

# PRINCIPAL NEWSLETTER

August 18, 2022



## OUR VISION

“All staff, students, parents and community of New Midway/Woodsboro Elementary School collaborate to foster lifelong learning and honorable character in the 21st century. We nurture diverse learners in a safe, happy and engaging environment which promotes academic excellence and encourages students to be their best and nothing less.”

### **Welcome**

We have had an exciting start to the new year! We welcomed our staff back last week after they spent the summer months preparing for our students' return. Several staff members participated in continuing education experiences, developed curriculum and curricular resources, served as mentors to new teachers, participated in new teacher workshops, provided tutoring services, met as a School Improvement Team to set goals and begin to create an action plan for our school, prepared classrooms, ordered and received new materials of instruction, among many other activities to support instruction. Of most importance, they also had a chance to rest and recharge, and they were excited to welcome your student and family back to the place where we love to work and learn! Our first couple of days of the 2022-2023 school year have been productive and we look forward to working together as a school community to support our students. We couldn't be more proud of the way everyone is settling into new school routines.

### **Distribution of the Principal's Newsletter**

All editions of the 'Principal Newsletter' will be published via FindOutFirst and/or OneCallNow, and they will also be posted on our school website. In order to be fiscally responsible, we are limiting copying our school wide newsletter only for families without access to internet service. By minimizing costs associated with printing such as paper, toner and other expenses, we are able to put more materials of instruction directly into the hands of your son/daughter. You can expect to receive the 'Principal Newsletter' via FindOutFirst or OneCallNow on the first Thursday we are in school each month. Therefore, our next newsletter will be published on September 1.

### **Schoolwide Communication**

We are excited to announce that we will have additional schoolwide newsletters to increase awareness of our School Counseling program and English Language Arts and Mathematics curriculum. Our School Counselor, Mrs. Cox, will publish a schoolwide newsletter the second Thursday school is in session each month. Our Literacy Specialist (Mrs. Torres) and Math Specialist (Mrs. Gruver) will publish a curriculum newsletter the third Thursday school is in session each month. We hope you find this increased communication helpful as you support your students at home.

### **Meal Benefit Applications (MBA)**

Meals are no longer free for all students. Please complete a Meal Benefit Application online (formerly Free and Reduced Meals or FARM application) for the 2022-2023 school year at [www.fcpsnutrition.com](http://www.fcpsnutrition.com). Completing a MBA not only ensures children receive nutritious meals at school, but our MBA numbers affect overall system-wide state funding, breakfast in the classroom eligibility, concentration of grants and other programs and can increase staffing and resources assigned to our school. Completing and submitting an application benefits the child, the family and our school. Therefore, please consider completing a form even if your child does not plan to eat breakfast/lunch prepared by our cafeteria staff.

### **Student/Family Handbook**

Please refer to the 2022-2023 Student/Family Handbook linked here for important information regarding our school: [Student/Family Handbook](#)

We wanted to highlight a couple of important topics included in the handbook including volunteering and birthday celebrations:

- Be sure to complete the online volunteer training ([Volunteer Training and Registration](#)) now in order to help out in the classroom and/or to chaperone for field trips. It takes at least 48 hours from completion of the online training for names to be vetted and provided from the system level to individual schools. Please see pages 7-8 for more information.
- Due to health concerns we are unable to accept cupcakes or other edible treats throughout the school year unless they are planned snacks for the two classroom parties that will occur during the school year. However, we have other fun ways to celebrate our student's birthdays without including food. Please refer to page 9 of our Student/Family Handbook for additional information.

### **School Emergency Drills**

Beginning August 22, we will start practicing all of our school emergency drills. We will focus on one drill a day until they are complete. More information regarding these drills is included in our Student/Family Handbook. You may want to talk as a family about ways you can handle emergencies at home.

### **FCPS Regulation Review**

All schools are required to share FCPS Regulation 500-32: [Replacement of Lost or Damaged Instructional Materials](#)

### **Student Weapon Possession**

Please note FCPS Regulation 200-29 related to student weapon possession and school security. "It is unlawful for students to possess or use any weapon on school property. Students who have or use a weapon on school property will be suspended from school, and the police will be notified of the incident. A weapon is any object designed to harm another physically or an object which is used in a way that can physically harm another. This school is committed to providing each of you with a safe environment, and we will do all we can to carry out that responsibility including, if necessary, conducting searches of student lockers.". \*Toys resembling weapons are also never permitted on school property and can result in disciplinary action as well.

### **PDS School**

We are happy to announce that NMWES continues to participate as a Professional Development School. A Professional Development School (PDS) is a collaboratively planned and implemented partnership for the academic and clinical preparation of interns and the continuous professional development of both school system and institution of higher education faculty. The focus of the PDS partnership is to improve student performance through research-based teaching and learning. Currently, NMWES partners with Hood College and Mount St. Mary's, and we are mentoring new teacher candidates.

### **Dates to Remember**

**Please note that any dates scheduled for the year will be released with each Principal Newsletter for your planning purposes. Additional dates will be added to the calendar on a regular basis by staff members, thus we will update the list of dates with each newsletter. It is important to note that all dates are tentative and subject to change.**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
<b>August</b>	
Wednesday, Aug. 24	Instrumental Music Recruitment Show for Grades 4-5
<b>September</b>	
Friday, Sept. 2	Walkersville High School Football Game/Feeder Spirit Night, 6:00 PM
Monday, Sept. 5	Schools and Offices Closed
Friday, Sept. 16	2 Hour Early Dismissal
Monday, Sept. 19	Grade 1 Field Trip, The Great Frederick Fair

Friday, Sept. 23	3.5 Hour Early Dismissal
Monday, Sept. 26	Schools Closed