

WOODS CHARTER SCHOOL
BOARD MEETING AGENDA
Thursday, January 15, 2026

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1. Welcome
 - a. Reading of the board norms
2. Public Comment
3. Consent Agenda
 - a. Principal's Report presented by Cotton Bryan
 - b. Minutes from December 2025 meeting
3. Reports & Presentation of Committee Charters
 - a. Student Update – McKenna Sparrow
 - b. Faculty Update – Rachel Lawrence
 - c. Finance Committee Report – Courtney Cabe
 - d. Foundation Report – Jessica Oliver
 - e. Communications Committee Report – Doreen Messick
 - f. Personnel Committee Report – Rachel McInerney
 - g. Board Development Report – Charmaine Terregino
4. Business
 - Old Business -
 - 2026-2027 Calendar (vote needed)
 - New Business -
 - Discuss options for improving website content, and accessibility, Spanish version (no vote needed)
 - Economic Diversity Lottery Slots (vote needed)
 - Review draft Principal Survey (no vote needed)
5. Closed Session (not expected)
6. Adjournment Session
 - Action Taken/Voted
 - Adjournment

Principal's Report

January 15, 2026

Electronic Waste Collection Drive

Our 11th grade student Aaron Peeler partnered with Kramden Institute, to conduct an e-waste drive for Woods and the surrounding community.

From the Kramden website:

Our goal is a world where all can thrive in a digital society. We devote our resources to providing technology and training to those in our community who need them.

Since 2003, Kramden has awarded more than 52,000 computers to deserving families across North Carolina and beyond and has taught technology skills to more than 11,000 people of all ages.

The collection tally from Woods:

Desktops	17
Laptops	183
All-in-Ones	3
Tablets	61
Cellphones	74
Monitors	18

Economic Diversity Lottery

Background: The WCS Board approved a revision to its admissions policy in June of 2020 that allows the Board to set aside spots in the admissions lottery for students whose families are economically disadvantaged. The State Board of Education approved this amendment in October of 2020. Our lottery is on February 2nd (since February 1st is a Sunday).

A reminder of why we sought this option:

1. Excellence

We can't offer a truly excellent education to our students if they are not regularly working, playing, debating, thinking, and discussing with classmates of many different backgrounds and experiences.

2. The Law

The legislation that authorizes charter schools in our state requires charter schools to “reasonably reflect the racial and ethnic composition of the general population residing within the local school administrative unit in which the school is located.” Note: schools are not allowed to lottery by race or ethnicity, only by household income.

3. Resist Re-Segregation

We can actively resist the tendency of NC charter schools to re-segregate along racial and economic lines.

4. Public School for All

It’s a way to highlight our commitment to being a public school for all North Carolinians.

5. Our Students Want a More Diverse School

When we have asked our oldest students to assess their experience at Woods (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) the most common weakness they cite is the relative lack of diversity at Woods.

The pertinent section of our Admissions Policy that addresses this ED lottery:

Economically Disadvantaged Students:

Woods Charter School will institute a priority lottery for each year’s incoming classes with the goal of reaching a percentage of students meeting the “Economically Disadvantaged” (ED) criteria that approximates the average percentage at the five geographically closest traditional public schools in our area. The criteria for ED will be the national Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL) criteria. The weighted lottery for ED students will take place after the priority placements identified above. With each lottery, the Board will vote to identify the number of ED seats available in the incoming classes. Families will have the opportunity to complete an optional form, separate from their lottery application, where they can offer family income information in order to determine if they are eligible for the purposes of the priority lottery. This supplemental form will ask applicants to consent to verify status as FRL eligible by school staff and will state that no specific information will be obtained beyond eligibility status and that the information will not be retained. If a family is selected for enrollment through the weighted lottery, they must provide supporting documentation of eligibility during the school’s enrollment process. If a family is unable to provide the supporting documentation necessary to qualify for the weighted lottery, the family should be contacted to offer assistance. If the family is unable to provide the documentation, the applicant should be returned to the general waiting list.

% of Woods families who responded to our financial needs survey:

2021: 83%

2022: 80%
 2023: 87%
 2024: 84%
 2025: 83%
 2026: 81%

% who qualify for free and reduced lunch:

2021: 8.4%
 2022: 11.4%
 2023: 6.2%
 2024: 17.1%
 2025: 15.0%
 2026: 14.7%

Most recently published free and reduced percentages from the top five geographically closest traditional public schools (source: *NC School Report Cards*):

Pollard: 20.8% (last year: 22.3%)
 Chatham Grove Elementary: 18.0% (last year: 18.4%)
 Perry Harrison: 28.3% (last year: 30.5%)
 North Chatham: 30.8% (last year: 34.4%)
 Northwood: 29.3% (last year: 34.0%)

Average: 25.44% (last year's average was 27.9%)

Each year we have these slots open in the grades in which our class size increases:

Grade	Openings	Sibling and faculty applicants this year	Remaining slots
K	32	17	15
3	4	2	2
5	4(2)*	5	0
9	6	6	0

Applying the 25.44% (average percentage at the closest five traditional public schools) to the number of remaining slots (after accounting for siblings and faculty kid applicants), the Board would set aside **3-4 slots in kindergarten** (25.44% of 15 is 3.82) and could consider a slot in 3rd grade (25.44% of 2 is .51).

Note: the economic diversity lottery takes place after the priority lotteries for siblings and for children of faculty, so even if the Board sets aside slots in 5 and 9, it is unlikely those slots would be eligible for students from the ED lottery.

Slots the Board has set aside for economic diversity since we made the change in our Admissions Policy:

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Kindergarten	4	5	6	6	6
5 th	0	1	1	0	0
9 th	1	0	1	0	0
TOTAL	5	6	8	6	6

* We are currently two over in 5th grade.

WCS Observance of Dr. King's Birthday

Our observance is tomorrow. We have a mix of activities – a keynote speaker, workshops, art projects, neighborhood walks, programs led by the Jackson Center, and music—that should make for a powerful day.

Teacher Discovery Fund

Each year the Woods Charter School Foundation pays for professional development opportunities for all Woods faculty. With the establishment of the Woods Endowment in 2024, we have an additional way to support our teachers' learning and growth through a Teacher Discovery Fund. This fund will provide support for even more substantial, potentially transformative, experiences beyond what is normally covered by regular professional development grants. The fund is intended to inspire discovery, exploration, and professional growth.

This year we have five applicants. A committee composed of faculty and Foundation Board members will decide on the award in the coming weeks.

A brief summary of the proposed experiences:

- A weeklong writers' conference on Martha's Vineyard
- Two-week immersive study of British Literature in England
- An AI in Education conference in Finland
- Two-week Spanish language and culture immersion in Antigua, Guatemala
- Ten-day immersive study of geology and hydrology in the Pacific Northwest, Puget Sound to the Cascades

Enrichments Starting Soon

MS and HS Enrichments begin in two weeks! A preliminary, incomplete listing of the offerings:

Open Studio Design	Paper Crafts
Pickleball	Cards and Carbs
Chess	Cards, Cocoa, Crafts & Cozy, Chill
Anime	Camaraderie
Baking	Improv
Photo Editing	French Conversation
You and Your Community	Musical Theatre Appreciation
Get Out There!	Architecture in Minecraft
DEAR - Drop Everything and Read	Epidemiology
Historical Films	Science Experiments
Embroidery	Lego Lab
Foraging	Volleyball
Practice Your Instrument!	AP Chemistry Lab Work
Thrifting & Sustainable Fashion	3D printing
Journaling, Sketching, and Creating in Nature	

Mini Rounds

We're back up and running with Mini Rounds. Mini Rounds is an in-house form of professional development that provides a basic structure and encouragement for teachers to get out of their individual classrooms and learn from each other.

The Why

- We're a stronger faculty when we're attuned to, and learning from, the work of our colleagues.
- We can better leverage what it means to be a K-12 school if our knowledge of each other's teaching and curriculum is deep.
- There's creativity and brilliance in this building! Let's learn from it! Let's enjoy it!

The How

- One designated week a month teachers will visit 3-4 classrooms for approximately 10 minutes each.
- Each month has a theme. Teachers may visit any classroom they'd like, so long as it fits the theme.

- As a visitor, teachers are there to learn and enjoy. These visits are not evaluative in any way!
- Teachers complete visits any time that week that suits their schedules. They do not need to schedule the visit with the other teacher.
- If someone visits a classroom and it's just not a good time, then the hosting teacher says, "It's just not a good time." The visitor can come back another time or just visit another class.

The Themes

- Get in the Door: Warming up. Just visit one classroom.
- Far Afield: Visit classrooms that are geographically far from your own room.
- Closer to Home: Visit your neighbors.
- Subject Family: Visit teachers who teach the same/a similar subject as you.
- Your Kids in Other Spaces: See your students in other spaces, with other teachers.
- K-12 Integration: Visit at least one class in each division.
- Follow Your Bliss: Visit 3-4 classes that are calling to you for any reason!

Calendar Feedback

My sense, derived both from direct in-person feedback and from our survey, is that most people in our community are pleased with the draft calendar. We've had 22 respondents to our calendar survey and one direct email to the board.

If we move forward with extending the day, I believe this lengthening should take place at the end of the day, resulting in a 3:05 dismissal for elementary and 3:15 dismissal for middle and high.

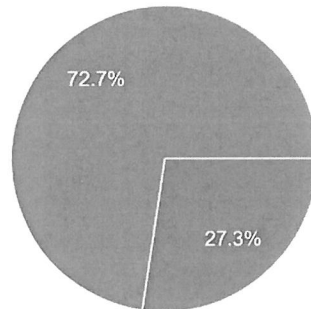
I am a . . .

22 responses



We are considering a change to our bell schedule that would slightly lengthen our school day (thus allowing us to possibly start the school year the same week as each school day? Which would you prefer?

22 responses



- Keep the bell schedule as is. We'll start school the third week of August as we normally do.
- Let's lengthen the school day. I'd like to start back the same week as the traditional public schools.

The feature(s) of this calendar that I particularly appreciate are . . .

Faculty PD on Halloween

Spring break has Good Friday rolling into it, thereby lengthening spring break.

Solid 2 weeks at christmas

The spaced out interruptions to instruction time. As a faculty member, we can plan accordingly without much interruption.

Having Good Friday off

Jewish holidays off :)

Timing of fall break.

Thank you for having the school closed on Jewish High Holidays, which is very meaningful to our family.

Spring break during Easter

Traditional Easter Break

Fall break for faculty members

Long weekends and moving Fall Break back to the end of October.

We LOVE having that extra week in August and I was so happy to see the proposed calendar for 2026-2027. With three year-round swimmers and family in the UK, August is the only time we can feasibly go back to visit for two or three weeks as the championship swim meet is always the last week of July. A third week in August will mean we will be able to visit family and not miss the start of school :)

That Spring Break is the same week as the 25-26 year. I appreciate that it aligns with the local school systems, especially Chatham County Schools. It did not align last year (24-25) so I am grateful for this change this year, and that it may continue next year. Thank you!

Having a full week of school in October. :)

Inclusivity related to holidays, placement of winter break and spring break.

Thank you Board and Administration for putting such good thought into this draft. It looks great!

The time we start and end school

Makes so much sense to not start earlier than other schools.

The feature(s) of this calendar that I don't like are . . .

One week for Thanksgiving break

Everything looks great.

I think it looks great!

starting back so early in August

October still looks a little crowded.

Nothing. I don't think an extra ten minutes will make much difference. I'd also be fine with finishing the full week when school ends (second week of June) to claw back two and a half days and losing two or three vacation days throughout the year, but I understand this might not please other families.

After a holiday weeklong+ vacation (like Christmas) it would be nice for that Monday to be a teacher workday (in the building). We need time to get ready for the start again, and without a workday, the assumption is that we are using our vacation time to prep for after vacation. This is not a respectful assumption, and it is not in line with what Chatham, or Chapel Hill/Carrboro school systems go. I understand wanting to bend to err on a calendar that is conducive to parents, but once in awhile it would be nice for the admin and Board to consider the teachers and what is being inferred to us. Likewise (it doesn't happen for this proposed calendar because Easter is early) but having a teacher workday after Spring break, especially when the last day of Spring break is Easter (like this year 2026) is necessary because otherwise you are asking staff to travel home on Easter Sunday, which should be a consideration again .

As a working parent of a young child I do not like adding an additional week of summer to the calendar because that would require an additional week of summer camp. Already, finding summer camps that cover full work days is very difficult and the ones that do exist are expensive (approx \$600 per week) and not nearby. I've also heard that the last week of summer that most traditional school have that most camps are closed that week so there are even fewer options.

A question I have for the Board about this calendar is . . .

Great idea on lengthening school day to enable same start as Chatham.

I'm wondering why the faculty retreat has to be in October? We already have PT conferences then (and I think they should stay in October). Wouldn't it also make more sense to have the PD faculty retreat during the last week of September?

Will fewer days of instruction balance out with longer periods or will kids learn less?

Please add the minutes to the morning -- Start advisory at 8:10 and class at 8:20. This allows use the wasted morning time that we currently have from 8:00-8:20. Please spread the added minutes out to make each period longer.

Could we add the extra 10 minutes to the start of the day. We could start advisory at 8:10 since so many kids already arrive at 8 am or before. We could start classes earlier at 8:20 to spread the time evenly among the class periods.

Can we extend the day extending class periods by a minute or two per class period and starting advisory at 8:10 for an 8:10-8:20 advisory time?

Thanks for all you do!

I am for lengthening the school day, but I ask that the Board consider student athletes when allocating the extra time. They already miss significant time in the last period of the day.

What is the point of starting a week later

Woods Charter School
Board Meeting Minutes
December 18, 2025

Voting members present: Rachel McNerny, Doreen Messick, Michelle Pearlstein, Alex Protzman, Courtney Cabe, and Charmaine Terregino

Non-voting members present: Rachel Lawrence (Faculty Representative), McKenna Sparrow (Student Representative for Oakes Ulrich), and Cotton Bryan (Principal)

Absent voting members: Amy Garrett

Non-voting members not present: None

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm and was held in person, with guests having the option to watch via Zoom.

- Public Comment: None
- Norms reiterated
- Consent Agenda: No Changes

Principal's report <i>Cotton Bryan</i>	Principal's report highlights: • Reviewed Draft Calendar 2026-2027 feedback • Gym Floor will likely need re-finishing for safety • School Safety Summit occurred on December 2. Cotton Bryan, Cindy Sperry, and Ann Kaiyala attended with Chatham County Schools Superintendent and associated leadership along with Captain Richard from Chatham County Sheriff's Office. • The 5K was well attended! • FY2025 Audit was overall quite positive. • Winter Arts Concert was a huge success The full Principal's Report can be found on the school website in the board meeting packet.
Minutes from November Meeting	Additional Comments: None
Action Taken	A motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Rachel McNerney, seconded by Michelle Pearlstein, and unanimously approved by all present voting board members.

- Reports

Student Update <i>McKenna Sparrow (for Oakes Ulrich)</i>	McKenna Sparrow shared updates: • Midterms are currently happening • Homecoming Dance was on Dec 6 with proceeds going to charity focusing on food insecurity (Feed Well Fridges)
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	- Ms. O’Gorman’s classroom won the school’s successful CORA food drive - BIPOC is planning MLK day festivities including guest speakers and workshops. - High school grade level reports were shared, including news of updates to college acceptances for some seniors. The full Student Report can be found on the school website in the board meeting packet.
Faculty Update <i>Rachel Lawrence</i>	Rachel Lawrence shared updates - Three grade levels took overnight field trips - In Civics class, Louis Rivers III attended as a guest speaker 4th graders went to NCMA and 5th graders travelled to the Ackland Museum of Art The full Teacher Report can be found on the school website in the board meeting packet.
Finance Committee <i>Courtney Cabe</i>	Courtney Cabe shared budget, revenue, and expenses for November 2025. Highlights include: - Overall, financial standing is good - Reviewed cash balances, as well as FDIC coverages - Reviewed specific line items on budget The full Finance Committee Report can be found on the school website in the board meeting packet.
Foundation Report <i>Cotton Bryan for Jessica Oliver</i>	Cotton Bryan for Jessica Oliver discussed events and financial summary including: Foundation has raised \$346K towards Annual Fund as December 2025. The full Foundation Report can be found on the school website in the board meeting packet.
Communications <i>Doreen Messick</i>	Doreen Messick reported no new updates No written report.
Personnel <i>Rachel McInerney</i>	Rachel McInerney reported no new updates No written report.
Board Development <i>Charmaine Terregino</i>	Charmaine Terregino reported no new updates. No written report.

- Old Business:

Draft Calendar for 2026-2027	• Reviewed Draft Calendar for 2026-2027 • Reviewed summarized community feedback. • Final vote on 2026-2027 Calendar will occur in January Board Meeting.
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- New Business:

Discussion Title	None
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Closed Session

None	None
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- Adjournment Session

A motion to adjourn was made at 7:55 pm by Michelle Pearlstein, was seconded by Courtney Cabe, and was unanimously approved by all present voting board members.

Student Report

Jan 15, 2026

After the long break, the students have come back revitalized and generally hopeful for the future. While many local schools such as Seaforth spend the coming weeks taking their exams, at Woods we get to have a period of exciting activities and events.

The largest of these is without a doubt Martin Luther King Jr. day, where the school spends a whole day dedicated to sharing culture and participating in workshops. There are ten different workshops, of which students will get to participate in two of their choice. The workshops vary from student-led workshops sharing their experiences as first generation Americans to parents who lived under the Soviet Union talking about democracy. These workshops not only include lectures, but also are made collaborative through discussions and activities, such as collages or even cooking for one.

Leading up to the event, the student body has also been participating in a MLK spirit week. Students have been given prompts such as dress like elders do in your culture, dress up as an influential person from your culture, or even dress up as the career you want to pursue when you are older.

What makes January such an exciting month at Woods, however, is that just a week after MLK day we get to also have our annual dodgeball community build. At the event, the whole high school participates in a dodgeball tournament with eight different teams, mixing all grades (and even the teachers). The event will be held during the last two periods of January 23rd, next Friday.

The eight different color-graded teams will meet a day before (January 22nd) during extended advisory, where student council members will lead ice breakers and have the teams vote on what their name will be. Along with one team winning the tournament, any extra time will be used to hold dodgeball games between different grades. Every year, the dodgeball community builds a great experience that allows students from all grade levels to mix, making it an important part of what makes Woods unique.

On the topic of things that make Woods unique, around the end of this month enrichments are set to begin. These are 3 hour periods in the afternoon of every Friday for a few weeks that allow students to explore new fields and take a break from traditional classes. Some examples of this year's enrichments include baking, photo editing, North Carolina History: Understanding our State's Constitution, DEAR - Drop Everything And Read, Foraging, Paper Crafts, French Conversation, and many more.

As you might remember from the last student report, our Homecoming this year raised money for Feed Well Fridges. While the official date hasn't been decided yet, instead of simply sending them the money, student council has decided to invite them to hand over the check in person. Along with handing over the check, the organization has offered to give a presentation to the student body about the importance of fighting food insecurity. We hope to do this during extended advisory either the end of this month or early next month.

Now for our reports from each of the grades, starting with our Freshman report from Nathan Dilworth.

The freshman class had an amazing first half of the year, and are already getting back in the swing of things, and working hard. Students have gotten back midterm grades, with a majority of classes having a high average grade. The freshman class are particularly excited about enrichments, and the famous Highschool Dodgeball Tournament, as this is the first time they are allowed to compete. Finally, as the end of the year is approaching, students' mindset have changed for the better, as grade averages have continued to increase, and student participation has been better than ever. Overall, the freshman class has had an amazing year, and are excited for the various events, challenges, and experiences coming their way! Now for the sophomores.

Returning from winter break has been successful for the Sophomore class. As we get back into the rhythm of school, we are getting more and more excited about upcoming events. Dodgeball, enrichments, and MLK festivities have brought our grade motivation for the upcoming months. A big upcoming chemistry honors project has got some sophomores excited, while others are a little stressed. The project involves solving a modern issue in groups of 3 or 4. This project will be submitted to the ExploraVision contest, where the national winners each receive a laptop and \$10,000! Furthermore, civics class recently had the DA of Chatham County come speak about the death penalty and it's ethics. Overall, the 10th graders have had an enriching first few weeks back from break.

It's Junior January! After Midterms, and a restful Winter Break, the Juniors are back in action in their classes, and possess an abundance of events coming up. American History has already embarked on a field trip in the New Year, with APUSH following close behind next week to UNC's Wilson Library. BIPOC has been leading MLK week, concluding with workshops that our class is excited and ready for. Juniors have also had unique participation in the Spirit Week prior, having shown their school spirit across many themes. Coming up, the Juniors are also excited for the dodgeball tournament next Friday, and are anxiously awaiting the teams to be announced. The week after, enrichments start, and the Class of 2027 has been excitedly talking to one another, deliberating and deciding the best choice for them in the coming months. The musicians in the Junior grade, making up a majority of the band members, have also started practicing for the Woods Valentine's Cabaret, a collection of performances fitted to the theme of the holiday, which many are sure to be excited for. In English III, we are entering our final act of *The Crucible*, the unit prior to college preparation, the next step in a years-long process. Overall, the Juniors are thriving between joyous events and celebrations, shining a light on what is usually a darker time of the year for Junior students.

As for the seniors, almost all of our college applications are done. As such, we've been preparing for the real world through a budgeting and tax unit in economics class. So far, we have practiced completing W2 and NC state tax forms. As for English, the class has been exploring Shakespeare and his sonnets. Overall, January has been a great month for the seniors, offering a brief break after the stress of applications.

As always, if you have any questions please feel free to reach out to stuco@woodscharter.org. I apologize for not being able to attend again tonight, I am currently in Connecticut for Yale's Model UN conference.

Woods Charter School Foundation, Inc.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: JANUARY 2026

ANNUAL FUND

Our Annual Fund is setting records, standing at \$405K at the close of 2025! Last year at this time, we were at \$302K, which was \$15K higher than our Annual Fund total had ever been at the end of December. Donations from our Grandparents & Special Friends' Day attendees continued to flow in through November and December. 2025's GPSF Day generated the most donations we've ever received from that event at \$79,710, and this year we are now at \$92,246!

In addition to the financial success of the Giving Tuesday match, it included donations from 8 families who had not yet donated or pledged this school year. Interestingly though, only 66% of our school families have donated or pledged, which is the exact same percentage as last year at this time.

TAX RECEIPTS

All donors who have donated \$250 or more over the 2025 calendar year will be mailed a tax receipt by the end of this month.

TEACHER DISCOVERY FUND

I am thrilled to report we have five applicants for this year's Teacher Discovery Fund grant! This year's review board consists of last year's winners Vanessa Costa and Karen Hawkins, as well as myself and Foundation board members Dominique Gignac and Nicki Schreiber. We will review the applications independently against the below rubric, and then meet in the next two weeks to discuss and select this year's recipient.

Teacher Discovery Fund Rubric		Pts
Number of years of service at Woods?	0-4 years: 0.5 pt. 5-9 years: 1 pt. 10+ years: 1.5 pts.	
How compelling is the proposal? How likely is the proposed experience to yield transformational learning?	Not very compelling: 0 pts. Compelling: 1 pt. Very compelling: 2 pts. Extremely compelling: 3 pts.	
How likely is the proposed experience to transfer to our student's growth and learning?	Not very likely: 0 pts. Likely: 0.5 pt. Very likely: 1 pt. Extremely likely: 1.5 pts.	
Is the proposed budget for the experience organized, thorough, and carefully researched?	No: 0 pts. Somewhat: 1 pt. Very much so: 2 pts.	
TOTAL		

INTO THE WOODS 5K

Between our sponsorships and entry fees, our net profit was \$10,413. Last year's net profit was \$9,540. While our sign-ups were slightly down this year, our sponsorships were up and gave us the boost in profit.

WANDERLUST

Our early bird Wanderlust Raffle sales were robust – we only have 157 tickets left of the 350 we offer. Unfortunately, I had a typo in the pricing that I did not catch until over a week into the sales. I offered 8

Woods Charter School Foundation, Inc.

tickets at \$180 instead of \$280, which cost us \$1900. We did bring in \$4,925, as opposed to \$4,360 last December. If the remaining 157 tickets are bought at the most economical package (8 tickets for \$300) when we open ticket sales back up, our total proceeds will be \$10,825. We will more than pay for the trip, but certainly could have made more.

MCINTYRE'S BOOKS SHOP-IN DAY & BOOK FAIR

The Shop-In day brought in a donation of \$614.49 from McIntyre's. 2024's Shop-In Day raised \$836.32, so we were down a bit this year.

Thank you to Rachel Lawrence for pointing out that our Book Fair was scheduled for March 20th, which is a school holiday! I am waiting on confirmation, but I think our Book Fair dates will be March 26th and 27th – right as we go into Spring Break!

AUCTION

It is time to dive into Auction planning for our April 17th event! I am really excited about the pieces we already have in place:

-New location – Ardenwood Farm!

-Music – Heather Rogers!

-New activity – Cornhole Tournament!

-Sponsors already secured – Fidelity Bank (\$6000), Chapel Hill Dental Group (\$4000), Langino Law (\$2000), Morgan Creek Dermatology (\$2000), Progressive Water Solutions (\$2000), New View Eye Care (\$750), Durham Women's Clinic (tbd), and Shattuck Labs (tbd).

Each year, our Auction Committee is the force behind the event. The Committee consists of Foundation Board members as well as other parent volunteers. Our first meeting is January 26th, and I am looking forward to this year's planning!

2025-26 EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 17	NEW PARENTS WELCOME RECEPTION
SEPTEMBER 27	ALL SCHOOL CAMPOUT
OCTOBER 8	WALK TO SCHOOL DAY
OCTOBER 13-17	ANNUAL FUND WEEK
OCTOBER 17	GRANDPARENTS & SPECIAL FRIENDS DAY
DECEMBER 6	INTO THE WOODS 5K
DECEMBER 11	McINTYRE'S BOOKS SHOP-IN DAY
MARCH 26-27 (tentative)	BOOK FAIR
APRIL 17	BENEFIT AUCTION

2025-26 GRANTS TO WCS

Individual Teacher, Director & Dept Support	Up to \$20,000.00
Faculty Appreciation Events	Up to \$9,000.00
Curricular Materials	\$5,678.79
Student Consumables	\$27,077.88
Professional Development	\$14,056.50
Teacher Discovery Fund	\$2,435.31
Club Matching	\$320

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

As of 12/30/25:

Fidelity Bank Checking: \$536,009 (\$237,371 designated)

Treasury Bond: \$102,608

Woods Endowment: \$87,754

LPL Financial: \$55

1. Introduction and Welcome

The Woods Charter School Board of Directors regularly surveys the Woods community twice a year: once in the winter as part of the Principal's annual evaluation and again in the spring through the Woods Community Survey.

The Board's Personnel Committee has created this survey as part of the Principal's annual evaluation. The Board understands and values the importance of acquiring and retaining the highest quality Principal, and this survey is an important part of the evaluation process. Feedback from the community provides insights into the Principal's current performance as well as performance over time when results are compared to previous survey data.

Thank you very much for taking time to complete the survey. Your input is very important to the Board, and your feedback will be anonymous.

1. Are you a

- ☐ Parent / Guardian
- ☐ Student
- ☐ Grandparent
- ☐ Alumnus/Alumna
- ☐ Other

Other (please specify)

2. Please rate how well the Principal fulfills your expectations in the following areas. Please select N/A as needed if you cannot evaluate a metric below.

	Exceeds my expectations	Meets my expectations	Needs to improve	N/A
Is available when needed.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Listens to parent, faculty and staff concerns with a fair and open mind.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Communicates and demonstrates a clear vision for improving the school.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Is fair and consistent in discipline matters.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Sets and communicates high expectations.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Confronts and resolves problems in a timely manner.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Implements policies and procedures consistently and responsibly to help ensure an environment that is safe, stable, and conducive to learning.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Encourages good stewardship of our resources.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Builds collaboration, understanding, and respect between and among different groups (Board, Foundation, parents, faculty, staff, students, and community).	☐	☐	☐	☐
Makes the community feel welcome.	☐	☐	☐	☐

3. Please rate how well you feel the Principal is progressing towards his 2025-2026 Goals.

	Exceptional progress	Appropriate progress	Needs to improve	N/A
Support, retain, and develop our faculty.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Strengthen and deepen the sense of community at Woods as experienced by students, faculty, and parents.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Practice Leadership-by-Walking-Around.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Diversify our student body by increasing the diversity of our lottery pool and attracting more job applicants from teachers of color.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Communicate regularly and proactively with Woods families.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Improve student and faculty access to, and experience of, educational technology.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Work with High School Director and High School Faculty to clarify and articulate the college counseling process at Woods.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Oversee consistent, firm enforcement of our School Handbook.	☐	☐	☐	☐

4. What are the Principal's greatest strengths?

5. In what areas would you like to see the Principal improve?

Thank you!

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey!

Please note that you are always welcome to attend Woods Charter School Board meetings. Upcoming meeting dates are available on the Woods website:

<https://www.woodscharter.org/board>

Woods Charter School

DRAFT -- 2026 - 2027 School Calendar -- DRAFT

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First day of school: Tuesday, August 25

Last day of school: Wednesday, June 9

CW Community Workday

Faculty Workdays

NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS

N: New Faculty Orientation

W: Faculty Workday

PD: Professional Development

PT: Parent-Teacher Conferences

O Orientation

V Vacation, school closed

ER Early Release

First & last days of school

ES dismisses 12:10, MS/HS dismiss 12:20

End of Trimester

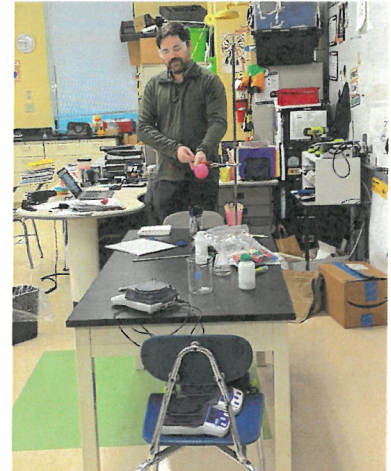
11/20/26, 3/3/27, 6/9/27

GR Graduation, June 12

January 2026 Faculty Board Report

Prepared by Rachel Lawrence, January 15, 2026

It was Mini-Rounds time this week! I was lucky enough to see Mr. Chetwynd demonstrate a hydrogen explosion and Ms. Brown's art class working with clay. She said they were making tic tac toe boards, but some of them we're going way beyond the call with mancala and chess sets!



College acceptances continue to roll in, and I think we have more students formally committed than usual for this time of year! We're also working on new way to communicate about college planning to underclassmen, including a bulletin board.



Orange/Chatham County District Attorney Jeff Nieman is came to speak with our civics class about capital punishment. He will stayed during lunch to advise our mock trial club about opening and closing statements.



The 8th Graders will be going to the International Civil Rights Museum on Friday to learn more about the struggle for equality in NC and beyond. Then on 1/23/26, they will be going to the Museum of Natural History and historic Oakwood Cemetery in Raleigh.

Eighth graders have continued to enjoy their time with their kindergarten little buddies thanks to a collaboration between the eighth grade advisors and the kindergarten teachers. This photo is of a winter craft making gingerbread cookies.

Seventh graders will be hosting parent and scientist Phil Durham who will share his research into administering medications across the blood-brain barrier as part of their human body unit.

There are observations planned for Martin Luther King Jr Day school wide tomorrow, including the always impressive high school programming put on by the BIPOC Club and Ms. Costa. We will have more to share about that in next month's report. We had a successful spirit week leading up to the big day, including pulling off a whole school photo.



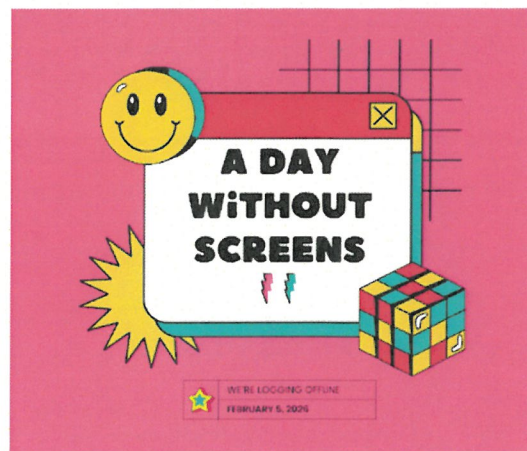
We're gearing up for several special events between now and our next meeting, including the High School Dodgeball Tournament (January 23), the start of Enrichments (January 30) and a Day Without Screens (February 5).

Below, Ms. Clarke provides some updates on her high school 9th and 11th grade English classes.

Freshman English:

Last year, Dr. David Washington was a guest speaker at our school's MLK Day celebration and he introduced his new graphic novel *Black Defender: The Awakening*. Later in the year, Ms. Costa connected the three of us and collaborated on a way to bring his work into our classrooms.

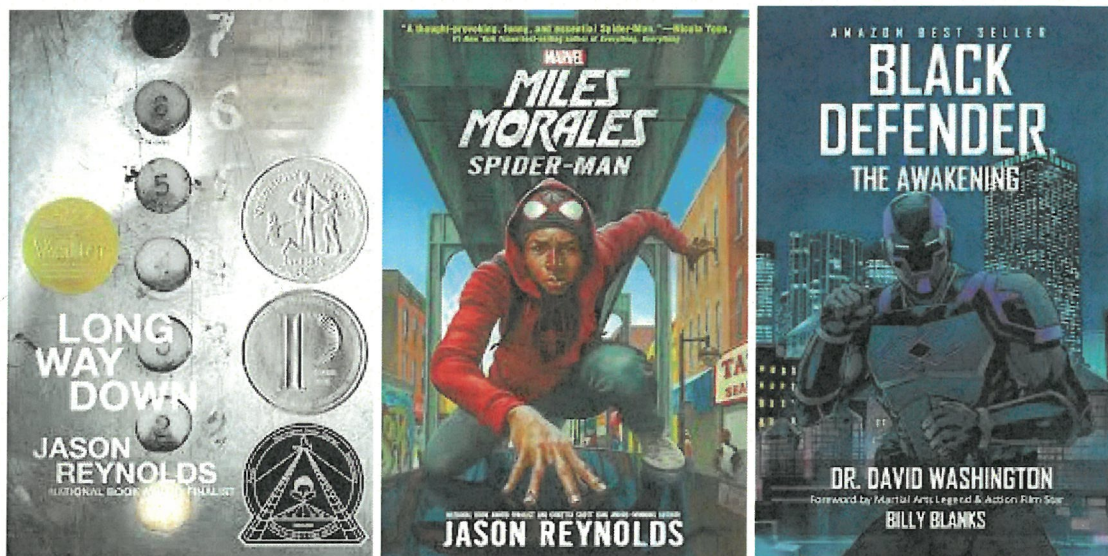
I am excited to share that our 9th graders will be reading *Black Defender: The Awakening* as part of a new unit focused on visual literacy. Students will explore important themes such as



justice, equality, identity, and responsibility while learning how to analyze symbolism, character development, and visual storytelling.

To deepen their understanding, students will also compare the novel with the film *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse*, focusing again on visual literacy and how different mediums tell powerful stories. This is especially exciting because the author of our first novel, *Long Way Down*, Jason Reynolds, also wrote *Miles Morales: Spider-Man*. His version of Miles Morales is a young adult novel that reimagines the Marvel hero as an Afro-Puerto Rican teen balancing school, family, and new powers, while facing internal conflicts, social issues such as racism, and the pressure of living up to his family's legacy.

As a white educator, I approach this unit with care and a willingness to learn. My goal is to create a classroom where students can engage thoughtfully with perspectives that may be different from their own, center the voices of the communities represented in these stories, and explore important topics like identity, justice, and empathy.



Junior English:

Students are currently reading *The Crucible* and exploring the role of symbolism in literature. To practice this concept, students created a “poppet” that represents their own lives, drawing inspiration from the symbolic poppet in the play.

A couple of my favorite examples:



"I made 5 flowers to show my connection between the 5 children in my family. While we are not always the closest when everyone is back home and catching up, it's a really nice and special time. I did 3 different ones and two of the same. The two of the same are

showing how two of my siblings have left the house and are out on their own."

"It's supposed to be a Rilakkuma bear, but it looks like a lion. Anyway, Rilakkuma is a character from San-X , he is lazy and loves to eat. Just like me. I think he is a cute bear and I collect everything Rilakkuma related. I have Rilakkuma phone cases, lunchboxes, plushies, keychains, stickers and such. I love Rilakkuma because he is so carefree. He lives in his own little world with his friends and he's so cute. I want to be like Rilakkuma."



Creative Writing I students (5th/6th graders) celebrated the end of the semester by sharing poems and favorite excerpts from the amazing stories they'd written! Afterwards, they went on a gallery walk to see these on display, along with their About the Author pages. Lots of creativity filled the room and students were able to take flowers home! :) On the very last day of class, students gave each other "Snaps" & shared what stuck with them from each student's writing!

After visiting with their first grade buddies in Ms. Transue's room throughout the semester, **Creative Writing II students** (7th graders), had their publishing party this past week. This was such a special day because their first grade buddies greeted them with handmade cards full of kindness as a HUGE congratulatory banner hung behind them with each of their big buddies' names floating across it. What a fun surprise! Students, then, shared the children's books they'd written & illustrated with their first grade buddies. They were so thoughtful while creating these books & their books are really wonderful. What an exciting way to conclude our time together! These students are taking their flowers home today, too!