

A photograph of Washington Elementary School, a single-story building with a stone and brick facade. The building has a sign that reads "WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL" and "BANGOR, PENN. 17003-1001". There are two entrances labeled "MAIN ENTRANCE" and "BUS ENTRANCE". The sky is blue with some clouds, and there are trees in the background.

Washington Elementary School News

October 2024

Hello Washington Families! It is hard to believe that we are already welcoming the month of October! September was a productive month as students stepped back into the routine of the school year. I am so proud of the STAR behavior our students are exhibiting in their classrooms, around our school building and on the bus. Thank you for your support in reinforcing the importance of being a STAR student!

October brings exciting events around the community and also here at school. Students will have the opportunity to participate in our Spirit Week from October 21st through October 25th. During that week, boys and girls will attend a Pep Rally assembly to celebrate the Bangor vs. Pen Argyl rivalry football game. The week will end with our annual Halloween Parade. Please see the attached documents to read more about these upcoming events. I am looking forward to another month of fun, learning and growth at Washington!

~Mrs. Amanda Borger

Columbus Day – No School

In observance of Columbus Day, there will be no school on **Monday, October 14th**.

Picture Day Retakes

Washington's picture day was held on Tuesday, September 3. Pre-ordered student photos from picture day were delivered to school and sent home with your student last week. Photo proofs were also sent home with any students that did not pre-order photos, along with ordering information. Photographers will be back at Washington on **Tuesday, October 15th** for retakes. If you are interested in having your student's picture re-taken, please send the pictures back to school on that day with your student. In addition, if your student was absent on picture day, you can pre-order by logging on to www.orders.christmascitystudio.com and enter School Code WASHES24. If you have any questions, please call us at 610-599-7014.

Halloween Parade Event

On **Friday, October 25**, Washington and Five Points Elementary schools will participate in the 4th annual Halloween Parade at Bangor Memorial Park. The parade will begin at 11:45 am. Stay tuned for more details...

Nurse Notes

Welcome back to school! As the weather gets cooler remember that students go out daily for recess and they might need a jacket. Please write your student's name on their jacket in case it gets left behind on the playground or turned into our lost and found.

With fall comes cold and flu season, so please remind your student(s) to keep their hands out of their mouth, wash their hands often, use a tissue when needed and cough into their elbow. Most importantly, please do not send your student to school if he/she is sick.

If you have a completed dental or physical form for your student, please send them in as soon as possible.

Sapphire Parent Portal

Sapphire is our online student information system. This online system will give you access to your student's information, attendance, report cards and other forms of information.

The **2025 Digital Packet** is located in the Sapphire Parent Portal and replaces the paper packets that were sent home in past years. The Digital Packet needs to be completed every year. The packet is necessary, so we have the most updated contact information, annual authorization for your student(s) to be photographed, to use school technology and general information for our school nurse. If you have not yet completed 2025 Digital Packet, use the following link: <https://bangorsdsapphire.k12system.com/CommunityWebPortal/Welcome.cfm>

Attendance Reminders

In the event that your student is absent from school, please remember to send in either a handwritten or doctor's excuse when they return. For your convenience, you can also submit an absence excuse through your Sapphire Parent Portal account under Student Data Forms.

Please also note the following times:

- A student is tardy if they arrive any time between 8:30am and 11:40am and are absent a full day if leaving in the same time frame.
- A half-day absence is arriving or leaving any time between 11:41am and 1:25pm.
- Early Dismissal is leaving any time after 1:26pm.
- If you sign in or sign out your student at any time throughout the day including up until dismissal, an absence excuse is required.

Full details can be found in the 2024-2025 Student Handbook – Section 2 - Attendance – pages 9-16.

Headphones Needed

All Washington students use their iPads on a daily basis. We are asking parents to send a pair of headphones with wires, for their personal use, in a labeled Ziplock baggie. These headphones do not need to be expensive or fancy, as many headphones on the market are very basic and can be picked up inexpensively. Please reach out to your student's teacher if it is not possible for you to supply headphones for your student.

Important Information

Teachers can be reached by phone each morning from 7:40AM until 8:10AM, or daily by email.

Our Blackboard Connect system works well, but it is only as good as the information that we have. Please log in to your Sapphire Parent Portal Account and fill out the 2025 Digital Packet. Please be sure to update your phone number and email address so that you can be notified of the latest information.

Please remind your students to follow the bus rules by sitting in their seats properly, using an inside voice, keeping their hands and feet to themselves, and always obeying the bus driver.

When picking up or dropping off your student at school, please remember to use the appropriate pick up/drop off procedure by coming around the back of the building. In the morning, please have your student wait in your

car until a staff member comes outside before allowing them to exit your vehicle. For their safety, please have them exit and enter on the sidewalk side of your vehicle.

The doors to the school do not open until 8:10am. **Please do not leave your student outside before this time as there is no one to supervise them.**

Please note: The doors to the school close at 8:30 am. If your student arrives after 8:30, please bring your student into the office and sign them in.

We anticipate an excellent school year by working together for the benefit of your student. Please feel free to contact the office if we can assist you in any way.

Grade 3 Happenings

We are very busy throughout our Third grade classrooms! After learning the expectations for STAR behaviors throughout the school, the students have had the opportunity to show us what they learned and earn star stamps.

In math we are learning about multiplication and division. The students continue to impress us with their application of the skills we have taught.

In our trailblazing classes we are learning all about animal adaptations. Not only are we gaining knowledge about animal adaptations, but we are also learning reading strategies, grammar, writing strategies, and exploring various literary elements throughout the unit.

The rest of the Third grade classes have been learning about Maps and Globes in Social Studies and are getting ready to dive into Earth Science. Classes have also been learning reading strategies, grammar, writing strategies, and literary elements using the Journeys curriculum materials.

All of our students are continuing to work on spelling and phonics skills as well. We are looking forward to the months ahead and can't wait to see what our students achieve next.

Grade 4 Happenings

We are excited to be going on a field trip to Bangor to visit the Heritage Center, Library, Fire House and The Local Scoop. This visit will teach the students about the local organizations and businesses that are available to all of our community members.

Fourth grade is learning two-digit multiplication and estimation for Math. In Science the concepts of The Nature of Science and Observing Nature are being taught using hands-on activities, videos and experiments. In Reading the students are working on the skills of main idea and details, cause and effect and summarizing using various texts.

Related Arts Happenings

The **Library** team would like to thank everyone who participated in the book fair. Please remind your students to bring their books back weekly. As the trimester progresses, students will begin learning about the different sections of the library and how to independently locate books within them. We're excited to help foster their independence and love of reading.

This year in **Art** at Washington, students will be learning new art techniques and furthering their knowledge in painting, drawing and ceramics while exploring new artists.

Currently 3rd grade is learning about autumn leaves, warm and cool colors, and textiles. They will be weaving two of their leaf paintings together to create one fall artwork. The 4th grade students are currently learning

about pumpkins, the artist Yayoi Kusama, and printmaking. They will be drawing pumpkins that relate to the artist and her love for dots, and then printing a pattern background with black ink. I can't wait for you to see how talented my students are!

In **Phys. Ed.** Class, we will be starting our basketball unit soon. Please remind your son or daughter to wear sneakers on their Phys. Ed. days so they can safely participate. In Health, we will be learning about the skeletal system just in time for Halloween! ~ Ms. Sommer

In **Technology** class, we are continuing to extend our knowledge of all programs and apps of the iPad and can't wait to dive into more content soon. A friendly reminder to charge your iPad nightly and keep your charger in your backpack just in case.

¡Bienvenido a la clase de **musica!** This month students are learning about music during Hispanic Heritage Month. 4th Graders will be singing songs and playing games, as well as learning a traditional Mexican dance. 3rd Graders are learning about influential musicians such as Tito Puente and Celia Cruz, and later learning all about Mexican hot chocolate. Yum!

The Counselor's Corner **Mrs. Keenan M.Ed. School Counselor**

October is Bullying Prevention month. Mrs. Keenan will be out in each classroom presenting a lesson related to bullying. An important reminder to parents about bullying: helping your children determine if behaviors they have experienced have been rude, mean, or is it bullying. The definition of bullying is: an ongoing and deliberate misuse of power in relationships through repeated verbal, physical and/or social behavior that intends to cause physical, social and/or psychological harm. It can involve an individual or a group misusing their power, or perceived power, over one or more people who feel unable to stop it from happening.

Often children have experienced another child being mean or rude to them, when this behavior is being reported to the counselor, or administration the parent or child refers to the student being bullied. We want children to understand the difference and that being bullied is when the behavior is repeated, or there is an ongoing misuse of power. Students engaging in rude or mean behavior is never acceptable, but we want kids to recognize what true bullying behavior is, and my goal is to provide them with the coping skills and strategies to deal with the rude or mean behavior in an appropriate way. We also want students to know when they feel they need help with a bullying situation.

We are encouraging all students to wear **ORANGE** on "Unity Day" October 16, 2024, to unite together for kindness, acceptance and inclusion of all students.

Student Assistance Program

The Elementary SAP (Student Assistance Program) team works with students, parents and teachers to identify issues which pose a barrier to a student's learning and school success. SAP will assist schools in developing a comprehensive response to the complex issues that elementary students face. These include improving academic achievement by removing barriers to learning, promoting safer educational environments, improving attendance and behavior by building better connections with students and their families. Washington Elementary School also has a child study team which reviews students' learning and behavioral progress. These two teams often blend and overlap to provide the best support possible to students.

Does Your Student Demonstrate Any of the Following Behaviors?

- *Difficulty coping with life transitions such as death of a loved one, divorce of parents, or friendships concerns*
- *Withdrawing from family, friends and/or school*
- *Changing friends; no longer spends time with old friends*
- *Defying authority both at home and at school*
- *Depressed*
- *Acting aggressively*
- *Lying*
- *Sudden drop in grades*

Parents, school staff, and students are all able to make referrals. To make a referral, you can fill out a SAP referral form in the main office or call Washington Elementary School and ask to speak to a SAP team member with any questions or concerns.

Notes from the PTO

Thank you to those who participated in our **Fall Porch Package** fundraiser!

Our next fundraiser will be **Charleston Wrap**. We will get catalogs out for viewing purposes, but all sales will be online. We are excited to partner with this new company. They also offer personalized items. Be sure to check out those options. All orders get shipped directly to your home.

Please join the PTO! We have an annual family membership fee of \$10. This can be paid directly on our website.

This month we will be starting our **Monthly Raffle**, so be sure to check that out. Lots of great prizes!

We do collect Weis receipts all year long, please put them in a bag and send them in with your child.

Next meeting will be held **Monday, October 7th @ 7pm in the Washington Cafeteria**. We hope to see you there!

Visit the Bangor Elementary PTO Website for up-to-date information about PTO events and information:

www.bangorelempto.ptboard.com

Coming Events

9/30-10/4 – PTO Fall Porch Package Fundraiser Pickup (Heinsohn Farm)

9/30 - PTO Charleston Wrap Fundraiser Begins

9/30, 10/2, 10/4 -Grade 4 Heritage Center Field Trips

10/14 – Columbus Day/No School for Students

10/15 – Picture Make-up Day & Retakes

10/23 – PTO Charleston Wrap Fundraiser Ends

10/21-10/25 – Spirit Week

10/25 –Halloween Parade/Bangor Park 11:45-12:45