up students. **Please be reminded that, other than the parent/guardian, students may be released only to those listed on the emergency card with a note from the parent or when contacted by the school.**

DRESS CODE

Students at Carroll County Public Schools must groom themselves in a modest, clean, appropriate, decent, and not disruptive to the educational process. Students are expected to abide by this dress code from their arrival in the school building until the end of the school day. Requirements include, but are not limited to:

Head Coverings:

- Hats, hoods, sunglasses, or head coverings of any kind, including bandanas and visors, shall **not** be worn in the school building unless approved for religious or medical reasons. One's face must always be visible.

Shirts:

- Shall reasonably cover the back, the cleavage area, and the entire midriff area.
- See-through or mesh shirts are not permitted, unless worn in conjunction with an appropriate top.

Skirts/Skorts/Shorts/Pants:

- Shall cover the entire buttocks and private areas while the student is sitting, standing, and bending over.
- Pants shall always cover undergarments

More dress code information can be found in the Student Handbook (included in the informational calendar) on the CCPS website.

STUDENT HANDBOOKS

Carroll County Public Schools' Handbook is available on the CCPS website's home page at www.carrollk12.org or in the CCPS Calendar that is sent home to each family with the youngest student. The WES handbook can be found in the front of the student agenda. Please review these handbooks, as they will be a reliable resource for information throughout the school year.

BULLYING OR INTIMIDATION ACTS

Carroll County Public Schools will not tolerate any acts of discrimination, harassment, hazing, bullying, hostile acts, or other forms of intimidation on the part of students or employees. The staff at Westminster Elementary School believes that for children to be successful in their learning, they must feel safe and comfortable in their environment. Consequently, staff members at school are vigilant to bullying situations and to addressing the concern immediately. If you feel that your child has been a victim of a bullying situation, please ask your child if he/she told the adult in charge at the time. If you feel your child is unable or unwilling to advocate for himself/herself, please contact your child's teacher, school counselor or a school administrator. Also, if you fear your child could be bullied, please contact the school as well. Steps will be taken to resolve bullying issues immediately and to provide support for the students involved. There is a link on the CCPS main website page for on-line bullying reporting for parents.



CCPS CONSENT AND RELEASE

PERMISSION TO PHOTOGRAPH, VIDEOTAPE OR AUDIOTAPE

Throughout the school year, the Carroll County Public School System frequently covers school activities and may use your child's photograph, video image, or voice for educational, informational, or public relations purposes, with or without identification by name.

If you do not wish to have your child's voice reproduced on tape or to have his/her image appear in such things as a video or a photograph, or on the school or school system website or social media, please notify the school principal in writing (DebbieWinson@carrollk12.org). It is assumed that parents and guardians' consent to their children being audiotaped, photographed, videotaped, or having their image placed on a school website or social media by the school system unless such notification is received.

There are also occasions when the media cover certain school events (such as when a government leader visits a school). If you do not wish to have your child's name or likeness published by the media, you should address your concerns directly to the school involved so that the media is advised. Please be advised that the school system has no control over the media when they are covering activities such as sporting events and musical programs that are open to the public.

USE OF STUDENT WORK ON WEBSITES OR IN PUBLICATIONS

There may be times throughout the year when the Carroll County Public School System wishes to display student work on school websites, social media, or in publications. If you do not wish to have your child's art, poetry, writing, etc. appear on school websites, social media, or in publications, please notify the school principal in writing (DebbieWinson@carrollk12.org). It is assumed that parents and guardians' consent to their child's work being displayed on school websites, social media, or in publications unless such notification is received.

IMPORTANT VISITOR INFORMATION

1. All exterior doors will be locked.
2. All visitors must ring the main entrance buzzer to request entry.
3. Prior to allowing entry to the building, staff will ask the visitor's full name and reason for visiting.
4. Staff will direct visitors to the main office to sign in.
5. Visitors, including volunteers, are required to sign in through the visitor's system.
6. All visitors must show a photo identification card.
7. All visitors will be issued a visitor's badge.
8. Visitor appointments with staff will be verified.
9. Contractors and service providers' paperwork will be reviewed and verified.
10. Visitors will return their badge to the main office and sign out with staff when leaving.

LUNCHROOM VISITORS

Parents/guardians are welcome to eat in the cafeteria with their child, but we will need permission for a grandparent to visit the child during lunch. While some families choose to bring outside food for their child when visiting, we cannot allow you to bring food for another child. Students will be expected to sit at the family table with visiting family members. There should be no sharing of food with any other student or the use of cell phones by parents during lunch.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

WES seeks and welcomes volunteers to our school! We believe that volunteers strengthen ties with families, community members, and business partners. Please note you must take the online training every year to attend field trips, volunteer in the classroom etc. To access the online training, please click on the link below:

[Volunteer Training](#)

The information from your Volunteer Information Form will be screened and entered into the Volunteer Database at the school(s) selected. Once this process is complete, you will receive an email notification at the email address provided on the Volunteer Information Form. **In order to attend any potential field trip, you must be volunteer trained at least 7 business days in advance.**



STUDENT DISCIPLINE

CCPS follows progressive discipline. If your student is having difficulty following classroom rules, they will receive a warning and have a restorative conversation using a "Stop and Think" form. The second warning will use the same form but will come home for parent signature. Three warnings for the same behavior will involve behavior support and/or administration and parents discussing a plan to correct the behavior. Serious behaviors such as fighting receive an automatic office referral and a phone call home from administration. All behavior is a form of communication, and we are here to teach our students to be respectful, responsible, and ready to learn while they are still learning self-regulation skills.

Make Today Amazing

IMPORTANT TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION

BUS RIDERS

You will receive an email from CCPS asking you to verify and/or provide transportation for your elementary aged students. Only the primary parent for each child will receive the email. This prevents multiple people from trying to fill the form out. You will receive a separate email for each elementary aged child you have enrolled in CCPS. You will need to respond separately to each email. You will be able to view bus routes for bus numbers and stop description both on the CCPS website and Infofinder i. Links to both will be provided in the county email. It is extremely important that you watch for the email(s) and respond promptly so that we have accurate arrival and dismissal information on each child before the start of the school year. If you do not get the email on August 4th, please check your junk/spam folders to be sure it did not go to one of those folders. All forms must be submitted by August 20th. Getting your child to and from school is an absolute safety priority for our school's staff so having accurate information is critical. If you have difficulty, please contact the school office. Thank you for helping us ensure smooth transportation for all children.



Please arrive at the bus stop at least 10 minutes before the assigned time to make sure your child does not miss the bus. Please allow the bus to arrive 10 minutes before and after the posted time. In the beginning of the year, please understand that buses may be early or late as drivers are adjusting to changes in their bus routes. In the morning, buses will drop students off at the front of the school between 9:00-9:30 AM. In the afternoon, bus riders are dismissed from the front doors in waves beginning promptly at 4:00 PM, as we do not have the space to accommodate all buses at once.

BUS TRANSPORTATION POLICY

It is the Department of Transportation's policy to drop off students in grades K – 5, even if parents are not at the bus stop. Please arrange with a friend, family member, or neighbor if you are delayed getting to the bus stop. Develop a plan with your student about what he/she should do if no one is at the bus stop or at home. Students may not ride buses that are not assigned to them. Any changes with transportation must be submitted in writing and have prior approval from our administration.

TRANSPORTATION FORM TO BE COMPLETED

Transportation Information Collection—This year we will be collecting transportation information on each elementary student digitally. The primary parent will receive an email from the county. The link in the email will prompt you with questions about your choices for your child's transportation to and from school. You will get a separate email for each of your elementary children and will need to complete it separately for each child. Please look at these emails and complete the information promptly. You must complete this information annually even if your child's transportation is the same as last year. This ensures we have accurate transportation for your child (ren) before the first day of school. Bus numbers/routes will be available on or around August 15th on the [CCPS Website](#) using *Infofinder*.

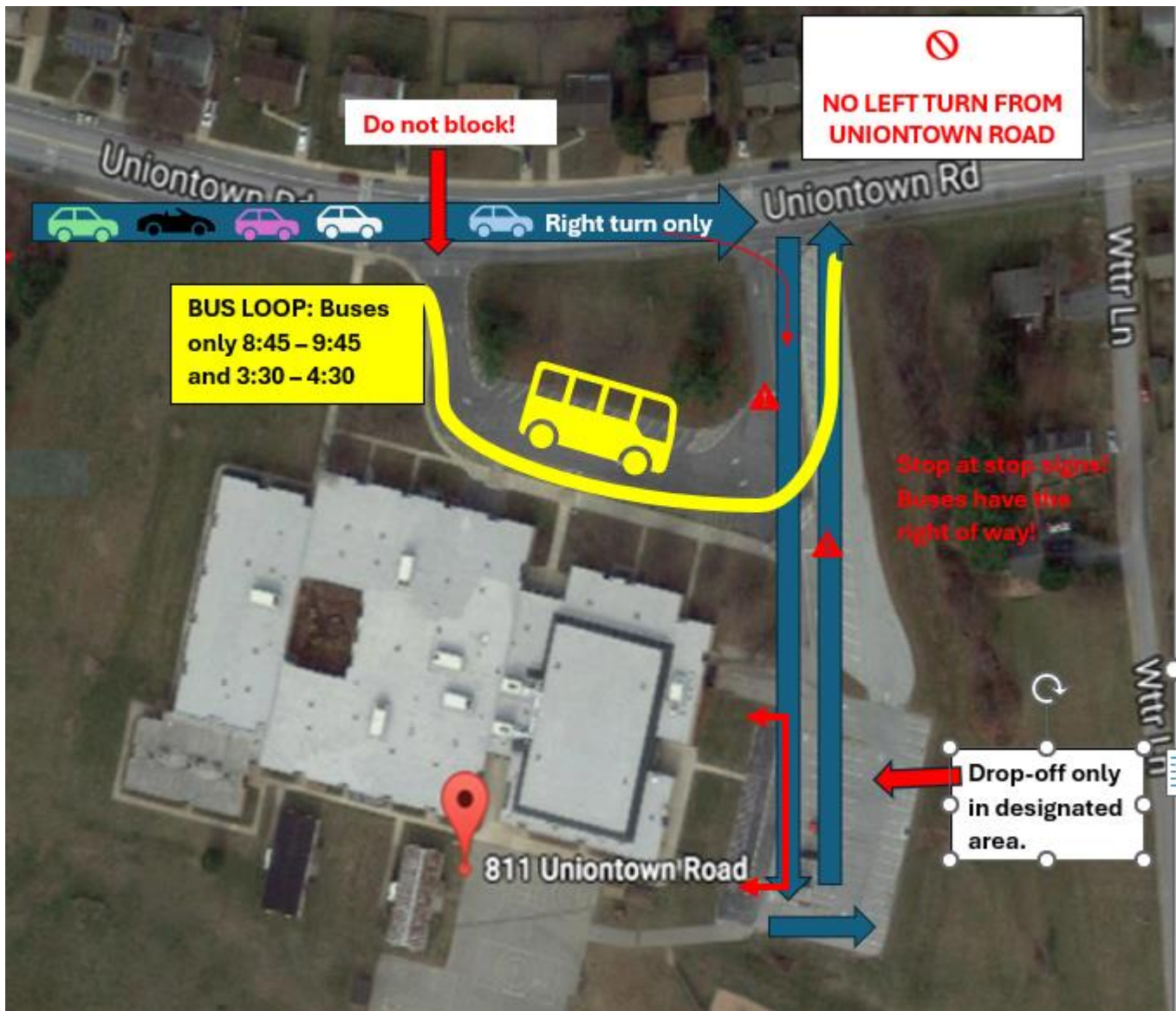
PARENTS-PLEASE CONSIDER ALLOWING YOUR STUDENT(S) TO RIDE THE BUS TO AND FROM SCHOOL. PARKING IS A MAJOR ISSUE AND THE CAR RIDER LINE IMPACTS OUR STAFF'S ABILITY TO GET INTO THE BUILDING IN A TIMELY MANNER TO PREPARE FOR STUDENTS.

CAR-RIDER PROCEDURES

The parent drop-off begins at 9:00 a.m. When dropping off your child in the morning, please turn right from Uniontown Road. Left turns from Uniontown Road are not permitted during the arrival and dismissal windows. Do not block the entrance to the bus loop or cut through the bus loop. That entrance is reserved for buses only from 8:45 to 9:45 and from 3:30 – 4:30. Buses and pedestrians have the right of way so be sure to stop at the posted stop signs when entering or leaving the school. Proceed to the drop-off zone and pull as far forward as possible and let your child exit your vehicle from the passenger side. Once your child has exited, drive forward to complete the loop around the parking lot and proceed with caution to the exit. Please make a right turn only onto Uniontown Road when exiting between 8:45-9:15.

Reminders:

- Please have your student ready to exit the vehicle as soon as they pull up with their materials in hand and hugs already given.
- If your child needs more time or assistance, please pull up to the right, past the drop-off zone, in the spots provided.
- Always remain alert. Refrain from hand-held cell phone use, including texting, while in the car-rider line.
- Do not allow your child to exit the vehicle until you are in the drop-off zone.
- After the 9:25 bell, this side door will be locked, and an adult must walk the student to the front door.



DISMISSAL

Dismissal begins at 4:00 p.m. Students who ride a bus will be dismissed through the front doors. Students designated as car-riders and parent pick-up will be dismissed through the gym/side doors. These students will wait in the gym until a staff member dismisses them to their vehicle or parent. All parents/guardians should be prepared to show identification and provide a signature when picking up a child. If your child is picked up regularly, you will receive a placard to display in your dashboard.



SCHOOL BREAKFAST AND LUNCH INFORMATION

A variety of breakfast and lunch choices are available daily for your child to enjoy! View the menu here: <https://carrollk12.nutrislice.com>.



Breakfast is served daily from 9:00-9:30 a.m.

Lunches will take place at the following times:

Prekindergarten-11:40-12:10

3rd Grade-12:40-1:10

Kindergarten-11:05-11:35

4th Grade-12:10-12:40 PM

1st Grade-11:20-11:50

5th Grade- 1:10-1:40 PM

2nd Grade-11:40-12:10

CCPS cafeterias will continue to use the computerized cash register system. Students may purchase meals with cash. However, money on account protects against forgotten or lost money and allows students to move through the serving lines more quickly. Students will enter their Personal Identification Number (PIN) and proceed to the cashier. Students who wish to purchase a second meal or snack items not included in their meal can use cash or money placed "on account." This applies to all students, even those who would qualify for free meal benefits. Parents can deposit money in their account by sending cash or a check to school with their child or by using an online payment service at www.myschoolbucks.com. Account money remains in your child's account until they graduate or leave CCPS. New students can get their PIN number from their teacher, from the Home Access Center, or from the cafeteria staff.

Price List	
Breakfast	Free
Lunch	\$2.50
Milk.	\$0.60
Ice Cream	\$1.00
Snack Items	\$0.75 - \$1.00

Eligible households are invited to apply for meal benefits at www.myschoolapps.com. Eligibility for meal benefits may help families receive additional resources such as subsidized internet service, field trip fee waivers, and P-EBT benefits so it is important to still apply if you meet eligibility guidelines. One application can be completed for the entire household when all members are listed. Parents may apply for benefits at any time during the school year. For more information visit: <https://www.carrollk12.org/operation/financial-services/food-services>.

Food choices offered to students include multiple entrees, fresh fruits, and vegetables (purchased locally when available), whole grain breads and rolls, and flavored and unflavored milk. Although students select the foods that they want, they must take a minimum number of items for breakfast and lunch. At least one of their choices must be a fruit or vegetable. Meals are analyzed to meet federal nutritional requirements. Menus are posted here: <https://carrollk12.nutrislice.com>.

Nutrition is an important part of children's health and well-being and provides the fuel to learn, making them more responsive to classroom instruction. CCPS is committed to promoting student wellness and assuring that our school meals meet federal nutrition standards. Visit the website to learn more <https://www.carrollk12.org/operation/financial-services/food-services>.

****No Door Dash or Grub Hub orders will be accepted at Westminster Elementary.**

WES SCHOOL PICTURE DAYS

Mark your calendars! Picture day at WES will take place on

September 23 - Fall Pictures (Retakes 11/25)

January 8 - group and candid photos

April 7 - Spring Pictures and class photos

May 14 - 5th Grade Panoramic

Bring your smile!



More information forthcoming 😊

SCHOOL MESSENGER COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

CCPS will continue using School Messenger for communications coming from school. Phone numbers and email addresses used by this system are taken from the emergency contact information provided by parents via the emergency cards collected at the beginning of the school year. If you have any changes to your contact information during the school year, please be sure to contact the school office, so that this information can be updated in our database.

ADVANCED ACADEMIC PROGRAM

The CCPS Advanced Academic Program is designed to meet the needs of highly able learners and maximize student achievement. Advanced Academic teachers, in collaboration with classroom instructors, will continue to provide a continuum of interventions designed to meet the needs of Advanced Academic Education Program participants. This may include in-class instruction, pullout groups, and/or resource development with classroom teachers. A Referral and Review Team will determine student eligibility for interventions. Indicators for participation include observational checklists, standardized test scores, work samples, and classroom performance. Although students are not formally identified until the beginning of third grade, Advanced Academic teachers will continue to provide a range of services for grades K-5.

For additional questions, please contact Mrs. Dolan at LisaDolan@carrollk12.org.

A MESSAGE FROM NURSE EMILY



Hello! I hope everyone is enjoying some summer fun! I would like to welcome everyone back and update you with some basic health room information that may be helpful at the start of the new school year.

When your child visits the health room for an injury or illness, the nurse will complete an assessment and enter it electronically into their confidential health record. The nurse will reach out directly to the parent/guardian if it is a serious or urgent matter.

If your child is injured, requires use of a brace, crutches, wheelchair, etc., a **DOCTOR'S NOTE** is required to make appropriate accommodations for the appropriate length of time. A parent's note may only excuse a student from PE for no more than 3 days. This is necessary to ensure we are taking the best care of your children while they are at school.

All medications require a doctor/nurse practitioner signature on the CCPS MEDICATION CONSENT FORM. Medication can only be delivered to the nurse by the parent in the labeled pharmacy bottle/box with a valid expiration date. OTC medications must be in a sealed box (not previously opened) and match the order from the prescriber.

[Allergic Reaction Emergency Plan and Medication Order form](#)

[CCPS Medication Form](#)

IMPORTANT: All routine and as needed medications require a new order at the beginning of each new school year. The forms are found on the CCPS website or through the above links. Once they are completed by the physician, please return them to the school nurse. **It is a violation of the CCPS Drug/Alcohol Policy for children to carry medication to and from school.**



Medication drop off times: 8/29 hours of the open house, 8/30 10 am-3 pm. Please reach out to the nurse directly with any questions/concerns regarding medication drop off. If the stated times do not work with your schedule, please contact the nurse to set up a time.

A temperature of 100 degrees or greater is considered a fever. CCPS policy requires that you keep your child home and fever-free for a full 24 hours (without Tylenol or Ibuprofen) before returning to school. We realize that this can be a hardship for parents/guardians, but necessary to keep from transmitting illnesses to their classmates.

The dental clinic is scheduled for September 19 and September 20. More information and permission slips will be forthcoming.

I hope this information is helpful. As always, feel free to call/email me with any questions. I look forward to an exciting and healthy school year!

Emily Adkins, BSN, RN

WES School Nurse

Enadkin@carrollk12.org

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC UPDATE

Attention 5th grade students who played last year in 4th grade – let's do it again this year as members of the 5th Grade/Intermediate Band and Orchestra!



Mr. Thompson will send an email to parents/families of last year's 4th grade instrumental music students with a link to sign up for 5th grade/intermediate instrumental music. Be on the lookout for that email before the end of August. It is our hope that all students who completed instrumental music last year return again this year. Aside from our Winter and Spring concerts, we will also perform in the Westminster Region Side By Side Concert in February and at "Music In The Parks" in Hershey in May. You don't want to miss those experiences!

5th grade/intermediate level instrumental music lessons will tentatively begin at the end of the first week of school.

Attention 4th grade students – This is your year to play an instrument in instrumental music! Mr. Thompson will meet with all 4th grade classes during the first week of school to share information about the instrumental music program. More information will be sent home with 4th grade students over the first few weeks of school, including information about an instrument demonstration coming to WES and an instrument tryout day! Parents of all students interested in joining the instrumental music program are encouraged to attend the WES Instrumental Music Information Night on Thursday, September 12, 6:00 PM at WES. If you have any questions about the instrumental music program, please contact Mr. Thompson at BrianThompson@carrollk12.org.

Are you a 5th grade student who didn't play in instrumental music last year? It's not too late to join! 5th grade students who didn't play an instrument last year in 4th grade can join the instrumental music program as a beginner level student this year. Mr. Thompson will send home more information on the first day of school to interested students.

See you soon!

Mr. Thompson

Instrumental Music Teacher

BrianThompson@carrollk12.org

VOCAL MUSIC NEWS

I am so excited to see our students in the music room at WES! I have been working on new games and materials to use in the classroom this year!

Attention 4th & 5th grade parents! This year your child can be part of the WES chorus! The chorus will be performing a new show in the spring of 2025. Please check the newsletters for important information about dates, times, and costumes.

Chorus provides exciting opportunities for students, including singing with classmates who also love to sing, developing good vocal technique through choral exercises, and performing on stage for a live audience!

The best part? No auditions required! Any student is welcome to join! Look for a letter to come home in the first weeks of school with further details regarding rehearsals, concert dates, and how to sign up!

Later in the year, our 5th grade students will have the chance to audition for the annual CCPS Eisteddfod chorus. Look for information about Eisteddfod auditions in December!

I look forward to a fantastic year of exploring music with all our students at WES!

Sincerely,

Cathy Bargerstock

Vocal Music Teacher 🎵🎵



WESTMINSTER ELEMENTARY PARENT/TEACHER ORGANIZATION

THE WESTMINSTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTO IS A NON-PROFIT VOLUNTEER GROUP OF PARENTS, TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS COMMITTED TO ENHANCING AND ENRICHING THE EDUCATION OF OUR CHILDREN. THE PTO IS HERE TO SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL, STUDENTS AND TEACHERS. WE RAISE FUNDS TO SUPPLEMENT SCHOOL RESOURCES, SPONSOR EVENTS, AND HELP ORGANIZE OPPORTUNITIES FOR WES. MEMBERSHIP IS FREE! PARENTS AND GUARDIANS ARE MEMBERS OF THE PTO JUST BY HAVING A CHILD ATTEND WES.

2024-25 BOARD MEMBERS:

PRESIDENT – STACEY TRACEY

VICE PRESIDENT – JASMINE THOMAS

TREASURER – JENNIE HAMMETT

SECRETARY – LINDSAY JENSEN



WHAT WE FUND:

THE PTO HELPS FUND AGENDA BOOKS, ASSEMBLIES, FIELD TRIPS, PANDA BUCK STORE, MUSIC PROGRAMS, TEACHER STIPENDS, PLAY DAY, BIRTHDAY BOOKS, WES READS BOOKS, END OF YEAR PARTIES, CONFERENCE NIGHT DINNERS, STAFF APPRECIATION, AND MORE. LAST YEAR, WE WERE ALSO ABLE TO REPLACE THE PLAYGROUND, GET SPONSORS FOR NEW GYM MATS FOR THE PE DEPARTMENT, AND PURCHASE A GAGA PIT AND NEW PLAYGROUND CART. WE ALSO HOST FUN EVENTS FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY, INCLUDING PAINT NIGHT, BINGO, TRUNK OR TREAT, MATH NIGHT, STEM FAIRS, BOOK FAIRS AND MORE.

HOW CAN YOU HELP:

- ATTEND A PTO MEETING - EVERYONE IS INVITED! OUR FIRST MEETING IS SEPTEMBER 6TH AT 6PM.
- VOLUNTEER – THE PTO WILL HAVE SEVERAL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.
- FUNDRAISE – OUR BIGGEST FUNDRAISER IS THE FUN RUN WHICH KICKS OFF IN SEPTEMBER. WE ALSO HOST MONTHLY RESTAURANT NIGHTS AND SEVERAL OTHER OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT THE PTO.

PLEASE JOIN OUR NEW FACEBOOK GROUP BELOW TO STAY IN THE LOOP ABOUT UPCOMING EVENTS. UNFORTUNATELY, WE LOST ACCESS TO OUR PREVIOUS FACEBOOK PAGE.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

FACEBOOK GROUP: WESTMINSTER ELEMENTARY PTO

WEBSITE: [HTTPS://LINKTR.EE/WESPTO21158](https://linktr.ee/wespto21158)

EMAIL: [WESPTOBOARD@GMAIL.COM](mailto:wesptoboard@gmail.com)

NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

The Board of Education of Carroll County does not engage in discrimination that is unlawful or contrary to Maryland State Department of Education guidance on the basis of age, color, genetic information, marital status, mental or physical disability, ancestry or national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

The Board of Education of Carroll County is firmly committed to creating equal employment and educational opportunities for all persons by providing an environment that supports optimal academic achievement and productive work and is free from any form of unlawful discrimination, including access to school facilities, educational programs, and extracurricular activities.

The following position has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Director of Human Resources, 125 North Court Street, Westminster, Maryland 21157, (410) 751-3070.

ADA ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT

Carroll County Public Schools (CCPS) does not discriminate on the basis of disability in employment or the provision of services, programs or activities. Persons needing auxiliary aids and services for communication should contact the Communications Office at 410-751-3020 or publicinfo@carrollk12.org, or write to Carroll County Public Schools, 125 North Court Street, Westminster, Maryland 21157. Persons who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, may use Relay or 7-1-1. Please contact the school system at least one (1) week in advance of the date the special accommodation is needed.

Information concerning the Americans with Disabilities Act is available from the Director of Facilities Management, (410) 751-3177, or the Communications Officer, (410) 751-3020, 125 North Court Street, Westminster, Maryland 21157.

ASBESTOS NOTICE

The Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) requires all buildings owned or leased by the Board of Education of Carroll County to prepare, update and make available all asbestos management plans. The building asbestos management plans are available for review at the individual Carroll County school locations and at the Office of Facilities Operations, located at 191 Schaeffer Avenue, Westminster, MD 21157. Asbestos management plans are required by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and depict the location, amount, condition, and response action projected for any asbestos containing materials (ACM), if any are located in the school or building.

Parents Right to Know

The federal "Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)" of 2015 requires all school systems to notify parents of their right to request information regarding the professional qualifications of their child's classroom teacher and any paraprofessional providing services to the child. If you would like information regarding the certification and/or licensure qualifications of your child's teacher(s), please visit this [Maryland State Department of Education \(MSDE\) site](#) . If you are unable to access the link or need information regarding your child's paraprofessional(s), please submit a written request to the individual listed below:

Department of Human Resources
Carroll County Public Schools
125 North Court Street
Westminster, MD 21157