

PRINCIPAL NEWSLETTER

September 1, 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.”

Student Recognition

Students from every school in the Walkersville feeder (New Midway/Woodsboro Elementary, Glade Elementary, Walkersville Elementary, Walkersville Middle and Walkersville High) were selected for going above and beyond with good character and citizenship. These future Walkersville High School graduates will be honored at the first WHS football game on September 2. Congratulations to Eliana Lester, Charlie Shoemaker, Charlie Bracken, Kellen Sleeter, Jackson Boyer and Delilah Harp!

Bus Delays

Is your child's bus taking longer to arrive at their bus stop than usual? Please click [here](#) to find out if your child's bus is delayed. The transportation department updates this website when they are aware that a bus is delayed by more than 15 minutes. It takes a few weeks for bus routes to regulate as students are being added to stops and younger students adjust to riding the bus. Thank you for being flexible as everyone settles into new routines.

Student/Family Handbook Spotlight

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 attendance and morning car riders:

- *Maryland law requires regular school attendance unless a student is excused with a lawful absence. Therefore, a school based committee (the CARE Team) carefully monitors student attendance, and it is our responsibility to keep parents and guardians informed about attendance status. The FCPS Student Attendance regulation (Reg. No. 400-98 <https://apps.fcps.org/legal/documents/400-98>) guides the work of our CARE Team. We are happy to assist families and establish a partnership to ensure regular attendance. Feel free to reach out to any member of the CARE Team (contact information is included in our Student/Family Handbook) for support. Please refer to the regulation and our Student/Family Handbook for further details. (**We are mindful that COVID is still impacting attendance for many of our students so this is balanced with the regulations we are required to follow.*)
- If your child is a car rider in the morning, **please remain in a single file line for the entire drop off routine and DO NOT drive around cars or buses that are in front of you UNLESS a staff member has directed you in this manner.** Students should **exit vehicles from the passenger side of the vehicle along the sidewalk.** Make sure this side of the car is free from obstructions that would prohibit your child from exiting the vehicle on the passenger side. We also kindly ask that family members remain in the vehicle for the entire drop off process. If students need assistance unbuckling car seats and/or gathering their backpack and/or lunchbox our staff on duty will be happy to provide assistance. Please be aware that this routine is in place to ensure we have a safe arrival and dismissal. Last year we had a couple of incidents in which cars collided as a result of pulling around a vehicle still unloading, and we have had many other close calls. Exercising a little patience and care will ensure all students arrive safely.

Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP)

The MCAP for Math and English/Language Arts will be administered with grades 3- 5 students in the spring, 2023. While specific days have not yet been determined, the assessment window begins in mid-April. Each grade will

take portions of the assessment over the course of several days. We will share the exact dates closer to the start of April. When we share these dates, please take note to ensure your child's full day attendance. If there is a change in the testing schedule then your child's classroom teacher will inform you. Students who are absent on these dates will participate in make-up sessions upon their return to school.

5th Graders will also take the Maryland Integrated Science Assessment (MISA). This assessment will be administered in early March, 2023.

School Emergency Drills

We completed practice for all school emergency management procedures required by the state of Maryland. You may want to talk as a family about ways you can handle emergencies at home and talk with your child about any questions or concerns they may have after participating in the drills at school. Do not hesitate to reach out to staff if you have any feedback based on your conversations with your student.

Virtual Coffee Chat

If you are available, please join us for a virtual coffee chat on Friday, September 16 at 9:00 AM. We will share information regarding Maryland Senate Bill 734 (SB 734). SB 734 requires Maryland's school districts to provide a universal reading screening in the primary grade levels to determine if they are at risk for reading difficulties. If screening results indicate a student is at risk, supplemental reading instruction must be provided. The bill also includes parent engagement, reporting requirements and funding through the Education Blueprint for Maryland's Future (SB 1030). If you would like to learn more about SB 734, please join us for a virtual informational session via Google Meet.



To join the Google Meet video meeting, click this link:

<https://meet.google.com/jdd-tdsw-bdi>

Otherwise, to join by phone, dial +1 815-900-2290 and enter this PIN: 909 742 771#

Meal Benefit Applications (MBA) Reminder

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. 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. Feel free to reach out to our School Counselor or front office staff if you would like support completing an online application. We are more than happy to have a device available for you if needed.

Student Weapon Possession Reminder

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.

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.

Date	Event
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September	
Friday, Sept. 2	Walkersville High School Football Game/Feeder Spirit Night, 6:00 PM
Monday, Sept. 5	Schools and Offices Closed
Tuesday, Sept. 6	PTA Meeting, Woodsboro Park @ 6:30 PM
Friday, Sept. 9	PTA Event, Manhattan Pizza, 11:00 AM-9:00 PM
Friday, Sept. 16	2 Hour Early Dismissal Virtual Coffee Chat (Topic: Senate Bill 734), 9:00 AM
Monday, Sept. 19	Grade 1 Field Trip, The Great Frederick Fair
Friday, Sept. 23	3.5 Hour Early Dismissal
Monday, Sept. 26	Schools Closed
October	
Wednesday, Oct. 5	Schools Closed
Tuesday, Oct. 4	PTA Meeting, Woodsboro Park @ 6:30 PM
Wednesday, Oct. 12	Evening Parent-Teacher Conferences (Elementary and Middle Schools Open 4 Hours Late)
Thursday, Oct. 13	Evening Parent-Teacher Conferences (Elementary and Middle Schools Open 4 Hours Late)
Friday, Oct. 14	Afternoon Parent-Teacher Conferences (Elementary and Middle Schools Dismiss 3.5 Hours Early)
Thursday, Oct. 20	Schools Closed PTA Event, Trunk or Treat, Woodsboro Park, 5:30-7:30 PM
Friday, Oct. 21	Schools Closed
Thursday, Oct. 27	Fall Pictures
Monday, Oct. 31	Fall Parties (classroom teachers will share grade level party times directly with families)
November	
Monday, Nov. 28	Grade 4 Field Trip, ESSL