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TERRIER TIDBITS

SMALL BITS OF BIG NEWS AT WILLIAM BYRD MIDDLE SCHOOL



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

BY PRINCIPAL KATIE HUTCHISON

We have some exciting news to celebrate—WBMS averaged a 98% daily attendance rate during the month of September! This is a wonderful start to the school year and a reflection of the partnership between our students, families, and staff.

Being at school each day matters. Our staff works hard to build strong relationships with students and create a welcoming environment where every student feels connected, supported, and ready to learn. We are also grateful to our families for making regular attendance a priority and communicating with us when support is needed.

We will continue to monitor attendance throughout the year and work alongside families to help our students be successful. For now, we are proud to celebrate this strong start—because when our Terriers are here, they can learn, grow, connect, and take advantage of all the opportunities WBMS has to offer!

We are William Byrd—Terrier Strong—Future Ready!

PARENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

INFORMATION AND REMINDERS FOR PARENTS

ATTENDANCE REMINDER:

If your student will be out of school for any reason, please contact attendance at 540-890-1035 option #1 or email attendance at wbmattendance@rcps.us



BUS TRANSPORTATION REMINDER FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS

If your student will be riding a different bus than their regularly assigned bus, they must bring a handwritten note to school each day this occurs.

For the note to be accepted, please include all of the following information:

- **Student's Full Name**
- **Bus # the Student Will Be Riding**
- **Full Name of the Student They Will Be Riding With**
- **Date**
- **Parent/Guardian Signature**

Please make sure all required information is included. Notes that are missing information or a parent/guardian signature may not be approved.

Thank you for helping us keep our students safe and ensuring that we have accurate transportation information.



Located in the Cafeteria

PLEASE LABEL YOUR STUDENT'S BELONGINGS WITH THEIR FIRST AND LAST NAME. THIS MAKES IT EASIER FOR US TO GET THE ITEMS BACK TO THEIR OWNER

PARENT ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONT.)

INFORMATION AND REMINDERS FOR PARENTS





WILLIAM BYRD 19 88 MIDDLE SCHOOL

Fellowship of Christian Athletes
We meet every Thursday in the Auditorium at 7:45!

FCA

WBMS FCA

wbms_fca88

FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN ATHLETES

STRIVING TO IMPACT THE WORLD FOR JESUS CHRIST THROUGH THE INFLUENCE OF COACHES AND ATHLETES.

INTEGRITY
SERVING
TEAMWORK
EXCELLENCE
RELATIONSHIPS

UPCOMING DATES:

- SEPTEMBER 3, 2026 — FIRST DAY OF FCA
- SEPTEMBER 12, 2026 — FCA E3 LEADERSHIP TRAINING
- SEPTEMBER 23, 2026 — SEE YOU AT THE POLE
- OCTOBER 1, 2026 — BRING YOU BIBLE TO SCHOOL DAY
- OCTOBER 11, 2026 — FIELDS OF FAITH AT NORTHSIDE HIGH SCHOOL

ONE TEAM. ONE MISSION. ONE IMPACT.

PARENT ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONT.)

INFORMATION AND REMINDERS FOR PARENTS

October is Disability Awareness Month! This month gives us an opportunity to celebrate the many strengths, talents, and contributions of individuals with disabilities. It is also a time to help our students understand that everyone learns, communicates, and experiences the world in different ways.

At our school, we believe that every student belongs, every student has strengths, and every student has something valuable to contribute. Throughout the month, we will be encouraging students to practice kindness, respect differences, include others, and recognize the abilities in themselves and their peers.

Disability awareness is more than learning about disabilities. It is about building a school community where differences are respected and all students feel accepted, supported, and valued. We encourage families to continue these conversations at home by talking with your child about inclusion, empathy, and treating others with kindness.

Together, we can help create a school community where everyone has the opportunity to learn, grow, and belong!



7th grade will be going to Career Quest on October 7th. Students should have already provided parents with permission forms.

8th grade students will be touring Burton on October 14th - Students should have already provided parents with a permission form.

PARENT ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONT.)

INFORMATION AND REMINDERS FOR PARENTS



Is your student an excellent speller? Would they like to represent WBMS in the Roanoke County Schools spelling bee? If so, have them join us for our 2027 WBMS Spelling Bee! On October 15, spellers from grades 6-8 will compete to see who among them is the best speller of all! Permission slips are available from your child's English teacher and must be returned by October 9th. Word lists will be given out when the permission slip is returned. The winning student will compete against other school representatives in the Roanoke County Schools District Bee in January. Good luck and happy spelling!

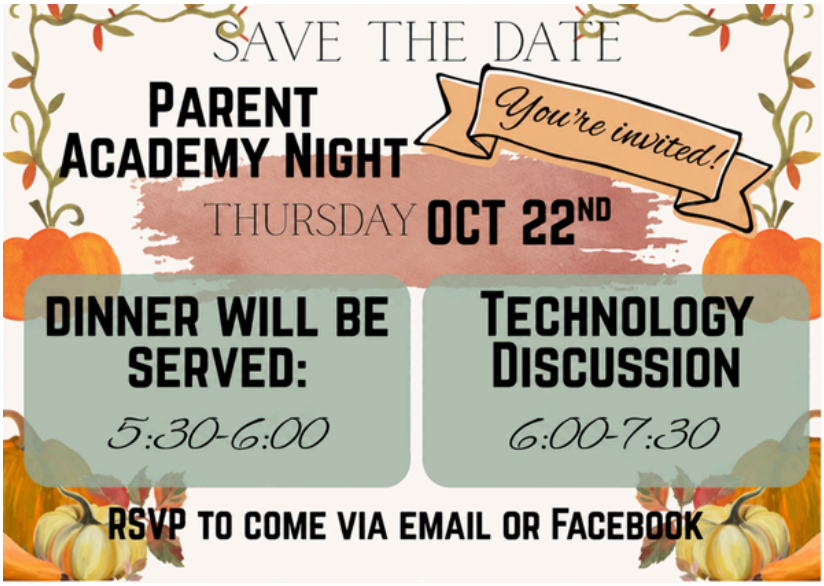


The WBMS Chorus is proud to present our Fall Concert on Thursday, October 8 at 7:30 pm in the William Byrd High School auditorium. Please join us for an evening of seasonal selections as well as a tribute to the iconic Dolly Parton! Singers should report at 7:00 pm wearing their dressy black and white concert attire.

PARENT ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONT.)

INFORMATION AND REMINDERS FOR PARENTS

Are you pulling your hair out trying to help your student with their schoolwork? Our next session of our Parent Academy will focus on clarifying which technology platform will get you the information you need. Join us as we work to assist you with Canvas, ParentVue, and more!





Tips for Helping Your Middle Schooler with Schoolwork

DO:

✅ Check grades and missing assignments regularly.
✅ Help your child create a consistent homework routine.
✅ Encourage them to use Canvas, their planner, and teacher resources.
✅ Ask questions like, “What’s your plan for getting this done?”
✅ Break large assignments into smaller, manageable steps.
✅ Provide a quiet, distraction-free place to work.
✅ Encourage your child to contact the teacher when they need help.
✅ Praise effort, organization, and improvement, not just grades.

DON’T:

❌ Do the assignment for your child.
❌ Email the teacher before encouraging your child to ask for help first.
❌ Wait until the end of the grading period to check progress.
❌ Rescue your child from every missed assignment or forgotten responsibility.
❌ Compare your child’s grades or progress to other students.
❌ Turn homework into a nightly battle—support, encourage, and help them build independence.

The goal: Be a coach, not a manager. Middle school is the time for students to learn how to organize, advocate for themselves, solve problems, and take increasing ownership of their learning.

MESSAGE FROM COUNSELING



Mental health information for parents/guardians

The purpose of this mental health resource webpage is to partner with parents and caregivers in supporting the emotional well-being and safety of our students. The webpage provides parents with information to help them understand potential mental health issues among youth and ways to support students. Parents may read about warning signs that someone may be struggling, and resources available at school, at home, and in the community. By sharing this information, we hope to strengthen the connection between home and school, encourage open conversations about mental health, and ensure that students and families know where to turn when additional support is needed.



This October, our school is participating in the RCPS Kindness Challenge! We are encouraging all students to show daily acts of kindness to create a more positive school environment. Acts of kindness—like helping a classmate or thanking a teacher—will be tracked throughout the month. The kindest middle school will win the prize money! Help us spread kindness every day, in every way!



MESSAGE FROM COUNSELING (CONT.)



Roanoke County Public Schools continues to provide "Let's Talk," a telehealth service available for elementary, middle, and high school students and parents. Through this service, students/parents can receive up to six (6) free counseling sessions for a variety of issues including:

- Relationships
- Stress
- Anxiety/depression
- Coping with grief or loss
- and any other difficult life situation

Like so many communities across the country, the Roanoke Valley faces a challenge when it comes to local availability of licensed mental health counselors due to overwhelming demand. Let's Talk helps bridge that gap and connects students and parents to critical counseling services. The Let's Talk service, powered by Gaggle Therapy, is possible thanks to a grant from the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services.

This program will support students and parents through direct counseling, prevention, and early intervention services delivered by a contracted mental telehealth provider. The goal is to improve access to care by reducing barriers such as transportation and scheduling challenges, supporting early identification and intervention for mental health concerns, and fostering a more supportive and responsive school environment that promotes wellness and academic success.

To begin counseling, go online to www.rcps.us/letstalk.

MESSAGE FROM THE LIBRARY

INFORMATION AND REMINDERS FOR PARENTS

WBMS LIBRARY NEWS

October

OCTOBER LUNCH IN THE LIBRARY

- **Oct. 7th- 6th Pony Bead Creations**
- **October 14-Dots, Dice and Boxes**
- **October 21 - NFL Highlights from Oct. 18th games!**
- **October 28- Shrinky Dinks**

October Reader's Challenge:

READ A SCARY BOOK

We will meet October 28th during Terrier Time and again at lunch.

Coming in November: The Book Fair!



JOIN US FOR LUNCH ACTIVITIES!

*Sign up in the library

*Grab your lunch and check in with the adults in the cafeteria

*Come to the library to eat and join in the fun!

Spots are limited for each activity, so sign up early!

UPCOMING EVENTS AND DATES

A GLANCE AT THE MONTH AHEAD

October 2: National School Custodial Workers Appreciation Day
- 6th grade students start their 2nd rotation of interest block

October 7:
- 7th Grade Students - Career Quest
- Cross Country - Southwest VA Middle School Championship @ Hidden Valley

October 8:
- Football A-team **home** vs. Staunton River @ 5:30pm
- Fall Choir Concert @ WBHS auditorium 7:30pm

October 9: End of the 1st nine weeks

October 12 : Schools Closed - Teacher Workday
- Girls and Boys Basketball tryouts

October 13:
- Required practice for 8th grade band members after school

October 14:
- 8th grade students - BCAT Tours

October 15:
- Rain date for required practice for 8th grade band members after school
- Spelling Bee

October 16:
- Required performance at the football game for 8th grade band members.
- Club day

October 21: 3hr. early dismissal (12:25pm)
- Report cards sent home

October 22:
- Parent Academy in the WBM Cafeteria - 5:30pm

UPCOMING EVENTS AND DATES

A GLANCE AT THE MONTH AHEAD

October 26:

- Fall picture make-up day
- Girls Basketball, **home** vs. Hidden Valley @ 5:30pm
- Boys Basketball, **away** vs. Hidden Valley @ 5:30pm

October 29:

- Girls & Boys basketball double header, **home** vs. CAMS @ 5:00pm

October 30:

- Fall Pep Rally