

WESTMINSTER HIGH SCHOOL

2026 WINTER NEWSLETTER



PRINCIPAL

Katie Nefflen

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ADDRESS

1225 Washington Road

Westminster, MD 21157

MAIN OFFICE

410-751-3630- phone

410-751-3640 - fax

OFFICE HOURS

7:30-3:30 p.m.

COUNSELING OFFICE

410-751-3636- phone

HEALTH ROOM

410-751-3958 - phone

SPECIAL ED OFFICE

410-751-3644 - phone

WEBSITE

<https://whs.carrollk12.org/>

[To Report a Student Absence](#)

Email us at:

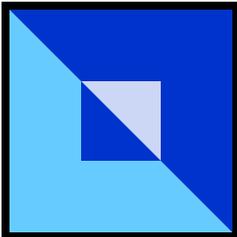
WHSattendance@carrollk12.org

410-751-3641 - phone

Photo identification is required for all visitors



WHS has over 200 phone lines in the building. Please check your messages so we know where to direct your return call.



From the Principal's Desk

WHS

Winter Newsletter
January 2026

WHS Families,

As the first semester ends, we are excited about the many successes of Westminster High School during the first half of the 25-26 school year. From classrooms to stadiums to gyms to stages, it was great to see our students engaged and succeeding in what they love. Our students are challenging themselves to their fullest potential in all activities, and we are so grateful to be able to support them.

Our staff and community continue to work together to build the best high school in the state. As a school, we were able to provide food and holiday support to over 44 families in our community. Our food pantry continues to be one of the busiest pantries in the county, especially with the addition of the clothing closet. The dedication and commitment to build a stronger Westminster community is evident each day. Thank you to our students, staff, parents, and community members who continue to support our efforts.

We have begun working with students on scheduling for the 2026-2027 school year. Students have been completing the scheduling sheets with advisors and parents and turning these in at school. We want to thank you all for being a part of this very important process. Each year it becomes more difficult to adjust schedules and staffing once the schedule is built, so it is important that we have the most accurate information from the start. If you or your student still have questions about their schedule for next year, please contact the school to speak to your student's advisor or counselor.

With the approach of spring, I want to wish our winter athletes and those participating in the upcoming Student-Directed One Acts good luck as they enter the final stages of their season. Spring brings many student activities including the Spring Musical, Spring formal (for freshman and sophomores), Junior prom, and Senior prom. Our spring sports teams will also be hitting the fields soon for what we hope will be a great season. And finally, our seniors are preparing for their last few months of high school before graduation. Please remember that regular school attendance is required to participate in extracurricular activities, and students will need to have 80% or better overall attendance to attend any school dances.

As always, I encourage you to maintain communication with the school and seek answers to questions either by calling or e-mailing. Our website is updated regularly and is an excellent source of information. This spring, please continue to take time out of your busy day to come out and support our students in their many varied activities. The students truly appreciate the support of the entire school community. Let's have a great spring semester!

We are Westminster, We are One...Go Owls!

WHS 2026 Dates to Remember

January

- 1-2 (Th-F) Schools/Offices closed – Winter Break
- 5 (M) Schools/Offices reopen
- 8 (Th) Programs and Pathways & 8th Grade Night 4PM-6:30PM
- 14 (W) Senior Meeting during Advisory
- 16 (F) Two hours and forty-five minutes Early Dismissal – Professional Development Day
- 19 (M) Schools/Offices closed – Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
- 23 (F) Marking Period 2/Semester 1 ends
- 26 (M) Schools closed for students – End of Marking Period 2
- 27 (T) Semester 2, Marking Period 3 begins
- 29-31 (Th-S) Winter One Acts 7:00PM, 2PM Saturday Matinee

February

- 12 (Th) Area Side-By-Side Concert 7PM
- 13 (F) Two hours and forty-five minutes early dismissal – Professional Development Day
- 16 (M) Schools/Offices closed – Presidents' Day
- 24 (T) Chorus Festival Concert 7PM
- 26 (Th) Spring Parent/Teacher Conference Night 4PM-7PM

March

- 1 (Su) First day of Spring sports
- 5 (Th) Instrumental Music Festival concert
- 7 (S) Spring Formal 7PM-10PM
- 12 (Th) Spring Meet the Coaches Night 6:30PM
- 13 (F) Two hours and forty-five minutes Early Dismissal – Professional Development Day
- 14 (S) SAT Testing
- 16 (M) Schools closed for students – Professional Development Day
- 20 (F) Eisteddfod concert
- 26 (Th) Mock Interviews for 11th graders
- 31-(T) Jazz Night concert

April

- 2-7 (Th-T) Schools/Offices closed – Spring Break
- 9 (F) Two hours and forty-five minutes Early Dismissal – Marking Period 3 Ends
- 11 (S) Junior Prom 7-10PM
- 13 (M) Marking Period 4 Begins
- 23 (Th) Mock Interviews for 10th graders
- 23-25 (Th-S) Spring Musical 7:00PM, Saturday Matinee 2PM
- 27 (M) Two hours and forty-five minutes Early Dismissal – Professional Development Day

Dates to Remember (continued)

May

- 2 (S) SAT Testing
- 7 (Th) NHS Inductions
- 9 (S) Senior Prom @ Sheraton Towson 7:00PM – 10:00PM
- 11 (M) Spring Orchestra concert 7:00PM
- 13 (W) Spring Band concert 7:00PM
- 14 (Th) LFI Prom
- 19 (T) Spring Chorus concert 7:00PM
- 22 (F) Two hours and forty-five minutes Early Dismissal – Professional Development Day
- 25 (M) Schools/Offices closed – Memorial Day

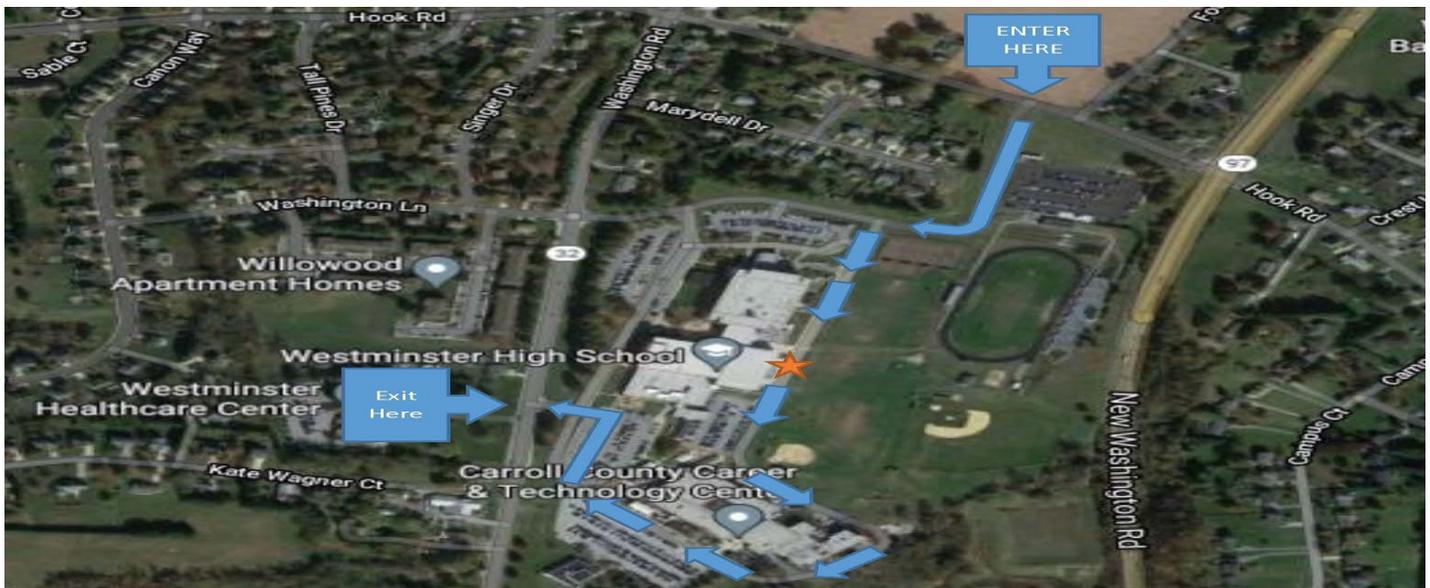
June

- 4 (Th) WHS Graduation Day at McDaniel College
- 12 (F) Two hours and forty-five minutes Early Dismissal – Last Day for students & teachers (Tentative)
- 19 (Th) Schools/Offices closed – Juneteenth

Parent Drop Off/Pick Up

Parent drop off and pick up will only take place in the rear of the building. Look for the orange star in the map below. There will be no parent drop off or pick up in the front of the school, in the bus loop, “A” lot, faculty lot, or “C”/”jock “ lot.

Parents should enter campus via the Hook Road/Stadium lot entrance. Parents will then proceed along the drive and turn left after the tennis courts. Traffic will continue along the back drive. Drop off and pick up will take place at the back entrance. Traffic along the back drive is one-way and proceeds around behind CCCTC and out the exit at the front side of the building, on to Washington Road. This is a one-way loop designed to expedite drop off and pick up without impeding bus traffic.



CCPS regulations specify that “pupils may not ride buses other than those to which they are regularly assigned, without approval by the principal, following a written request by the parent.”

In an effort to ensure that buses are not overcrowded, we work to limit students from riding other buses unless it is for specific supervision purposes.

If your student needs to ride another student’s bus please ensure the following:

- Both students must bring in a written note signed by their guardian explaining the reason for the bus switch and giving their consent.
- Include the student’s full name and the bus number of the bus the student wishes to ride with the appropriate bus stop location (street address) in the note.
- Bring both written notes to main office BEFORE the 7:30 bell to get approval from an administrator.
- Pick up the approved bus slip from the main office by the end of the day.
- Give the bus driver the bus slip when you board the bus.
- **We cannot accommodate email or phone requests for bus changes.**



This serves as a reminder for students crossing route 32 on Washington Road: Please stop and wait until the lights begin flashing before walking into the street. There is a short delay from when you push the button to when the lights flash, and WAIT until you notice the cars have stopped before proceeding – FOR YOUR SAFETY!

Westminster HS Athletics Information for 2026

Registering your son/daughter on Family ID is now a requirement for all sports seasons as well as any out of season conditioning or team activities. If your student intends to participate in any out-of-season conditioning or team activities prior to their official season's start, be sure to have the Family ID registration process completed, which includes uploading a valid physical. **You need to be registered in Family ID in order to tryout.**

Start Dates for Upcoming Seasons

Spring Sports – March 1, 2026

Spring Coaches:

Baseball / Brandon Taylor / BSTAYLO@carrollk12.org

Softball / Ashley Harford amharfo@carrollk12.org

Track & Field / Desmond Wars / DLWARS@carrollk12.org

Boys Lacrosse / Mike Flemming / MDFLEMM@carrollk12.org

Girls Lacrosse Taylor Carhart / tacarha@carrollk12.org

Girls Tennis / Christian Bouselli cjbouse@carrollk12.org

Boys Tennis / Conor Riggin / CJRIGGI@carrollk12.org



To achieve honor roll status:

A student must be enrolled in a minimum of two (2) classes and two credits.

Honor roll is based on weighted marking period grades and students cannot have a grade below a “C”. Students will be recognized as being on the Honor roll with the following achievements.

Standard Honor Roll -3.0 G.P. A.

Distinguished Honor Roll- 3.75 G.P.A.

Straight A Honor Roll- All “A”s on Report Card

Student Schedules

Current Schedules

Student schedules for the second semester are now viewable on Home Access Center. Students and parents are encouraged to review their schedule prior to the start of the new semester. After January 23rd, changes for second semester will only be considered on a very limited basis. Please review the criteria below before requesting a change to your schedule. Changes requested after January 23rd that do not meet any of the criteria below will not be approved.

- Are you academically misplaced in a core academic course? (Requires teacher verification)
- Are you scheduled for a course without having already passed a prerequisite course?
- Are you unable to participate in a course because of physical limitations?
- Does the schedule change increase the academic rigor of your educational program? (moving levels from Foundational to Academic, Academic to Honors, or Honors to AP)
-

Schedules for the 2026-2027 School Year Continued:

The scheduling process for next school year has begun. Students received scheduling materials during advisory on January 14th. Course selection sheets should be signed by parents and returned to advisors no later than January 30th. Scheduling information can be found at the following link: [Scheduling and Course Selection - Westminster High](#)

College Application Process Updates

Mid-Year Transcript Requests

Students who are applying to colleges that require mid-year transcripts must request these transcripts via Naviance. A step-by-step presentation on using Naviance for college applications can be found at the following link on the WHS School Counseling website: [Senior Naviance Presentation.pptx \(sharepoint.com\)](#).

Seniors & Yearbook

Class of 2026:

Senior slide show pictures needed!

Send 2 pictures (one young and one current) to WHSowls2026senior-pics@gmail.com by Monday February 2nd.

Please include the student's first and last name in the subject.

Yearbook:

Remember to buy your yearbooks! The price goes up at the end of February!

https://www.iostens.com/apps/store/productBrowse/1066446/Westminster-High-School/2026-Yearbook/2025091504160441379/CATALOG_SHOP/

WHS Provides Online Donation Initiative for Parent and Community Support

WHS Provides Online Donation Initiative for Parent and Community Support Westminster High School would like to thank our students, parents, and Westminster community for being partners in our student's learning. We are proud to represent a community that values the ever-changing needs and demands of our high school students. With the support of our friends and neighbors like you, our students have shown consistently high academic achievement and are able to enjoy a broad array of extracurricular activities. We're happy to share that students, families, and community members can assist with the many needs of our students and faculty through a MySchoolBucks online donation page. School donations are used to cover clothing and school supplies for students in need, faculty appreciation, and much more. Our success depends in large part on the support of the local community we serve. Your contribution will be essential for us to expand the learning opportunities available for our students. Thank you in advance for your support. Visit our donation page at https://www.myschoolbucks.com/ver2/prdembd?ref=ZZHVZLQ2RN05854_ZZ5XK7TK07ITU74



This Winter

**Westminster's annual
Student Directed One-Act Play Festival**

January 29, 30 & 31

Snow dates: February 5, 6 & 7

This Spring

Stephen Schwartz's Award-Winning Musical

PIPPIN

Broadway Revival Version

Auditions the week of February 2nd

Performances: April 23, 24 & 25

Dress Code Policy

Tops: reasonably cover the back, the cleavage area, and entire midriff. See-through not permitted w/o undershirt.

Bottoms: Cover entire buttocks and private areas while student is sitting, standing, bending over.

Hats/Hoods: not allowed anywhere during school hours

No profanity, symbols of hate (swastikas and Confederate battle flag)

If the violation cannot be fixed, we will give the student another shirt or shorts.

Failure to correct the violation will result in administrative action including re-

Cell Phone Policy

No cell phones and/or earbuds are permitted in class as students have access to their 1 to 1 laptop.

Students who are on their phones or have earbuds in during class will receive a Technology Violation by the classroom teacher and will be sent to the office to speak with an administrator. Administrators will follow progressive discipline for students if they continue to have their devices out in the classroom. Students may only use their personal devices before and after school, during lunch, and class transitions. Students are not permitted to record peers/staff at any time during the school day, unless given approval. Students that record and disseminate video footage of peers will receive consequences, up to and including out of school suspension. Lastly, if an emergency occurs, parents/guardians should call the main office to get in contact with their student.

Dance Attendance Policy

Please note

Students must have 80% over all attendance to attend *any* spring dance. This policy DOES include PROM!



Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP)

The Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP) is the overarching term used for all state assessments. At the high school level, the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) administers assessments for Algebra I, English Language Arts (ELA) Grade 10, Government, and the Maryland Integrated Science Assessment (LS MISA).

Students take the associated MCAP assessment when enrolled in the Algebra I, English 10, Government, and Biology course.

It is important that students try their best on MCAP assessments so that their results are reflective of their knowledge in the assessed content area. Participation in the MCAP assessments is a graduation requirement.

Scores from the Algebra I and English 10 MCAP assessments are used to determine if a student is college and career ready (CCR) and to make future academic and scheduling decisions.

Students in the class of 2027 and beyond will be required to take the End of Course (EOC) exam in the Government and Biology courses. The EOC exam must be included as 20% of the student's final grade in the course beginning with the class of 2027 and beyond. If a student does not test in these required End of Course exams, they will not receive credit for the course and they will be placed on the ineligibility list for extra curricular activities.

Scores from state assessments are also part of our school's rating on the Maryland School Report Card.

Spring MCAP Assessments for 2026 will take place April 6 – May 29. This is dictated by the MSDE. Students will test on specific dates within this window. Please refrain from scheduling appointments and vacations during this time since WHS does not have the ability to alter a student's designated testing schedule.

*****All information related to state assessments is subject to change due to direction from MSDE.**



FREE TUTORING @ WHS



WEDNESDAYS

2:30 - 3:30 PM

- Drop in any Wednesday - No signups required
- Located in the back of the Media Center
- Help in all subjects from NHS students with teachers available
- Students **MUST** arrange transportation home

DURING SCHOOL

FLEX MOD

- Math tutoring
- English/Writing tutoring
- Help from teachers and Honor Society students
- Sign up with student's Math/English teacher
- Meet during Flex on a regular basis



Procedures/Information

ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES

Whenever a student is absent, verification must be made by the biological parent/court-appointed guardian via a written note, fax, email, or parent phone call. Regardless of the form of the notification, it must include the following: (1) Student's legal name, (2) Student's Grade, (3) Reason for absence, and (4) Phone number where biological parent/court-appointed guardian can be reached for verification, if needed.

- 1. Written Note:** If you send a written note, please have your student bring it to the attendance office upon return to school prior to Mod 1.
- 2. Fax:** Please fax notes to 410-751-3640 on the day of the absence.
- 3. Email:** Please email notes to the following address: whsattendance@carrollk12.org on the day of the absence.
- 4. Phone Call:** Please phone in your student's absence to **410-751-3641** on the day of the absence.

If your method of reporting your student's absence is fax, email, or a phone call, no further written notification is required. Please note that the school may call the biological parent/court-appointed guardian to verify the authenticity of an absence notification. Current policy states that if verification of an absence is not received within 5 days of the student's return to school, the absence will be considered unlawful. In addition, students who are absent three or more consecutive days are expected to provide documentation from a physician.

TARDINESS TO SCHOOL AND EARLY DISMISSALS

The school day begins at 7:30 a.m. Students who arrive to school after 7:30 a.m. must first report to the Attendance Office to be recorded as tardy to school and to receive a tardy pass admitting them to class.

The school day concludes at 2:20 p.m. Students that request an early dismissal from school should bring a written note from a biological parent/court-appointed guardian requesting an early dismissal to the attendance office prior to mod 1 to receive an early dismissal pass.

ATTENDANCE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Athletes and other students who participate in extracurricular activities are to be present for the entire school day to participate (practice, play, or perform) that day.

Students who are tardy to school or leave early are not eligible to participate in extracurricular activities.

The only exceptions to this rule are for the following items, which must be processed thru our Attendance office and occasionally also require an Administrator's approval:

- ♦ Doctor/Dentist appointments = you must present documentation from the physician's office for approval upon returning to school.
- ♦ MVA appointment = you must provide documentation from MVA (Drive time with a driving instructor is NOT an acceptable excuse)
- ♦ Death in the family & college visits = pre-approval is required for documentation purposes.

If you are late to school and simply provide a parent note that you are tardy that day, you may not practice or play.

ATTENDANCE CUT-OFF TIMES

A student who arrives between 7:30 and 10:49 will be marked tardy in the a.m.

A student who arrives after 10:50 will be marked absent ½ day in the a.m.

A student who arrives after 1:36 will be marked absent for the full day.

A student who leaves before 8:14 will be marked absent for the full day.

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. 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 so 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. 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.

CG/bb

Revised 6/30/17

BOARD POLICIES

[Policy and Procedure - Carroll County Public School District \(carrollk12.org\)](http://carrollk12.org)

CCPS Informational Calendar Student/Parent Handbook

[Communications Office - Carroll County Public School District \(carrollk12.org\)](http://carrollk12.org)

NON-CUSTODIAL PARENT INFORMATION

Non-custodial parents may receive school records and routine school information unless prohibited by court order. This information may be obtained in two ways; a non-custodial parent may register in the Home Access Center to receive electronic access to student information, or the non-custodial parent may make a request to the principal for information annually in writing. The request should include the non-custodial parent's name, address, student name, and the type of information requested. When a written request for information is submitted to the principal, the custodial parent shall be notified when such a request has been received by the school. However, the custodial parent may not 'veto' the non-custodial parent's request without a court order.

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 person 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.

A.H.E.R.A.

The Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (A.H.E.R.A.) management plans for all buildings owned or leased by the Board of Education of Carroll County are available for review at the individual Carroll County school locations and at the Office of Plant Operations located at: 191 Schaeffer Avenue, Westminster, MD 21157. Management plans are required by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and depict the location, amount, condition, and response action projected for any asbestos-containing materials, if any are located in the school building.