
October 2025

NEWSCHESTER

Melissa Geraine, Principal

Avis Goodman, Assistant Principal

William Hartner, Assistant Principal



Main Office

(754) 322-8900

Attendance Line

(754) 322-8902

Aftercare Line

(754) 322-8927

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Wildcats,

I can hardly believe how quickly time is flying—it's already October and fall is officially here! We are looking forward to a wonderful month filled with exciting events for our students and families.

We will begin the month with our Fall Book Fair and our special Family Book Fair Night featuring BINGO! This is always such a fun evening for families to come together, enjoy time with friends, and build excitement around reading.

Later in the month, we will celebrate one of our favorite traditions—our Annual Fall Parade. Students and staff always have a great time showing off their costumes, and it's a joyful event that truly brings our school community together.

We are grateful for the continued support of our families. Your involvement makes all the difference, and we look forward to sharing these special moments with you throughout October.

Warmest regards,

Your Proud Principal, Mrs. Geraine



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Westchester Elementary PTA

Phone: 754-322-8900

Website: www.browardschools.com/westchester



Oct 2: No School

Sept 29– Oct 11: Fall Bookfair

Oct 8: SAC meeting @ 2:30 p.m.

Oct 8: Bookfair Night 6:00- 8:00 p.m.

Oct 10: Early Release Day 12:00 p.m.

Oct 13: No School/Teacher Planning Day

Oct 14 – 22: Candy Drive

Oct 20: No School

Oct 23 – 31: Red Ribbon Week

Oct 31: Fall Parade



Safety and security are our top priorities. Please make sure to remember the following safety procedures:

- ❖ All visitors **MUST** report to the front office and must have I.D. to gain access to our school.
- ❖ All visitors must go through our Raptor Visitor System.
- ❖ Students will wear their I.D.s while on campus.
- ❖ Parents must update their contact information with the front office.
- ❖ Visitors must stop at the front gate and speak with our Campus Monitor to gain entrance to campus.
- ❖ Identification is needed to gain access to front office.

If It's 8:00, You're Late!

This is a reminder that school begins promptly at 8:00 AM. Our front door will close at 8:05 AM daily. If you arrive after 8:05, you will need to exit your vehicle and sign your child into school at the front office.

It is important that your child arrives on time, as teachers begin their instruction right at 8:00. Your cooperation and understanding are greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your support.



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- ❖ The first bell rings at 7:55 a.m. each morning.
- ❖ On campus supervision begins at 7:30 a.m.
- ❖ Breakfast begins at 7:30 a.m. All students are invited to eat breakfast at no charge.
- ❖ It is vital that students arrive to school on time.
- ❖ K - 2 car rider students are dropped off and picked up in the front of the school, at the main entrance on Royal Palm.
- ❖ K-2 Walkers enter and exit through Gate 2 at the front of the school (corner of Royal Palm and 123 Ave)
- ❖ 3 - 5 car rider students are dropped off and picked up at the rear of the school on 123rd Avenue. If you have more than one child, use the drop off and pick up area of the youngest child.
- ❖ 3 - 5 Walkers enter and exit at rear of campus, Gate 6, on 123rd Avenue.
- ❖ Please do not park or leave cars unattended in the car loop area.
- ❖ If you are tardy, you must come into the office to sign your child into school.
- ❖ Dismissal is 2:00 p.m.
- ❖ Early Release Day dismissal is 12:00 p.m.

For the safety of our students, we ask that parents in the car lane abide by some simple safety rules:

- ❖ No cell phone usage when in the car line.
- ❖ Parents, please remain in your car.
- ❖ Please make sure your child is prepared to exit the vehicle when you pull into the car line.
- ❖ Children are to exit from the right side of the vehicle (sidewalk)
- ❖ Please stay in one lane, the outside lane is for those cars that are parking or exiting.
- ❖ Pull all the way up. The safety of your child/children is our top priority.



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At Westchester, the safety and security of our students, staff, and families remain our top priority. To maintain a secure environment, we require all visitors to present a valid photo ID when entering our campus.

This process allows us to:

- Ensure that only authorized individuals are permitted inside the building.
- Accurately track who is on campus at all times.
- Provide a safe and secure learning environment for every student.

Please remember to bring your identification each time you visit—whether you are signing in for a meeting, volunteering, or picking up your child. Without proper ID, visitors will not be allowed to enter the building.

Thank you for your cooperation and continued support in keeping our school safe.

IMPORTANT: Timely Student Pick-Up

We are seeing an increasing number of students being picked up late after school. As a reminder, school dismissal is at 2:00 PM, and it is important for everyone to arrive on time for pick-up.

We understand that emergencies can arise. Please note that we do offer an aftercare program for families who cannot pick up their children by 2:00 PM. However, aftercare is a paid program and is not intended to accommodate students who are consistently picked up late.

Our staff have additional duties to attend to after dismissal, and unfortunately, they are unable to supervise late pick-up students. When students remain at school past 2:00 PM, it impacts our ability to fulfill other responsibilities and may even prevent staff from leaving work on time.

If you need to make a dismissal change for your child, please call our office before 1:30 p.m. This allows us time to notify teachers and ensure a smooth dismissal process. Please also note that all early dismissals end at 1:30 p.m. Thank you for your cooperation and for helping us keep our dismissal procedures safe and efficient for all students.



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Cafeteria News



As of September 23, 2025, lunch meals will be served according to your child's eligibility status. To help ensure your child has a smooth and positive experience in the cafeteria, here are a few helpful reminders:

- **Set up an online account:** Our Cafeteria Manager highly recommends creating an account at www.myschoolbucks.com. This allows you to:
 - Monitor your child's meal selections.
 - Track A la Carte purchases and spending.
 - View balances and meal history
 - Easily add funds online
- **A la Carte purchases:** In addition to regular meals, students may purchase extra items. These are not included with meal eligibility and must be paid separately. Prices vary by item.
- **Ice Cream Day:** A favorite among students! Ice cream is available every **Wednesday for \$1.00**.
- **Free & Reduced Meals:** If you have not yet applied, we strongly encourage you to complete an application for Free and Reduced Price Meals. Apply at www.myschoolapps.com

Thank you for your continued support in helping us provide a safe, smooth, and enjoyable meal experience for all students.



School year 2025-2026, students will no longer eat lunch for no cost. Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) families will need to apply to determine their eligibility for free and reduced-price lunches. Food and Nutrition is currently accepting online Meal Benefits applications. Please

apply online at myschoolapps.com

Students will continue to have free breakfast this school year. It is very important that you go online and apply for free/reduced lunch. If you have any questions or concerns, please call the school or contact our Food and Nutrition Dept. @ 754-321-0250.



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October is such an exciting time of the year and it will be a busy one!

- All pre-ordered shirts have arrived and have been distributed. For any questions, you can email westchesterpta.main@gmail.com. We will be having a FLASH apparel sale *Oct 13th-17th*. This is the final sale for our field trip shirts. Our field trips will begin and there will not be enough time for future orders to arrive on time therefore this will be the last chance to order your child's field trip shirts.
- PTA Membership, keep them coming! We love seeing our faculty and family support! We hope we are making you proud because we cannot do it without you!! Our Membership Rewards program will end, and our parent, grandparent and community membership prices will increase October 1st.
- Pop Up Shop is open on Friday October 3rd from 7:30 a.m. - 7:55am in the cafeteria. What is the pop-up shop? It is our school store, where we sell small items. Our prices range from \$1-\$6 items. The money raised goes back to our students to help support the school store as well as our student incentive programs. Our student incentive programs include the Zen Den, Family nights, Rewards programs and much more. Interested in learning more, come to our PTA meeting. Our next PTA meeting is via ZOOM at 6:30pm. We look forward to seeing you there! Zoom meeting link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/3489468758?omn=87284466077>
- Papa John's Fundraiser deadline is October 15th.
- Our Fall Book Fair opens on Monday, September 29! This Fall bookfair is open over a two-week period. Our designated make up days are listed below.

October 7: 2nd, 4th, and 5th grade

October 8: PreK, K, 1st, and 3rd grade

- October 8th is our Family Bingo Night. We are currently raising money for Academic Programming. All money raised at our Family Bingo Night event will go directly towards academic programming and academic incentives. Dinner tickets are available for purchase. <https://westchester.givebacks.com/shop/items/241d4c2b61be50> Dinner tickets are \$12 and includes one dinner, three Bingo tickets and one raffle ticket. Raffle tickets will be available for purchase at the Bingo night event. Families will be able to shop at the book fair, play bingo, and participate in our raffle. Rita's Italian ices will be in the bus loop for additional purchase. We will have special guests scooping and serving these delicious Italian ices and custards to our students. Rita's will give back 15% of the night's sales to our school.



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Want to volunteer and help make our family night a success? We need your help! You can sign up at

<https://tinyurl.com/HelpBingo>

Our donation link is open. Can't make Family night but would like to help support our Bingo Night Fundraiser? You can make a direct donation to <https://tinyurl.com/WILDCATGIVEBACK> If you have any questions, please contact westchesterpta.main@gmail.com.

We are also looking to make our raffle baskets even better! Are you a season ticket holder of a Florida sports team? Know someone who knows someone? Want to promote your business and provide promotional items or make your own gift basket? Email us at westchester pta.VPProg@gmail.com

- More Book Buddies have arrived and all have been delivered. Over 200 students received book buddies this year! Lots of teachers received incentives! This fundraiser is all school year long, so students can still turn in their cards anytime.

October Dates Recap:

October 1st- Membership Prices increase

October 3rd- Pop Up Shop is open 7:30am-7:55am, in the cafeteria

October 7th-Book fair makeup date for 2nd,4th,5th

October 7th- PTA Meeting via ZOOM 6:30pm

Zoom link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/3489468758?omn=87284466077>

October 8th- Family Bingo Night 6pm-8pm (5th grade universal meeting 5:30pm)

October 9th- Picture Retakes

October 15th- Papa John's Fundraiser ends

October 13th-17th- Final Field trip shirt sale

October 14th-22nd- Candy Drive

October 23-31st- Red Ribbon Week

October 31st- Fall Parade and Trunk or Treat!

If you have any questions, please reach out anytime to westchesterpta.main@gmail.com

Want to stay informed? Follow us on Facebook this month! and Instagram



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Westchester Elementary PTA

Phone: 754-322-8900

Website: www.browardschools.com/westchester

follow us

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ptawestchester

Email: westchesterpta.main@gmail.com

Website: www.westchesterpta.com

CHEERLEADING
Dance, Manners and More After School Program
starts on October 16th at
WESTCHESTER!

*"The BEST Programs for
Girls in South Florida!"*

In Broward
County Schools
since 1994!

Join us on
October 16th
for an **EXCITING**
afternoon of
**Cheerleading,
Dance, Manners
and More!**

Register TODAY as Space is Limited!
954-748-5977
www.AmericasLeaders.net



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See Something, Say Something

Be a Broward Buddy, Report a Tip!

In an emergency, call 911 immediately. To submit a safety or security concern that is not an emergency, please visit one of the five reporting methods provided below. Please remember your role differs for various emergencies.



Anonymous Tip Submission Box

Submit a tip anonymously via Anonymous Tip Submission Box. This [link](#) allows you to submit a tip anonymously. It is a secure, confidential way to report a tip. It is not a 24-hour tip line. It is not a 24-hour tip line. It is not a 24-hour tip line.

[BrowardCounty.com/SecurityTip](#)



Call Us Anytime (Even on Holidays)

Call our County Security Operations Center (CSOC) at 305-361-1234. CSOC is a 24-hour tip line. It is not a 24-hour tip line. It is not a 24-hour tip line.

[305-361-1234](#)



Send Us an Email

Submit a tip using the email address below. Although your email address is required, we will not release your email address to anyone. It is not a 24-hour tip line. It is not a 24-hour tip line. It is not a 24-hour tip line.

[Security@browardcounty.com](#)



FortiPFL

Submit a tip using the FortiPFL mobile app. It is a secure, confidential way to report a tip. It is not a 24-hour tip line. It is not a 24-hour tip line. It is not a 24-hour tip line.

[FortiPFL.com](#)



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FORTIFYFL
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COOPERATION

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