



GRIZZLY NEWS

WESTERN HEIGHTS MIDDLE SCHOOL

WELCOME BACK!

TO ANOTHER GREAT YEAR AT WHMS! THIS NEWSLETTER WILL GIVE YOU A SNAPSHOT OF OUR START, ALONG WITH SOME INFORMATION ABOUT WHAT'S COMING!

**HOW CAN YOUR STUDENT BE SUCCESSFUL THIS YEAR? BE HERE!
ATTENDANCE IS THE SINGLE BEST PREDICTOR OF YOUR CHILD'S SUCCESS!**

AS OUR PRINCIPAL, MR. MAURIELLO, SAYS: "SHOW UP EVERY DAY, WORK HARD, AND BE NICE."

EVENTS

BACK-TO-SCHOOL
EVENTS 2025

MAGNET ARTS

A SHOWCASE
OF
SUMMER PROJECTS

WHMS STAFF

MEET THE
2025-26
STAFF

PROGRAMS

A SNAPSHOT OF
BEYOND-THE-BELL
AT WHMS

SPORTS

A QUICK LOOK AT THE
UPCOMING VOLLEYBALL
SEASON

WCPS

FIT CHECKS--
AN UPDATE FROM THE
BOARD OF ED

EVENTS

SEPTEMBER



SEPT. 9 - JELLY STONE
EXCURSION



SEPT. 18 - PICTURE DAY

SEPT. 18 - MEET THE TEACHER
NIGHT

SEPT. 30 - BTB SESSION 1 BEGINS

OCTOBER

OCT. 23 - MAGNET OPEN
HOUSE



NOVEMBER

NOV. 22 - MAGNET
AUDITIONS





MAGNET ARTS



WESTERN HEIGHTS HAS TWO MAGNET PROGRAMS, AVENUE A, FOR ELA, AND AVENUE B, FOR PERFORMING AND VISUAL ARTS. EACH SUMMER, INCOMING AND CURRENT MAGNET ARTS STUDENTS CREATE SUMMER PROJECTS FOR THEIR PROGRAM. BELOW ARE SOME EXAMPLES:

GRAPHIC ARTS

GRAPHIC ARTS STUDENTS CREATED TRAVEL POSTERS FROM SOMEWHERE THEY VISITED! CLICK [HERE](#) FOR STUDENT EXAMPLES.

CREATIVE WRITING

CREATIVE WRITING STUDENTS KEPT A SUMMER JOURNAL WITH DIFFERENT PROMPTS! ONE PROMPT WAS TO DESCRIBE SOMETHING WITHOUT NAMING IT, CLICK [HERE](#) FOR STUDENT EXAMPLES.

THEATER

THEATRE STUDENTS WATCHED, REVIEWED, AND ANALYZED A MUSICAL! CLICK [HERE](#) FOR STUDENT EXAMPLES.

VISUAL ARTS

VISUAL ARTS STUDENTS CREATED OBSERVATIONAL AND SKETCHBOOK DRAWINGS! CLICK [HERE](#) FOR STUDENT EXAMPLES.

DANCE

DANCE STUDENTS CHOREOGRAPHED AND RECORDED THEIR OWN "SITE SPECIFIC" DANCES, MEANING THEY USED THEIR ENVIRONMENT WHEN CREATING THE DANCES! EXAMPLE PICTURES IN THE CORNERS ARE KATALINA EICHELBERGER (LEFT) AND MALIA GONZALEZ (RIGHT).

IF YOUR CHILD IS INTERESTED IN APPLYING TO EITHER PROGRAM, PLEASE USE THE CONTACT INFORMATION BELOW!

AVENUE A: HANNAH JACK, JACKHAN@WCPS.K12.MD.US

AVENUE B: AMY HILLIARD, HILLIAMY@WCPS.K12.MD.US

WHMS STAFF



LOOKING FORWARD TO A GREAT YEAR

AFTER A SUMMER OF FUN AND FAMILY, WHMS TEACHERS RETURNED TO THE BUILDING BRIGHT AND EARLY ON AUGUST 18TH. THEN STARTED A WHIRLWIND WEEK OF PROCEDURE REVIEW, CREATING CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENTS, SETTING UP DIGITAL CLASSROOMS, AND MAKING SEATING CHARTS.

ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL, TEACHERS WORE THIS YEAR'S GRIZZLY T-SHIRT, DESIGNED BY OUR VERY OWN MADISON KIFER, WHO WAS ONE OF OUR SCHOOL SECRETARIES AND IS TAKING ON A TEACHING ROLE THIS YEAR IN THE MATH DEPARTMENT. WELCOME TO THE TEACHING STAFF, MS. KIFER!

CHECK BACK TO FUTURE NEWSLETTER EDITIONS TO SEE HIGHLIGHTS OF MORE GREAT WHMS STAFF.

PROGRAMS



"WHAT IS
BEYOND-THE-
BELL?"



OUR BEYOND-THE-BELL PROGRAM OFFERS STUDENTS A SAFE, ENGAGING, AND ENRICHING SPACE AFTER SCHOOL. WHETHER YOUR CHILD WANTS TO WIND DOWN WITH COLORING, GET HELP WITH HOMEWORK, STAY ACTIVE WITH SPORTS, OR TRY SOMETHING NEW, THERE'S SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE. STUDENTS ALSO RECEIVE A NUTRITIOUS SNACK AND DINNER BEFORE HEADING HOME. IT'S A GREAT WAY TO EXTEND LEARNING, BUILD FRIENDSHIPS, AND MAKE THE MOST OF THE AFTERNOON IN A RELAXED, SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT.

A SAMPLE BEYOND-THE-BELL SCHEDULE :

2:20- STUDENTS REPORT TO CAFETERIA WHEN WALKERS/ CAR RIDERS ARE DISMISSED. ATTENDANCE IS TAKEN AND SNACK IS GIVEN.

2:30- CLUB ADVISORS MEET THEIR STUDENTS AND WALK TO CLUB LOCATIONS. STUDENTS STAY IN THIS LOCATION UNTIL DINNER TIME.

3:50- MEALS ARE GIVEN IN CLUB LOCATIONS.

4:00- 4:30- CLEAN UP. CLUBS HEAD BACK TO CAFETERIA FOR DISMISSAL.



**BEYOND-THE-BELL SESSION 1 BEGINS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2025.**

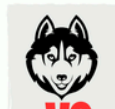


FALL SPORTS

CONGRATS TO ALL OUR LADY GRIZZLIES FOR MAKING
THE VOLLEYBALL TEAM



GAME SCHEDULE



HOME

9/11/25

VS



VS E. RUSSEL
HICKS



HOME

9/22/25

VS



VS SMITHSBURG



AWAY

9/15/25

VS



@ SPRINGFIELD



HOME

9/23/25

VS



VS CLEAR
SPRING



AWAY

9/18/25

VS



@ NORTHERN



COME SUPPORT OUR LADY GRIZZLIES!
ALL 6TH GRADE GAMES BEGIN AT 6PM. 7TH AND
8TH GRADE GAMES TO FOLLOW





MAKE SURE YOU
GET YOUR "FIT IN
CHECK!"

WCPS



YOUR FIT IS IN CHECK IF:

- ALL CLOTHES COVER ALL UNDERGARMENTS – WHETHER SITTING, STANDING, OR MOVING
- DESIGN OR LANGUAGE ON CLOTHING DOES NOT DISRUPT A POSITIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT
- TOPS COVER THE CHEST, STOMACH, AND BACK
- TOPS HAVE SLEEVES OR STRAPS THAT ARE WORN ON SHOULDERS
- PANTS DON'T DRAG ON THE FLOOR
- HATS, HOODS, AND HEAD COVERINGS ARE ONLY WORN OUTSIDE THE BUILDING
 - *(ONLY PERMITTED INSIDE IF APPROVED FOR MEDICAL OR RELIGIOUS REASONS)*

PLEASE UNDERSTAND WHMS WILL PROVIDE YOUR STUDENT
WITH A SHIRT IF NECESSARY



**"FIT CHECK" IS A WCPS
COUNTY-WIDE POLICY!**





GRIZZLY CLUB

At-A-Glance

Team Members:

Lingg, Murphy, Merrill, Nevells, Gertz, Vitiello,
Murray, Miller, Baldwin, Shearer

The Mission

Our mission is to create and maintain an effective learning environment by establishing norms (Respect, Responsibility, Readiness) needed for all students in our school to achieve social, emotional, and academic success.

Important Dates:

	Obligation cut-off	Standing change
Interim 1	9/26	10/3
MP 1	10/30	11/7
Interim 2	12/5	12/12
MP 2	1/16	1/23
Interim 3	2/20	2/27
MP 3	4/1	4/10
Interim 4	5/1	5/8
MP 4	6/9	8/25

Event	Date
Grizzly Growl	Oct 10th
Gather and Glow	Dec 19th
Frost Fair	Feb 6th
Spring Spectacular	Apr 17th

Grizzly Standings

Blue (14+ points)

- ★ Access to ALL Grizzly Experiences
- ★ Exclusive "Blue-Only" off-campus trips
- ★ Dismissed first for outdoor lunch rec
- ★ BONUS+ Grizzly Golds at each interim/marketing period
- ★ No hall pass needed for bathroom zones with Blue Paw Sticker
- ★ Blue Paw Sticker MUST be in student's possession and shown to receive rewards and hall passes.

Red (12 - 13 points)

- ★ Access to ALL Grizzly Experiences
- ★ Access to "Red-Only" Rewards
- ★ BONUS Grizzly Gold at each interim/marketing period

White (8 - 11 points)

- ★ Access to Grizzly Experiences
- ★ Additional Grizzly Gold each interim/marketing period

Yellow (0 - 7 points)

- ★ Access to Grizzly Experiences

- ☐ Stickers MUST be in possession of student and displayed to receive rewards from day to day
- ☐ Lost their sticker? Responsibility is important, it is not replaced until next standing change.
- ☐ Students will only receive a new sticker at interim and marking period change if they raise their standing or maintain Blue standing.



Point System

<u>Behavior</u>	Points	<u>Grades</u>	Points	<u>Attendance</u> (Unexcused)	Points	<u>Obligations</u>	Points	<u>Positive Referrals</u>	Points
0 Discipline Referrals	5	B or above in all classes	5	0 Absences	5	No obligations	1	Received	2
1 Discipline Referrals	1	C or above in all classes	3	1 Absences	3				
2 Discipline Referrals	0	D or above in all classes	1	2 Absences	1	1 or more obligations	0	Did Not Receive	0