

Back Pocket

February 2022

Calendar

Feb 2 – Public Hearing: Superintendent’s Recommended 2023 Operating Budget

Feb 2 – Archery Club

Feb 3 – Author Visit

Feb 4 – 2 Hour Early Dismissal (Teacher Work Session)

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

Feb 11 – WKMS Spirit Day: Wear Red and Pink

Feb 14 – Kickball Club

Feb 16 – Archery Club

Feb 16 – PTSA Meeting

Feb 18 - WKMS Spirit Day: Wear Your Favorite Team Jersey/Shirt

Feb 23 – Archery Club

Jan 13 – End of Term II

Feb 18 –2 Hour Early Dismissal (Mid-Term)

Feb 21 – School Closed: Presidents’ Day

Feb 25 – WKMS Spirit Day: Pajama Day

Mar 1 – Interims Issued

Mar 4 – WKMS Musical

Mar 5 – WKMS Musical

Mar 6 – WKMS Musical

Principal’s Message

All of us have undoubtedly been touched by the Covid-19 pandemic. While the past two years have been full of changes and challenges, I can’t help be filled with hope and optimism. The past four weeks have brought significant improvements in Maryland’s Covid-19 metrics. Since the beginning of the year, the number of daily positive cases has plummeted, the 7-day rolling positivity rate has dropped by almost two-thirds, and the number of hospitalizations has been cut in half. Closer to home, Frederick County and FCPS metrics continue to improve. Even our own Covid numbers at WKMS are beginning to show a dramatic decline. I am so hopeful and optimistic that these downward trends will continue and with it will come a return to more normalcy for our students.

With that being said, our staff, students, and PTSA are planning several traditional events whose return to WKMS are long overdue. On February 11th, the PTSA will be hosting the annual “Snowball Dance”. Please feel free to join us for some wintertime fun. From March 4-6, our staff and the cast and crew of our spring musical will fill our auditorium with stellar acting, song, and dance. Our Moana Jr. tickets might be hotter than a Hamilton ticket, so be on the lookout for more information about upcoming sales. Lastly, our 8th grade teachers have begun planning the annual tradition of the 8th grade fieldtrip to the Smithsonian Museums in Washington, DC. This trip is always a fun learning experience for our students.

I want to thank everyone for your patience, understanding, and care as we have done our best to navigate the last 20 months, and I hope you share in my hope and optimism for a return to normalcy, especially for our kids who have endured so much!

Brian

WKMS PTSA

The PTSA will be hosting the annual “Snowball Dance” on Friday, February 11th from 6:30 – 8:30pm in the WKMS cafeteria. Please join us some wintry fun! Tickets will be \$5 each and will be sold during lunch from February 9th – 11th. The “Snowball Dance” is for current WKMS students only.

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. “FCPS teachers remain the absolute best tutors for our students,” FCPS Superintendent Dr. Terry Alban said. “We believe this virtual tutoring option will be a valuable additional support when students are working on homework, preparing for exams and needing immediate assistance.” 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.

WKMS Yearbooks

It's time to order your yearbook! To order your yearbook today, please visit www.yearbookordercenter.com and enter the code 14732. Orders will be accepted through Friday, April 8. No orders will be accepted at the school. Please email Beth at elizabeth.lindstrom@fcps.org or Jamie at jamie.tull@fcps.org if you have any questions.

Moana Jr.

The show runs from March 4 through March 6! The 60-minute musical adventure, designed for middle school-aged performers, is based on the 2016 Disney film *Moana*. The WKMS cast and crew includes almost 80 students and features favorite songs by Tony®, GRAMMY, Emmy, and Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Lin-Manuel Miranda, Opetaia Foa’i, and Mark Mancina, such as “How Far I’ll Go,” “Shiny,” and “You’re Welcome.” With its empowering message of bravery, *Moana JR.* is sure to awaken your inner hero! Tickets will be available to the public through ShowTix4U.com later in February. Keep an eye out for a Find Out First! For more information and show times, visit tinyurl.com/WKMSTheatre. If you have any questions, you can reach out to Mrs. Martinez-Trawick at wkmsmusicaltheater@gmail.com.

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.

- [6th Grade](#)
- [7th Grade](#)
- [8th 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.

Homework

IS HOMEWORK TIME A CHALLENGE AT YOUR HOUSE? We know that homework time can be a source of stress for many households. This article on [Ending Homework Battles](#) contains some strategies that may help reduce struggles and encourage student independence.

Important Registration Information for 2022-23

Please review the following dates for *current 6th and 7th graders*:

- Registration sheets will be handed out to students via Social Studies classes on Feb. 16.
- Completed sheets need to be signed by a parent/guardian and returned to the WKMS Counseling Office (guidance) by Feb. 23.

AFA Shadow Day

The Academy for the Fine Arts will be hosting a Middle School Shadow Day on March 9th. The event will last from 8am-10am and students will need their own transportation to and from TJ High. During the event, they will take a tour, meet current AFA staff and students, and participate in an activity led by AFA students. Registration for the Shadow Day can be found at: www.fcpsartsacademy.org and then clicking on "Visit the AFA." The AFA is a college and career prep program for students in grades 10-12 which is housed at Gov. Thomas Johnson High School.

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.

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

Media Center

We have the opportunity to participate in a (virtual) author visit with Aisha Saeed, former teacher and education attorney. She wrote the phenomenal Black Eyed Susan nominee titled *Amal, Unbound*. Ms. Saeed has a new book coming out called *Omar Rising*. Our author visit will be Feb., 3rd, during the school day. A Google form was posted on Schoology for interested students. Students will need to write 2 questions to the author on an index card or a piece of paper. The questions could be about the writing process or her books. Follow all things library through our Instagram page... @ WKMSLIBRARY

Mrs. Holliday, Library Media Specialist

Advanced Academics

William and Mary Program for Gifted Education information

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 Windsor Knolls 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 in 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](#).

ELA Department

Greetings from the English Language Arts Department! Believe it or not, third term is underway, and students are working diligently on the third quarter ELA standards in English Language Arts classes. The midterm date for this term is Friday, February 18th. Students in Mrs. Buckner's Read180 classes are continuing their work in small group, independent reading, and software rotations. Please remember to encourage your students to access Wolverine Time (offered Monday-Thursday) for ELA support after school hours. The meeting link and specific times can be found on the WKMS website. 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

The math teachers are excited for the third term as all of our students are now working into the realm of Algebraic understanding. Each grade level is pursuing expressions, equations, and reasoning with numbers beyond basic computations. The math is developing into applications and analysis making the class time more engaging. Be on the lookout for your student to share how they identified and used terms to solve the questions they are working on.

Should your student want or need additional support there are several options for math tutoring. During school students can request tutoring during ELT time with their math teacher, four days a week after school we have [Wolverine Time](#) (available for math and language arts), and [Tutor Me](#) is available through Clever 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 for assistance.