JULY 27, 2026 ISSUE NO. 5

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TERRIER TIDBITS

SMALL BITS OF BIG NEWS AT WILLIAM BYRD MIDDLE SCHOOL



MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

BY PRINCIPAL KATIE HUTCHISON

We've made it to the final week of July, and it's hard to believe that our amazing teachers return next week to kick off preparations for a brand-new school year! This special edition of our newsletter includes key back-to-school information such as Orientation and Open House details, important reminders, school meal updates, and supply lists to help your family get ready.

We also encourage all families to review both the **WBMS Family Handbook** and the **WBMS Student Handbook**, which include valuable information about our daily operations and important RCPS School Board policies. We want to remind families of the **Student Use of Personal Mobile Devices Policy** that was adjusted last school year.

This year, students will be expected to keep **cell phones, headphones, earbuds, and other personal electronic devices powered off or on airplane mode and stored in their bookbags from arrival until dismissal at 3:25 PM**. These items should not be carried on their person during the school day. If a student is found using a device, it will be confiscated and taken to the office. Starting with the second offense, a parent or guardian will be required to pick up the device.

We understand this may be an adjustment for some students, but our commitment remains clear: to prepare every student to be **Opportunity Ready** as effective **communicators**, **collaborators**, **critical thinkers**, and **citizens**. Limiting distractions caused by unauthorized electronics use is an essential part of achieving that goal.

We can't wait to welcome our students back soon. Here's to a strong and successful start to the new school year!

ORIENTATION & OPEN HOUSE

WE ARE SO EXCITED TO WELCOME OUR NEWEST STUDENTS TO ORIENTATION ON AUGUST 10! WE ALSO CANNOT WAIT TO SEE OUR RETURNING STUDENTS. BELOW IS INFORMATION REGARDING OUR ORIENTATION AND OPEN HOUSE.

New to WBMS 7th & 8th Grade Student Orientation, *August 10 1:30-2:30 PM* – All new to WBMS 7th and 8th grade students are invited to join us during this time. Parents/guardians should return to reunite with your student at 2:30 PM. Following the end of your orientation, you may walk with your student to their classes. Parents/guardians are also invited to join us for the parent portion of 6th Grade Orientation at 3:00 PM in the Auditorium.

6th Grade Orientation, *August 10 3:00-4:30 PM* – All 6th grade students are invited to join us during this time. Doors will open at 2:40 PM. As indicated on the map below, please park in the orange area between the middle school and high school and enter through Door 20. Students should report to the Cafeteria and parents/guardians should report to the Auditorium. Students will have the opportunity to meet our teachers and learn the location of their classes, while parents/guardians will be introduced to our support staff and learn about critical information to our daily operations. Beginning at 4:15 PM, students will be reunited with their parents/guardians in the Cafeteria and will have the opportunity to introduce them to their teachers.

- ***If you do not wish to attend the parent/guardian portion of Orientation,*** please drop your student off following the area marked in yellow. Please return by 4:30 PM following the same area marked in yellow to meet your student outside Door 1.



Open House, *August 10 4:30-6:00 PM* – All students are invited to join us during this time. ***Doors will open at 4:30 PM, but no earlier to ensure our 6th grade students are able to reunite with their parents/guardians in a timely manner.*** Please park in the area indicated in orange on the map above and enter through Door 20. Upon arrival, please report to the Main Gym to pick up your student's schedule and ensure your student has everything ready to start the school year. Once your student has picked up their schedule, they may go around the building and meet their teachers.

We cannot wait to see all of our students on August 10 as we set the stage to assist them in becoming effective **communicators**, **collaborative** learners, **critical thinkers**, and responsible **citizens**—ensuring every student is prepared and **Opportunity Ready** for the future.

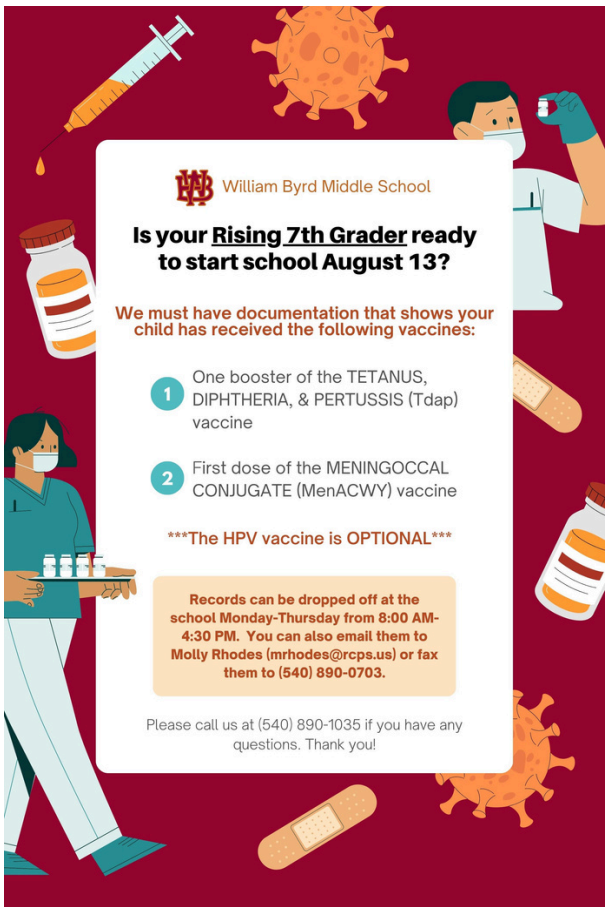
Terrier Strong. Future Ready.

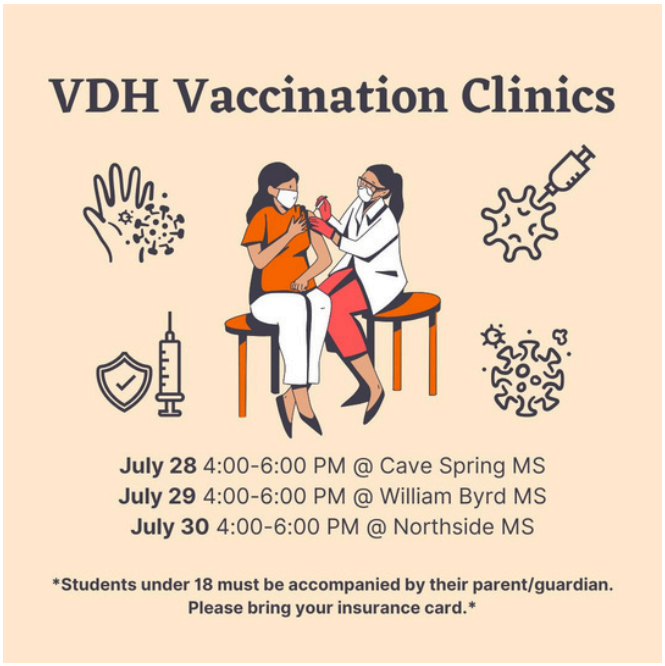


ANVER

Your student's Annual Verification (ANVER) forms are now available in ParentVue. Please log in to complete them! Beginning July 31, you will be able to access your student's schedule after you complete the ANVER paperwork.

IMMUNIZATION REMINDERS





Please bring a copy of your child's vaccination record, consent form, and your insurance card. More information and the consent form can be found on the RCPS website under Departments - Health Services.

If your child cannot receive immunizations due to medical reasons, you need to provide a letter from their healthcare provider. If you require a religious exemption, you can find the form at the following link: VA Religious Exemption or by contacting Ms. Rhodes (mrhodes@rcps.us).

The Vinton Health Department (227 S Pollard Street) also has the following times available by appointment:

- **July 1** 8:30-3:30 PM
- **July 15** 8:30-3:30 PM
- **July 29** 8:30-3:30 PM
- **August 5** 8:30-3:30 PM
- **August 6** 3:30-5:30 PM
- **August 12** 8:30-3:30 PM

SCHOOL MEALS

AS WE BEGIN THIS EXCITING NEW SCHOOL YEAR, WE WANT TO TAKE A MOMENT TO INTRODUCE YOU TO OUR CAFETERIA MANAGER

Mrs. Rachel Yawn, *Cafeteria Manager* - Mrs. Yawn and her team play an integral role in our student's lives on a daily basis by providing nutritious meals to fuel our students as they work toward success. If you ever have any questions related to our meals program, please do not hesitate to reach out to Mrs. Yawn.



MRS. YAWN

This year, we are excited to continue our participation in the **Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)** meal program at WBMS. The following Vinton schools are also participating:

- Herman L. Horn Elementary School
- W.E. Cundiff Elementary School
- Mount Pleasant Elementary School

As a result, **student breakfast and lunch will be free** at WBMS (each student is eligible to take one complete meal at no charge at each meal service).

No household applications will be collected or needed for students enrolled at CEP sites. If a family has students at CEP and non-CEP schools, they should list all students on the meal application, but only non-CEP students will receive an eligibility determination letter.

A la carte snacks and beverage will still be available for sale at CEP schools.

Families may deposit funds to student meal accounts with a credit or debit card online at LINQ Connect. This is a secure, third-party vendor. Online payments have a processing fee of 3.95% of the transaction amount with a minimum fee of $2.85 per transaction. Payments may be made at no charge in all school cafeterias by cash or check.

There is no charge to maintain your LINQ Connect account, which allows families to view student meal transactions and set spending limits or restrictions.

Breakfast and lunch menus are also available through LINQ Connect.

Non-CEP Schools in the Vinton area:

- William Byrd High School
- Bonsack Elementary School

Reduced co-pays will be waived for students eligible for reduced-priced meals at WBHS and Bonsack. Therefore, both free and reduced students will eat for free for school year 2025-2026 (each child is eligible to take one complete meal at a no charge at each meal service).

SUPPLY LISTS

WILLIAM BYRD MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Home of the Terriers -

6th Grade Supply List

(OPTIONAL)

All students need:

- Loose leaf paper
- Index cards
- Pens + Pencils
- Colored pencils/markers
- Pen/pencil pouch
- Skinny dry erase markers
- Tissues

In addition, specific subjects request the following:

English

- A durable (3) subject spiral notebook + 2 pocket folders
- Highlighters, scissors, and glue sticks

Math/Pre-Algebra 6

- 1 subject notebook, a pocket folder & black expo markers

Accelerated Math Only (AMP 6)

- A binder or spiral notebook (student choice)
- Student google account (must be set up by parent)

History

- 1 pocket folder

Science

- 1 (one inch) binder (to keep in classroom)
- 2 plastic pocket folders and a set of earbuds

SUPPLY LISTS

WILLIAM BYRD MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Home of the Terriers –

7th Grade Supply List

(OPTIONAL)

All students need:

- Loose leaf paper
- Index cards
- 2 packs of pencils + 1 pack of colored pencils
- Pens (black and red)
- Pen/pencil pouch
- Highlighters
- Glue sticks
- Tissues

In addition, specific subjects request the following:

English

- 3-subject notebook + a 2-pocket folder

Math/Pre-Algebra 7

- Spiral notebook (80+ pages)
- Graph paper
- Dry erase markers
- Pack of loose-leaf paper (to keep in classroom)

History

- 2 spiral notebooks + a 3-ring binder

Science

- Single subject notebook + 1 pocket folder

Algebra

- Dry erase markers (fine tip)
- 2 (one) subject notebooks and graph paper

SUPPLY LISTS

WILLIAM BYRD MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Home of the Terriers -

8th Grade Supply List

(OPTIONAL)

All students need:

- Loose leaf paper
- Index cards
- Pens + Pencils + Colored pencils
- Pen/pencil pouch
- Highlighters
- Tissues
- Earbuds (not headphones that completely cover the ears)

In addition, specific subjects request the following:

English

- 1 (one inch) binder, a 3 subject composition notebook, and 1 pronged pocket folder

Math 8/Pre-Algebra 8

- Expo markers and 2 pocket folders

Algebra

- Dry erase markers
- 3 or 5 subject notebook
- A handheld scientific calculator
- 1 (one inch) binder/folder to keep papers

Geometry

- Handheld scientific calculator
- Dry erase markers (fine tip)
- 3 or 5 subject notebook

Civics

- One 3 ring binder

Science

- (2 inch) binder to keep in classroom, 2 dividers & a 4 function calculator

Spanish I

- A (1 inch) binder with (5) tabbed dividers + a spiral band notebook
- Extra index cards and 2 pocket folders
- Glue sticks and a pair of scissors

ATHLETIC REMINDERS

ALL MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS, INCLUDING 6TH GRADERS, ARE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN ATHLETICS AT WBMS. WHILE MANY OF OUR SPORTS HAVE TRY-OUTS, FOOTBALL, WRESTLING, AND TRACK DO NOT.

Eligibility - In order to be eligible to participate in athletics, including any open gyms/fields, try-outs, and practices at WBMS, students must meet the following requirements:

- Be fully enrolled at WBMS prior to the start of sports season.
- Have a current VHSL Physical on file with the school.
  - New for this school year - VHSL Physicals are valid for 14 months from the time of the student's medical evaluation.
- Be in good academic standing according to RCPS Policy 6.44
  - "**First Semester:** To be eligible, the student must be promoted or assigned to six, seventh, or eighth grade. Students repeating grade seven or eight are not eligible first semester. The athlete must be currently enrolled in not fewer than five subjects, or their equivalent.
  - **Second Semester:** To be eligible, the student must have no more than one "F" grade for semester-one final grades. The athlete must be currently enrolled in not fewer than five subjects, or their equivalent.
  - To be eligible for eighth grade participation, a student must not have reached the age of 15 on or before August 1 of the school year in which he wishes to compete."
- Additionally per RCPS policy 6.44, "eighth grade students, with parental permission, may try out for ninth grade or junior varsity teams at the high school. The high school coach must notify the middle school coach within the first ten practice days if the player is to remain on the ninth grade or junior varsity team. Students returning to the middle school team must remain at that level for the duration of that sports season. Eighth grade students who play on the JV level may not return to the middle school team."
- Be in good behavior standing at WBMS, including adhering to all guidelines in the Athletic Handbook.

Coaches alongside the Athletic Director reserve the right to remove students who are not in good standing at WBMS. **Please contact Allison Thornton (athornton@rcps.us), our Athletic Director, if you have any questions related to eligibility or participating on a sports team at WBMS.**

FALL SPORTS:

- **Football**
  - **Head Coach:** Cody Underwood (caunderwood@rcps.us)
- **Girls Volleyball**
  - **Head Coach:** Stephanie Brady (sbrady@rcps.us)
- **Cheerleading**
  - **Head Coach:** Shannon McCulloch (smcculloch@rcps.us)

WINTER SPORTS:

- **Boys Basketball**
  - **Head Coach:** Brian Bartley (bbartley@rcps.us)
- **Girls Basketball**
  - **Head Coach:** Brandy Helton (bhelton@rcps.us)
- **Wrestling**
  - **Head Coach:** Michael Bryant (mbryant@rcps.us)

SPRING SPORTS:

- **Boys Baseball**
  - **Head Coach:** Matt Tingler (mtingler@rcps.us)
- **Girls Softball**
  - **Head Coach:** Jorden Frye (jfrye@rcps.us)
- **Boys Soccer**
  - **Head Coach:** TBD
    - If you are interested in coaching, please apply here.
- **Girls Soccer**
  - **Head Coach:** Michelle Yamatani (myamatani@rcps.us)
- **Boys Track**
  - **Head Coach:** TBD
    - If you are interesting in coaching, please apply here.
- **Girls Track**
  - **Head Coach:** Jamie Nichols (jdnichols@rcps.us)

William Byrd Middle School Arbiter Registration

Starting with the 2026-2027 school year, all athletic registration and sports physical turn-in will be done digitally through the Arbiter platform (We will no longer be accepting paper copies of physicals). We have simplified the registration process, and all waivers for athletic participation are now signed digitally! ALL ATHLETES WILL NEED TO BE REGISTERED – EVEN IF YOUR PHYSICAL IS STILL VALID. Please be sure to follow these steps to complete your registration and ensure that your student is registered for participation:

1. Create an Arbiter Registration account *(you only need one account for your whole family)*
    a. You may create your account by clicking here: https://account.familyid.com/signup
2. Activate your Arbiter Registration account, from the activation link that will be automatically sent to your email. (Note: this email may go into your junk folder).
    a. If you are having trouble creating your account, receiving the activation email, or logging into it, you may contact support at 800-311-4060.
3. Once you have successfully created your account and are logged in, please click or scan the QR below to complete your registration:

4. Once you have completed your registration, you will receive an email notification to let you know we have received your registration. Students MUST be registered and cleared to be eligible for participation.
5. Please note that all athletes must be registered. If your physical from the 2025–26 school year is still valid (physicals are valid for 14 months) and WBMS already has a copy on file from last year, you must pick it up from the front office and upload it again.
6. Moving forward, however, all new physicals must be uploaded through the registration system to ensure records remain current and accessible. Please make sure all required information is completed before the start of the season.

BACK TO SCHOOL SPIRIT SHOP

ONLINE ORDERS AVAILABLE THROUGH AUGUST 2.
MISS THE ONLINE SALE? LIMITED SUPPLIES WILL BE AVAILABLE DURING OPEN HOUSE AUGUST 10 FROM 4:30-6:00 PM.

William Byrd Terriers Back to school '26

You can now purchase your items online in 3 easy steps:

1. Scan the QR code or go online to **https://wb-backtoschool-26.itemorder.com/**
2. Choose your items and add them to your cart
3. Securely checkout with your credit card

Online Store Deadline: **Sunday August 2nd, 2026 (11:59pm EDT)**

Great for PE Class!

Unisex Softstyle® T-Shirt - 64000 (Athletics)



$17.00

...5
...on, 30
...Heather Oatmeal
...s 99/1...

Unisex Heavy Blend™ Hooded Sweatshirt - 18500 (Athletics)



$30.00

8 oz./yd² (US) 13.5 oz./L yd (CA), 50/50 cotton/polyester, 20 singlesHeather Dark Green, Heather...

Sport-Tek Dry Zone Colorblock Raglan Polo. T476



$33.00

The moisture-wicking, odor-fighting performance of Dry Zone technology in a colorblocked raglan...

Sport-Tek PosiCharge Competitor Polo. ST550



$28.00

Our #1 performance tee fabricA offered in a color-locking, moisture-wicking poloA to expand your...

CornerStone Women's Select Snag-Proof Polo. CS413



$38.00

Tough enough for most general work environments, this high-performance polo defies snags, resists...

Port Authority Women's Core Classic Pique Polo. L100



$28.00

An indispensable polo for just about every uniforming need. Designed for everyday wear, this pique...

C2 Tee (Circle)



2 Colors

$16.00

Double-needle hemSelf-fabric...

Gildan Heavy Blend Hooded Sweatshirt (Circle)



2 Colors

$28.00

8-ounce, 50/50 cotton/polyDouble-needle stitching at waistband and cuffsDouble-lined hood with...

A4 Softek Long Sleeve Tee (Circle)



2 Colors

$26.00

The earth-friendly Softek tee combines the performance of polyester with the comfort of cotton. ...

Gildan Softstyle T-Shirt. 64000 (Stripes)



2 Colors

$17.00

4.5-ounce, 100% ring spun US cotton99/1 ring spun cotton/polyester (Heather Oatmeal)90/10 ring spun...

Unisex Heavy Blend™ Crewneck Sweatshirt - 18000 (Stripes)



$25.00

8 oz./yd² (US) 13.3 oz./L yd (CA), 50/50 cotton/polyester, 20 singlesHeather Dark Green, Heather...

Unisex Heavy Cotton™ Long Sleeve T-Shirt - 5400 (Circle)



2 Colors

$19.00

5.3 oz./yd² (US) 8.8 oz./L yd (CA), 100% cotton, 20 singlesAsh Grey is 99/1 cotton/polyesterSport...

Questions?
Dave Graboski
540-489-1200
info@fullarmorcustomapparel.com
http://www.fullarmorcustomapparel.com

BACK TO SCHOOL SPIRIT SHOP

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MISS THE ONLINE SALE? LIMITED SUPPLIES WILL BE AVAILABLE DURING OPEN HOUSE AUGUST 10 FROM 4:30-6:00 PM.

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You can now purchase your items online in 3 easy steps:

1. Scan the QR code or go online to **https://wb-backtoschool-26.itemorder.com/**
2. Choose your items and add them to your cart
3. Securely checkout with your credit card

Online Store Deadline: **Sunday August 2nd, 2026 (11:59pm EDT)**

Gildan Heavy Blend™ Youth Hooded Sweatshirt (Circle)



2 Colors

$28.00

8 oz./yd² (US) 13.5 oz./L yd (CA), 50/50 cotton/polyester, 20 singlesClassic fitDouble-lined...

Youth Heavy Cotton™ T-Shirt - 5000B (Circle)



2 Colors

$15.00

5.3 oz./yd² (US) 8.8 oz./L yd (CA), 100% cotton, 20 singlesAsh Grey is 99/1 cotton/polyesterSport...

Badger B-Core 7" Shorts



$22.00

3.5 oz./yd, 100% polyester moisture management/antimicrobi performance fabricAthletic cut and...

Sport-Tek Women's Club 5" Short LST442



$21.00

Start strong with a moisture-wicking, odor-fighting and carbon-reducing short made with 100%...

Port Authority Pocket Cinch Pack. BG611



$15.00

This colorful cinch pack is a tremendous value and it features a front storage pocket for easy...

OGIO Logan Pack. 411092



$56.00

This pack makes a bold statement while protecting all your techie toys.840D poly dobby with PU...

Questions?
Dave Graboski
540-489-1200
info@fullarmorcustomapparel.com
http://www.fullarmorcustomapparel.com

UPCOMING DATES

A GLANCE AT THE MONTH AHEAD

July

- **July 1-31:** Summer Break
- **July 17:** Annual Verification Forms (ANVER) will be available in ParentVue
- **July 27:** Community Meet & Greet with Dr. Soltis, Mr. Greenway, and Mr. Linden
  - 6:00-7:00 PM
  - WBHS Auditorium
- **July 31:** Schedules will be available in ParentVue/StudentVue
  - **Note:** There is not a specific time, but they will be posted by the evening. ANVER forms must be submitted before you or your child can view their schedule.
  - **The deadline for changes to course requests will be July 31.**
    - Please note that schedule change requests will be placed on hold from August 1 through August 28, except for level changes (e.g., Advanced to General Education) and changes required to implement a student's IEP or 504 Plan. This temporary pause allows us time to balance class sizes, finalize schedules, and ensure adequate space is available for newly enrolled students.
    - Beginning August 31, changes from one course to another will be made under the following circumstances only:
      - Failure of a course that is a prerequisite for a scheduled course or a graduation requirement (high school only);
      - Human or computer error;
      - Grouping adjustments and/or balancing of class sizes;
      - Recommendation of Child Study,504 or IEP Committee;
      - Acceptance or removal from an Apprenticeship (high school only)
    - 8th Grade Students: Elective choices are not guaranteed unless it is a high school credit course (Spanish, French, Latin, World History, or Earth Science). Every effort is made to give students their top elective choices, but schedule constraints do not always make it possible. The deadline to drop a high school credit class will be September 14.

August

- **August 3-12:** Teacher Work Days
- **August 10:**
  - New 7th & 8Th Grade Orientation -- 1:30-2:30 PM
  - 6th Grade Orientation -- 3:00-4:30 PM
  - Open House for All Students -- 4:30-6:00 PM
- **August 13:** First Day of School

UPCOMING DATES

A GLANCE AT THE MONTH AHEAD

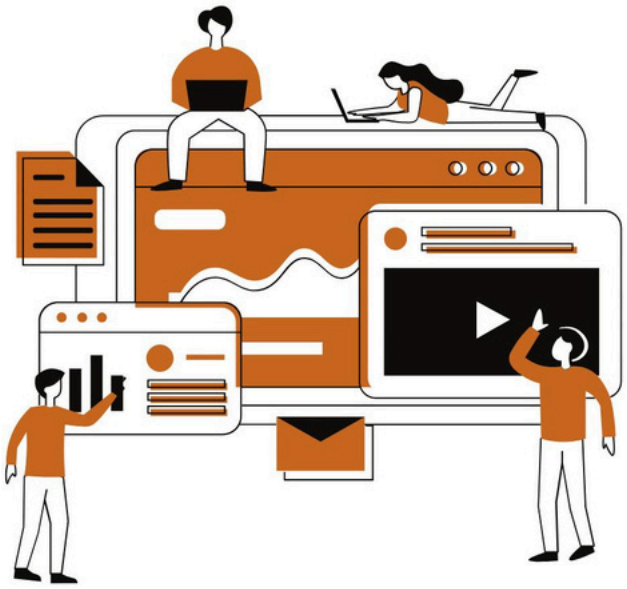


UPCOMING DATES

A GLANCE AT THE MONTH AHEAD

Schedules will be available in ParentVue and StudentVue

JULY 31



REMINDERS

The deadline for changes to course requests will be July 31.

- Except for level changes (e.g., Advanced to General Education) and changes required to implement a student's IEP or 504 Plan, schedule change requests will be placed on hold from August 1 through August 28 to allow us time to balance class sizes, finalize schedules, and ensure adequate space is available for newly enrolled students.

All schedules received prior to the start of school are subject to change due to the balancing of classes following student enrollments or withdrawals.

8TH GRADERS

Elective choices are not guaranteed unless it is a high school credit course (Spanish, French, Latin, World History, or Earth Science). Every effort is made to give students their top elective choices, but schedule constraints do not always make it possible. The deadline to drop a high school credit class will be September 14.