WESTMINSTER ELEMENTARY
School Newsletter

9:00 a.m. Doors open | 9:25 a.m. Bell Rings | 4:00 p.m. Dismissal

Principal's Message

As we begin our second marking period, we are excited about the learning, growth, and opportunities ahead! Report cards will be sent home on November 11, providing an opportunity to celebrate student progress and set goals for continued success. We also invite families to review the information in this newsletter to help plan your visit for American Education Week. We are especially proud to celebrate WES earning a 4-star rating on the 2026 Maryland Report Card! This recognition reflects the hard work, dedication, and commitment of our students, staff, and families. As we enter this season of gratitude, thank you for being such an important part of our WES community. We look forward to all we will accomplish together!

Final Conference Night

Our final Conference Night is scheduled for November 12. If you wish to sign up for a conference, please use the link below:

11/12 Booking Link

FaRM's Applications

If your family needs assistance with school meals, please complete the form for Free and Reduced Meals. All students can receive free breakfast every day and meal benefits can apply to lunch each day. Other benefits may be applied as well if you have other students in other schools.

Apply using this link *(multiple languages are available online).*

If you have any questions regarding meal benefits, please contact our Parent Liaison, Stacie Houston at sahoust@carrollk12.org.

Positive Message Spirit Day

On the third Wednesday of each month, WES will celebrate Positive Message Spirit Day! Staff and students are invited to wear shirts featuring positive, encouraging, and uplifting messages. Let's spread kindness, share positivity, and make our school community a little brighter, one message at a time!

Important Dates

11/09/26 - Title I Parent Reading Night, 6:00 p.m.
11/10/26 - PTO Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
11/12/26 - Parent-Teacher Conferences
11/16-20/26 - American Education Week
11/20/26 - Early Dismissal, 1:15 p.m.
11/24/26 - Picture Retakes
11/25/26 - Early Dismissal, 1:15 p.m.
11/26-27/26 - Thanksgiving Break, Schools closed

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American Education Week Reminders: 11/16 - 11/20

- Visits are for parents and guardians only. Due to time constraints and limited space, siblings and extended family may not attend.
- Please be sure to park in designated parking spaces only. Do not block the bus lane at any time.
- We cannot accommodate visitors during lunch or recess.
- If you are unable to attend on the scheduled day, please contact the teacher to schedule your visit on another day:
  - **Monday: Pre-K and Kindergarten**
  - **Tuesday: Grade 1 and Grade 5**
  - **Wednesday: Grade 2 and Grade 4**
  - **Thursday: Grade 3**
  - **Friday: Early Dismissal**
- Please email the teacher in advance to let them know if you plan to attend.
- Visitors must go directly to the office and present their driver's license upon arrival.

Family Literacy Night Information

In partnership with Carroll County Public Library, we invite all WES families to attend the upcoming Family Literacy Night on November 19th at the Westminster Branch of CCPL. See flyer for more information and to register your family for the event.

WES English Flyer
WES Spanish Flyer

Volunteer Training

Training must be completed every year to volunteer at WES. This includes field trip chaperones, Fun Run and Play Day volunteers, classroom volunteers, assembly volunteers, etc. To be selected as a fieldtrip chaperone, volunteer training must be completed at least 7 school days prior to the field trip. Click **HERE** to take the online training.

Attendance & Dismissal

To report an absence, late arrival or change in dismissal, please send a note or email to wesattendance@carrollk12.org. Students who arrive at 9:25 a.m. are considered late and must be signed in at the front office by an adult to receive a late pass. **The cutoff for dismissal changes is 2:00 p.m.** Phone calls will not be accepted. If you need to make a change after 2:00 p.m., please call the school to speak to an administrator.

Carriders will be dismissed through door #6. If you still have your pickup sign from last year, please plan to reuse it. If you need a replacement, please let the front office know.

NEW Due to construction, **walkers** will be dismissed to a parent through the main front entrance at 4:00 p.m.

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ART VOLUNTEERS WANTED! 🎨

We would love your help in the Art Room!

Volunteers are welcome anytime between **9:30 AM and 4:00 PM**.
Even **one hour, one day a week** would be a big help!
You do not have to volunteer during your child's art class.
Volunteers are needed to help with:

- Preparing art materials and supplies
- Creating and hanging student artwork displays
- Lending an extra pair of hands during our younger grades' art classes

If you are interested in volunteering, please email bjboone@carrollk12.org.

Thank you for supporting our young artists!

Bullying, Harassment, or Intimidation Reporting

At WES, we are committed to creating a safe, welcoming, and respectful environment for every student. If you are aware of a bullying concern, please use the link below to report it. Sharing concerns helps us address situations promptly and ensure that all students feel safe, supported, and valued at school.

Incident Reporting - Carroll County Public School District

Meal Account and Pin Info

Parents can find their child's PIN in the Home Access Center (HAC). Once you sign on, the Cafeteria PIN will be located in the emergency section. **Please work with your child to learn their pin number. This number will stay the same from kindergarten to 12th grade and they must enter it whenever they come through the cafeteria line for breakfast, lunch and snacks.**

How do I put money on the account?

- Visit **www.myschoolbucks.com** and set up an account. You will be able to add any value to the cafeteria account with a credit card or electronic check.
- Send in cash or a check to your child's school cafeteria. Checks should be made payable to Westminster Elementary School.

View school meal menu by clicking **here** .

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IEP Progress Reports

This school year, IEP progress reports will be sent home separately from report cards. Please look for your child's IEP progress report on the Monday following report cards (see dates below). Thank you for your continued partnership in supporting your child's learning and progress!

Quarter 1- November 16th
Quater 2- February 1st
Quarter 3- April 19th
Quarter 4- Last Day of School

Birth to Kindergarten Program

Supporting Young Children and Families from Birth to Kindergarten
Do you have questions or concerns about your child's development or learning?
The Birth to Kindergarten Program connects Carroll County families with early intervention, evaluations, preschool special education services, and other supports for children from birth through age five.

👶 Birth to Age 3
The Carroll County Infants and Toddlers Program (CCITP) provides early intervention services for eligible children under age 3. Services and evaluations are provided at no cost to families when determining eligibility.
Referral:
📞 410-876-4437
🌐 Online Infant & Toddler Referral

🧒 Ages 3–5
Child Find helps identify children who may be eligible for preschool special education and related services. If you have concerns about your child's development or learning, you do not need to wait for someone else to recommend a referral.

Referral options:
🌐 Online Child Find Referral
📞 410-876-4437
📧 BirthtoKindergarten@carrollk12.org

🌐 Learn More
Visit the Birth to Kindergarten Program webpage for information about services, supports, referrals, and resources:
Carroll County Public Schools — Birth to Kindergarten Program

Questions?
Birth to Kindergarten Program
📞 410-876-4437
📧 BirthtoKindergarten@carrollk12.org

Car Rider Line Reminders

To help ensure the safety of all students during morning arrival, we ask that families please follow these important procedures:

- Remain in a single-file line: Please keep your vehicle directly behind the vehicle in front of you while waiting in the car-rider line. Vehicles should never line up side-by-side or pull alongside another vehicle.
- Morning drop-off: Students must remain inside their vehicles until the bell rings and a staff member opens the doors to begin unloading.

Thank you for your cooperation and for helping us keep our arrival procedures safe and orderly for everyone!

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Friendly Reminders from the Nurse's Office

When a student is injured and requires the use of a brace, cast, or other mobility device, a medical note must accompany the student.

A note from a parent or guardian is acceptable as an excuse from active participation in the physical education program for a short period of time (not to exceed three consecutive days). When a student is under the care of a health care provider and then is released from this care, he/she must present a note of release to the nurse.

Restrictions to PE may also apply to recess and various school activities to include extracurricular activities and athletics.

PTO Reminders

Holiday Spirit Wear Store Now Open! We're super excited to open up our holiday WES Spirit Wear Online Store!! Check out our new winter panda design. Place your orders by November 13th and either have it sent home through your child's homeroom teacher for free with "Bulk Shipping to Westminster Elementary" or you can choose "Direct to Home Shipping" with a fee. A portion of your order will be donated back to WES PTO. **Order here >>>**

Texas Roadhouse Online Gift Card Fundraiser. Looking for an easy way to support Westminster Elementary PTO? **Purchase Texas Roadhouse gift cards** between November 9-23, 2026, and 10% of every purchase will go directly back to our PTO. Be sure to enter the first and last name of the student or teacher who shared the fundraiser so they can receive credit toward prizes! **Learn more about prizes here >>>**

November PTO Meeting. Join us for **our next meeting on Tuesday, November 10**. ALL ARE WELCOME, and childcare will be provided by ABC care! We'll be meeting in the cafeteria at 6pm. Please enter through the doors near the car rider line and ring the ABC Care doorbell to have someone come to let you in.

December Restaurant Night. Stop by **Raising Canes on Tuesday, December 8th** from 4-8 p.m. Mention the fundraiser at the restaurant or apply code RCFUND96 to online or app orders at checkout and Cane's will donate 15% of net sales to the PTO.

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Parent's Right to Know

The federal "Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)" of 2015 requires all school systems to notify parents of their right to request information regarding the professional qualifications of their child's classroom teacher and any paraprofessional providing services to the child. If you would like information regarding the certification and/or licensure qualifications of your child's teacher(s), please visit this **Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) site** . If you are unable to access the link or need information regarding your child's paraprofessional(s), please submit a written request to the individual listed below:

Director of Human Resources
Department of Human Resources
Carroll County Public Schools
125 North Court Street
Westminster, Maryland 21157

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.

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.