

# Back Pocket

## January 2022

### Calendar

Jan 3 – School Reopens

Jan 5 – Archery Club

Jan 7 – WKMS Spirit Day: 1980's Retro Day

Jan 10 – Kickball Club

Jan 13 – End of Term II

Jan 14 – School Closed for Students (Teacher Work Day)

Jan 17 – School Closed (Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Birthday)

Jan 18 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester & Term III Begin

Jan 19 – Archery Club

Jan 19 – PTSA Meeting

Jan 21 – WKMS Spirit Day: College Shirt/Sweatshirt Day

Jan 27 – Report Cards Issued

Jan 28 – WKMS Spirit Day: Hobby Day

Feb 2 – Archery Club

Feb 2 – Public Hearing: Superintendent's Recommended Budget

Feb 4 – WKMS Spirit Day: Wear Red for Heart Health Awareness

### Principal's Message

As 2021 draws to a close, I can't help but think about all that we have experienced as a community. In the face of multiple challenges and changes, we have persevered, we have adapted, and we continue to overcome. The past year has been hard for many of us, but we have proven time and again that we can do hard things! I am so grateful to be able to work with such incredible students, caring families, and dedicated staff. I truly appreciate each of you. And while I can't predict what 2022 has in store, one thing I am certain of is that we will always be our best! I wish each of you a very happy holiday season.

Brian

### Cell Phone Use

In an effort to work together to ensure appropriate use of cell phones for students, we encourage parents/guardians to review safe cell phone usage frequently, maintain open communication, and utilize appropriate parental controls. You may also want to create a cell phone contract with your child outlining the privileges and responsibilities associated with cell phone use. For your convenience, a sample contract is provided [here](#). Also, students are

reminded of the school's rules for having a cell phone at school, which is linked in case you wish to periodically review them with your child. [Regulation 400-18 Electronic Devices – Student Use](#).

Finally, please reiterate with your child to not use their cell phone for unsanctioned purposes such as: cheating, harassing or bullying others, taking photos or videos of others without permission, checking personal social media accounts, sending or receiving inappropriate images, etc... Some violations may have consequences not only related to student discipline, but victims have also pursued legal action against both the student and the parent/guardian. Those outcomes are best avoided when schools and parents partner together. We thank you for all that you do to help us reinforce good digital citizenship.

### TutorMe

All Frederick County Public Schools middle and high school students have 24/7 access to virtual tutoring services for help on any subject. In September, the Board of Education of Frederick County voted unanimously to approve a contract between FCPS and TutorMe for virtual tutoring opportunities, which are now available for students in Grades 6-12. TutorMe provides support for hundreds of subjects on demand and has thousands of verified tutors who are experts in their fields and go through background checks. Students can receive assistance through audio and video chats any time of day or night. Students can decide whether to receive support through messaging. Audio and video chats are also available. Assistance is available on virtually any subject matter. For example, students can get an essay edited or a math question answered. Tutoring is also available for students preparing for Advanced Placement exams. The FCPS TutorMe service launches this week, starting Monday, October 25. Students can access TutorMe using the Clever portal. Details for how to do so are posted online.

### Wolverine Time

[Wolverine Time](#) is a tutoring program that will be used to support students academically, particularly in ELA and Math. Beginning October 4, WKMS staff began offering Wolverine time 4 days per week at a variety of times in the evening in order to create flexibility for our students and families, Wolverine Time will be offered synchronously. Initially, students will have the opportunity to drop-in to the tutoring sessions in order to receive support with homework, feedback on assignments, and help with studying for assessments.

### Winter Testing Information

As we progress through Term 2 and approach winter break, targeted students will be completing testing in January. Please see below for pertinent information and reminders about these targeted testing sessions:

- Algebra Testing - students who are enrolled in Ms. Wurster's fall semester Algebra class will be taking the MCAP Algebra 1 State Assessment on the mornings of Wednesday January 19th and Thursday January 20th.
- EL Testing - a small number of students will be completing WIDA testing on the mornings of Tuesday January 11th and Wednesday January 12th.

Students who will proceed with Algebra MCAP Testing or WIDA Testing will receive a reminder personalized message through Schoology. It is important for students who receive this message to get a good nights sleep and come to school well rested on their testing dates. Please avoid scheduling appointments. Any student completing testing will need to bring corded headphones for use on the assessments.

If you have any questions or concerns about the Algebra testing, please contact Ms. Wurster at [heather.wurster@fcps.org](mailto:heather.wurster@fcps.org) If you have any questions or concerns about the WIDA testing, please contact Mr. Hinson at [joseph.hinson@fcps.org](mailto:joseph.hinson@fcps.org).

### Team News and Updates

Each month, WKMS grade level teams will provide updates on curriculum standards, assessments, and upcoming events. In addition to Schoology, this information will hopefully keep parents abreast of important school and classroom information.

- [6<sup>th</sup> Grade](#)
- [7<sup>th</sup> Grade](#)
- [8<sup>th</sup> Grade](#)

### Counselors' Corner

We are committed to making sure that our students and families are aware of the many resources available if your child is struggling with a mental health challenge. Please check out this RESOURCES link on the WKMS Counseling website for support services as well as information on the Mental Health Association's walk-in clinic in downtown Frederick.

### Fun Ways to Boost Executive Functioning

Looking to do something with your children over the holiday break? Consider a family game night! The following article explains how playing games as a family can help with children's executive functioning and actually help them to become better students.

<https://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2014/07/how-family-game-night-makes-kids-into-better-students/374525/>

### WKMS Giving Tree

Thank you to everyone who participated in our WKMS Giving Tree this year! We had over 55 items received and these went to support families in our area through the Greater Urbana Area Food Bank. We are grateful for your support!

### Changes?

Got a new phone number? Need to update it on your student's contact list? Have you moved? Need to update your address with a new proof of residence? Please contact our Registrar, Mary Anderson at 240-236-4958 or via email at [mary.anderson@fcps.org](mailto:mary.anderson@fcps.org)

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR 8TH GRADE

#### Urbana High School

- January 7 - Student registration presentation at WKMS by UHS counselors in the morning
- January 13 - 9th grade course registration through Naviance ends at 11:59 p.m.
- For more information about the UHS registration process and their high school courses, please go to their registration website at <https://sites.google.com/fcps.org/uhs-registration-for-2021-2022/home?authuser=0>

## Linganore High School

- January 19 - Parent/student registration information night 6 - 7:30 p.m.at Linganore High (snow date January 24)
- January 24 - LHS course registration opens (using Google forms)
- January 28 - LHS course registration closes

## College and Career Opportunities

Interested in what's available after middle school? Check out this College/Career link to view the many opportunities that FCPS offers for students to explore career pathways, increase the rigor and value of their high school education, and prepare for college.

## Media Center

We were able to give over 185 books to students who were interested in the "Great Book Give Away."

Your scholar should read during winter break, and [Sora](#), our e-book and audio-book platform, makes that possible! It is a great resource and easy to use. Students can reach many options through our media web-page. Simply type the author, genre, or title in the search bar and books will appear! Then click borrow and the book is ready to be read.

All students are participating in the Readers are Leaders challenge via *Beanstack*. We recommend after reading each day that students record their time reading on *Beanstack* (which is like a Fit-bit for reading).

Don't forget to ask questions about what your child is reading to promote reading comprehension.

I'm looking forward to continuing our digital citizenship and research lessons in the New Year. Students can enhance their projects or writing assignments with guidance by contacting me for assistance. They can send a message to me via Schoology or visit the library.

Follow all things library through our Instagram page... @WKMSLIBRARY

## Advanced Academics

Congratulations to Mrs. Lindstrom's 8<sup>th</sup> grade life skills classes for investing and competing in the fall edition of the Stock market game. In October classes began by investing \$100,000 per class in stocks and bonds. They examined their stocks weekly. On December 10, the game ended and our teams did pretty well! There were 253 Teams in the state playing this game. Here is how we did!

- Period 2 – 202<sup>nd</sup> place
- Period 3- 209<sup>th</sup> place
- Period 5- 128<sup>th</sup> place
- Period 6- 51<sup>st</sup> place
- Period 7- 83<sup>rd</sup> place

If you are interested in getting a feel for what it might be like to take a college or AP course consider applying for the program below. Many WK students took advantage of this opportunity last year and loved the challenge, rigor and exciting activities. You will need to apply and Mrs. Saylor will need to help with your application. The registration deadline for the program is January 31. William & Mary's Center for Gifted Education is excited to share their Saturday Enrichment Program (SEP) with your family. SEP is an academically challenging program with an emphasis on inquiry-based learning. The program is not meant to replace the regular school curriculum; rather, it recognizes the importance of allowing able children to explore additional specialized areas of science, mathematics, humanities, and the arts. There are spring virtual courses available in the areas of engineering, music, STEM, coding, writing, social science, and many more. [Visit the website](#) or [view the flyer](#) for more information and to [register](#).

All students who applied to the IB program at Urbana High School will be notified in January if they were accepted. Any questions about the program or the procedure for acceptance should be directed to [Jessica.mcbroom@fcps.org](mailto:Jessica.mcbroom@fcps.org)

The spelling bee will be held during ELT in January. Be listening to the morning announcements for the days that the contest will be held. Study packets are still available in room 202. The County Spelling Bee is March 19<sup>th</sup> at Frederick Community College. Our school will send one winner and one runner up.

### ELA Department

Greetings from the English Language Arts Department. Believe it or not, second term comes to an end Thursday, January 13th. Second semester will begin on Tuesday, January 18th. All students have taken the Performance Series Reading Assessment in their ELA classes, so please reach out to your child's teacher if you have any questions regarding the assessment. Students in Mrs. Buckner's Read180 classes will take their next Reading Inventory during the week of January 3rd. Read180 students are continuing their work in small group, independent reading, and software rotations. As always, please reach out to your student's ELA teacher, Read180 teacher, or to the WKMS Literacy Specialist, Ginny Hines, with any questions or concerns.

### Math Department

Hello families and Happy New Year. As we look forward into 2022, we hope that your students are returning to schooling refreshed from their winter break. We have just nine days until the end of term two and the start to term three. We all have appreciated being back in school this first semester, seeing students on a daily basis, and watching their math learning grow! As a reminder, please encourage your students to review their Schoology grade progress to make sure that nothing is outstanding. If they have any questions or concerns please have them reach out to their teachers at once.

All students will be completing the Global Scholars Performance Series Math winter session in the coming weeks. These sessions are progress check points along the way for students and staff to watch our students demonstrate their growth. We appreciate your support in making sure that your student has completed the winter session. If students have questions about their Performance Series results please have them reach out to their math teacher or Mrs. Wurster for complete details of their trend data. It is wonderful to see their growth and progress. Math Workshop students will also be taking their winter Math Inventory series as well with Ms. Kinsley and Ms. McCadney. Here too we are looking forward to seeing the student's progress and growth.

Remember that math support is available for all WKMS students from multiple outlets to support conceptual understanding and procedural development. During school students can request tutoring during ELT time with their math teacher, after school we have Wolverine Time (available for math and language arts), and Tutor Me is available for all curriculums twenty-four hours a day. If you need assistance in accessing any of these resources please reach out to Mrs. Wurster at [heather.wurster@fcps.org](mailto:heather.wurster@fcps.org) for assistance.