

Back Pocket

March 2022

Calendar

Mar 1 – Interims Issued
Mar 4 - WKMS Spirit Day: Wear Your Band/Music/Concert Shirt
Mar 4 – WKMS Musical: Moana Jr.
Mar 5 – WKMS Musical: Moana Jr.
Mar 6 – WKMS Musical: Moana Jr.
Mar 9 – Archery Club
Mar 11 - WKMS Spirit Day: Math Day
Mar 14 – Kickball Club
Mar 16 – Archery Club
Mar 16 – PTSA Meeting
Mar 18 – 2 Hour Early Dismissal – Teacher Work Session
Mar 18 - WKMS Spirit Day: Wear Your Western Outfit
Mar 25 - WKMS Spirit Day: Maryland Day - Wear Your Maryland Gear
Mar 25 – End of Term 3
Mar 28 – School Closed for Students – Teacher Work Day
Mar 29 – Term 4 Begins

Principal's Message

Last week, the FCPS Board of Education determined that students, staff, and visitors will have the option of wearing a facial covering while at school, and then later in the week, the CDC provided new guidance that made wearing masks while traveling on a school bus optional as well. While we recognize the importance of these announcements, we also understand that members of our community share different viewpoints on what has been decided. We will support and honor the decisions our students and families make in whether to wear a mask or not. It is important as we move into the next phase of the pandemic recovery to maintain a school environment where mask choice is respected. To this end, it is important to share that making unwanted comments or gestures to a student based on their personal decision to wear a mask or not is unacceptable and will be grounds for disciplinary action. We have been through a lot together and we will get through this new change together as well. I want to thank our community for following the facial covering mandate this year and want to thank you in advance for respecting those who make a different choice about masking. We will continue to be our best- masked or unmasked!

Spring Testing

As the weather gets warmer, it is important to remember that WKMS is required to complete state testing during the second half of the school year. Please see below for pertinent information and reminders about the testing process for us this spring. It is important to note that these dates for testing includes both students enrolled at WKMS as well as our students who are enrolled in the middle school BVP virtual school program. Maryland State Testing will occur in the morning on the following dates:

- MISA Science Testing (grade 8 students only): March 9th and March 10th
- MCAP ELA Testing (all students): April 11th and April 12th
- MCAP Math Testing (all students): April 26th and April 27th
- SS/Government Testing (grade 8 students only): May 10th and May 11th
- HS Algebra / HS Geometry Testing (select students only): May 16th and May 17th

Additional Testing Information:

- It is important for students to be well rested and get a good night sleep in preparation for testing on each of these dates.
- Please (if at all possible) make every attempt to get students to school on-time and avoid scheduling appointments during testing.
- All students will need to bring corded headphones for use on the assessments.

As we get closer to these dates, additional information will be provided to students and families. As always, if you have any questions about testing - please contact Mr. Hinson at joseph.hinson@fcps.org.

Arrival and Dismissal

- **AM Arrival**
 - Buses pull up to the front of the building at the main entrance (by the canopy) for students to enter the building. For parent drop off, please pull your vehicle to the back of the school building and remain in line with other parent vehicles. Students will get out of the vehicle at the side walk and enter the building at the back entrance. As you've probably noticed, the traffic gets fairly busy in and around WKMS from 7:45-8:00am. The school opens at 7:30am for students if you want to avoid the traffic.
- **PM Dismissal**
 - Buses will again line up at the front of the building at or near the main entrance (by the canopy). For parent pick-up, students will exit the rear of the building and wait on the sidewalk. Parents should pull your vehicle to the back of the school building and remain in line with other parent vehicles; your child will walk up to you directly from the sidewalk. Parents should avoid exiting the line or waiting in a WKMS parking space; this process slows down dismissal and can put students at greater risk with an increase to traffic movement.

If you have any additional questions about arrival or dismissal at WKMS, please contact the front office.

Chromebook Reminders

We are experiencing a significant increase in broken Chromebooks. As a result, we are also experiencing a shortage of replacement Chromebooks due to the extensive number out for repair. Please remind your child/children that Chromebooks are to remain in their assigned cases at all times. Keeping them in a case significantly decreases opportunities for damaging the device.

- Spring Testing
- Arrival and Dismissal

Linganore High School Weight Training Program

Linganore is beginning their after-school weight training for 8th graders- our Incoming 9th Grade Lancers. Whether you are interested in football, soccer, lacrosse or no sport at all – please come join us! Bring Water and drop off at the side entrance by the gym closest to the weight room.

- Begins - March 8
- Days - Tuesdays and Thursdays
- Times - 5:30 - 6:30pm

- Place - Weight room/Aux Gym

Please email LinganoreJuniorVarsityFootball@hotmail.com with any questions.

Safety Reminders for Students Who Walk to School

When students are traveling to and from school, it is critical to look both ways before crossing the street. While we encourage all motorists to be on the lookout for students in the morning and afternoon, there's always a possibility that a driver could be distracted. It should never be assumed that a driver will stop.

At intersections with crossing guards, it is critical for students and motorists alike to follow their direction. Crossing guards are trained to ensure the safety of students! Students should avoid speaking to strangers and never get in the car of someone they do not know. Students, if a stranger approaches you, immediately get away and tell a trusted adult and school staff. The Frederick County Sheriff's Office has provided the following suggestions for students:

- Students should know a direct route to the school and parents should walk the route with their child(ren) before allowing them to walk the route alone.
- Obey all traffic laws and use crosswalks when available.
- Young children should be accompanied by an adult when walking to school, especially when crossing a roadway.
- Students should refrain from using electronic devices or headphones while walking.
- Be aware of your surroundings and walk with a buddy or group.
- Avoid secluded routes or short cuts.
- Know an alternative route home if the primary route is unavailable (road construction, emergency, etc.).
- Wear bright clothing.
- Do not provide a stranger with any information about yourself or the school you attend.
- If a motorist stops to ask for directions or for help finding a lost pet, never approach the vehicle.
- Never accept rides from strangers, or even people you know, without permission from your parents.
- If someone calls out to you, approaches you, or makes you feel uncomfortable, quickly get to the nearest adult you trust and tell them what happened.
- See something, say something! Report suspicious activity to a trusted adult, parent, police or school official.

We encourage all parents and guardians to review these reminders with their child(ren). More safety tips and information is available via FCPS.org.

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. 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 in October, 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.

Come support the arts at WKMS and enjoy this musical adventure 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, Opetia 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!

Show dates and times:

- Friday, March 4 @ 7pm
- Saturday, March 5 @ 7pm
- Sunday, March 6 @ 2pm

Ticket prices:

- \$10 Preferred Seating, \$7 General Admission, \$5 Live Streaming option
- Tickets on sale now at: ShowTix4U.com/events/WKMS
- Limited seating will be sold at the box office, and payment must be cash or check (payable to WKMS) if purchasing at the door

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.

- **Camp Jamie - Teen Grief Camp**
Frederick Health Hospice is sponsoring a one day camp on April 2, 2022, at the Thorpewood Retreat Center in Thurmont, MD, for grieving teens to come together to talk about their feelings and learn coping skills for dealing with death. There is no fee but registration is due by *March 15*. For more information or to register, please contact 240-566-3030 or go to FrederickHealthHospice.org/CampJamie

- **HOW WE ARE SUPPORTING ALL STUDENTS IN THIS NEW STAGE**
To help students feel as comfortable as possible when visiting our office, please note that our guidance staff is committed to demonstrating respect for each student's personal decision regarding wearing a mask. We have signs to let students know that we are happy to wear a mask if they prefer.
- **WHAT TO DO WHEN YOUR CHILD SAYS 'I DON'T CARE'**
Please check out this [link](#) to an article with information and strategies to help with unmotivated students.
- **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 [County-wide College & Career Programs](#) career pathways, increase the rigor and value of their high school education, and prepare for college.

Media Center

I enjoy co-teaching with my colleagues in health and science classes as we remind students of making sure they are using reliable and valid sources when obtaining information. Students are continuing to practice citing sources. They are building these skills to avoid plagiarism and to be prepared for future classes. In L.A. classes we are talking about being safe online and using technology responsibly.

I love being able to share great news. Our author visit with Aisha Saeed was a success. Students prepared questions in advance to learn more about the writing process and enjoyed the event. We are fortunate to have over \$3,000 worth of new books that graced our library and will be available to students by the time you read this. Anyone who comes into the Library Media Center will also notice that we are fortunate to have purchased brand new chairs for the classroom area of the LMC (you can see what they look like on the [WKMSLibrary Instagram page](#))!

As always, book exchanges are occurring, please continue to encourage your child to check out books. We have more books available than the public library because reading helps to improve concentration, boost memory, expands empathy, and assists with build vocabulary. As we work together on literacy goals, remember to ask your child questions related to what they are reading.

Advanced Academics

We have lots of exciting enrichment trips coming your way in the next few months! If you are interested in a career in science, history, technology, medicine or engineering consider joining us on one of these exciting academic trips.

- **April 12th**- Mrs. Saylor and Mrs. Cardarelli will be taking interested 8th grade students to Towson University - Sci Tec Center on Baltimore at Pier 5 at the Inner Harbor to investigate DNA and Sickle Cell. Permission slips will be available March 7th and space is limited to 25 students. The cost of this trip is \$15.00.
- **April 14th**- Mr. Hull and Mrs. Saylor will be taking student to release the trout that the 6th grade students in his science classes have been raise as part of the Trout in the Classroom project sponsored by the Dept. of Natural Resources. They will be released at Doubs Meadow Park in Myersville. Mr. Hull will be talking to 6th grade classes about this opportunity in the coming weeks. This trip will be free.
- **May 18th** – Mrs. Saylor, Mrs. Rhoades and Mrs. Clarke will be taking interested 7th grade students to the Towson Sci Tec Center to investigate how pollution moves throughout the food chain. Be looking for this permission slip in science classes. Space is limited to 25 students. The cost of this trip is 15.00.
- **May 25th** – Mrs. Saylor, Mr. Trumper and Mr. Underwood will be taking a group of interested 8th grade students to the Civil War Medical Museum and to the Monocacy Battlefield/Bates Farm to learn more about

local history during the war. Permission slips will be given in 8th grade social studies classes. Space is limited to 35. There will be a small fee for this trip.

ELA Department

Greetings from the English Language Arts Department! Third term is passing quickly, and students are working diligently on the third quarter ELA standards in English Language Arts classes. The end of term date is Friday, March 25th. Students in Mrs. Buckner's Read180 classes are continuing their work in small group, independent reading, and software rotations. Read180 students will take their next Reading Inventory assessment during the week of March 21st. 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 department is moving along in our studies of Algebra at all levels. Be on the lookout for variables to show up in your child's math work as we collaborate to simplify and solve for unknowns at all grade levels - why are there letters in math?! Vocabulary is key here: terms, coefficients, variables, expressions, equations, exponents, grouping symbols, replacement sets, notations – so much to learn.

All joking aside we are happy to continue to offer math supports during the school day with Mrs. Wurster and math teachers at ELT, after school four days a week with [Wolverine Time](#), and 24/7 with [Tutor Me](#). Please do not struggle through math, reach out to get support. We appreciate your continued home support with assignments, corrections, and study guides as we continue to learn not just math but how to be better students.

Find x .

