



# W.E.S...It's Elementary2

Building the Future—One Child at a Time

## Wonderbooks, anyone?



Westernport Elementary School Library has purchased 10 Wonderbooks for students to check out! Nine of the ten are Fiction books to encourage older students to read more "chapter" books. The final Wonderbook is a popular autobiography. Many WES students are already familiar with Wonderbooks because the public libraries in Allegany County are working to build large collections of these types of books, as funding permits.

What is a Wonderbook? A Wonderbook is a print book with a ready-to-play audiobook inside. Students can press play to read along with their favorite books or read along with a book which may become a favorite.

Students in grades 3, 4 and 5 have begun checking out the Wonderbooks and if all goes well, more will be purchased for all ages. However, it is important that the Wonderbooks be treated kindly because they are twice as expensive (or more) than a traditional chapter book. Students will be given plastic storage bags, if requested, to take them home more safely. The books may be listened to with or without headphones.

Shown holding a Wonderbook is Eligh Keaton, who loves borrowing them from the public library. He was the first student at our school who suggested that they be purchased for WES.

Eligh predicted when he showed Mrs. Hendrickson a Diary of a Wimpy Kid Wonderbook from the public library that WES students will love them, too!

Westernport Elementary  
172 Church Street  
Westernport, MD  
21562  
A Title I School  
Mrs. Deb Hendrickson, Editor

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January-February 2025

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## From the Principal...Mr. Derek Horne



Wow, it is already February! The weather forecast is every changing so please remember if the weather cooperates students will go outside to play. Please send them to school with the appropriate clothing. If you are missing some clothing, check out our Lost & Found in the lobby. We have an eventful winter and spring planned for our students. Let's make it a goal for our students to be here at school every day. (Look at the chart on page 6 to see

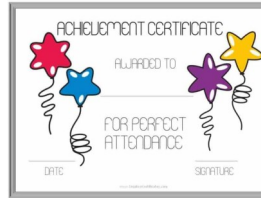
why having students be here each and every day really matters.) Yes, every minute counts! If eighty percent of success in school is showing up at school, what does that mean? "Showing up" is  
\*arriving at school on time;  
\*eating a good breakfast;  
\*getting adequate sleep; and  
\*engaging in the learning process  
Help your student form routines to help them "show up". Engage in this process with them. (For example, our stu-

dents are expected to arrive at school before 8:45 AM each morning; And as a reminder, breakfast ends at 8:45 AM.) Each marking period we will be recognizing students with perfect attendance. These students will have the opportunity to go on a fun field trip to celebrate. Our virtual Gardner's Candy fundraiser has been a great success. Our goal is \$2000 in sales, we are at \$489. If you are looking for Easter candy

check it out at [www.gardnerscandiesfundraising.com](http://www.gardnerscandiesfundraising.com), and please use our group code 10-0344. The proceeds from this fundraiser will be used for a variety of activities for our students. The fundraiser ends on April 13th. We look forward to seeing, engaging, and challenging your children! Please contact me at 301-359-0511, with any concerns or email me. [Derek.Horne@acpsmd.org](mailto:Derek.Horne@acpsmd.org)

## Attendance Matters1: New Incentive

42 students who had perfect attendance during Marking Period Two (MP2) attended a bowling party at Rainbow Lanes in Keyser on February 5, 2025 to celebrate! Those students with perfect attendance were Pennie Beard, Porter Beard, Julee Books, Natalie Brashear, Christian Burns, Kiya Chojar, Ezra Clark Kuhn, Cella Crites, Laydon Dobbs, Jayme Greenwald, Easton Guinn, Slate Guinn, Lilia Haines, Atticus Holloway, Riley Kindle, Braxton Lafferty, Caysen Lafferty, Easton Lafferty, Emberleigh Lafferty, Jackson Lease, Asher Madero, Wyatt Metty, Lennon Metz, Stella Metz, Azariyah Michael, Zariah Michael, Ava Morgan, Ryder Morgan, Gabriel Morris, Brantlee Pope, Brody Ray, Oakley Ray, Logan Rice, Reid Richards, Allison Russell, Noah Sanford, Bentley Shillingburg, Aaliyah Spiker, Abel Twigg, Layla VanPelt, William Wade and Jacob Whetstone.



## School Calendar

- ☺ Feb. 17 (Mon.) SCHOOLS AND OFFICES CLOSED-Presidents' Day
- ☺ Mar. 3 (Mon.) Parent Conference Day-Elementary Conferences 10:00 AM-12:00 noon and 1:00-3:30 PM
- ☺ Mar. 26 (Wed.) End of MP3
- ☺ Mar. 27 (Thurs.) Three-Hour Delayed Opening due to Teacher Work Time
- ☺ April 4 (Fri.) Report Cards Released
- ☺ April 7-11 (Mon.-Fri.) Scholastic Book Fair in the Gym
- ☺ April 16 (Wed) SCHOOLS CLOSED -Easter Vacation begins (Offices Closed April 18 & 21.)
- ☺ April 22 (Tues.) SCHOOLS REOPEN

## Ms. Chapman-Teacher of the Year



Ms. Beth Chapman was named the 2025-2026 Teacher of the Year after a vote by her colleagues. Ms. Chapman has taught second grade at Westernport Elementary since 2019. She previously taught prek, first grade and fifth grade at Flintstone School and was an intervention teacher at Frost Elementary. She began spent the first five years of her career as a Head Start teacher.

Ms. Chapman has an undergraduate degree in Early Childhood/Elementary Education from Frostburg State University and a graduate degree from FSU in Education, focusing on Curriculum and Instruction. She is a native of Lonaconing and resides there with her family. Congratulations, Ms. Chapman!



## Title I Tip #4

### SCHOOL PARENT COMPACT

The School Parent Compact outlines what the school staff, parent/family and child will do to increase learning for our students. Parents/family members and school staff help to write the agreement. We review the compact each spring and ask for parents to comment on the compact each year. The compacts are signed and used as a tool during the year to help everyone remember how important it is for all of us to work together to help our students learn.



## Attendance Matters2

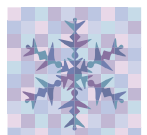
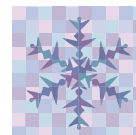
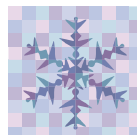
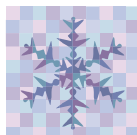
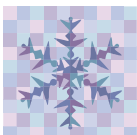
### ATTENDANCE at WES

Teachers are always concerned about the number of late arrivals and early dismissals at WES. When this happens, children are missing valuable instruction that cannot be made up. Teachers are preparing your children to advance to the next grade level in the fall, as well as for the **MCAP Assessments**, which will be in the spring this year. We all want our students to do their best, but if they miss instruction, that may not happen. We realize that tardy situations and early dismissals cannot always be avoided, but please try to schedule appointments after or late in the school day so that only a little instruction will be missed. Thanks for your help!

## Safety First

### A NOTE about SAFETY at WES

Parents, when you are in the lobby, please do not open the door to others who are coming into the school. Every person coming into the school needs to "buzz" the office for admittance. If you are at the door and have been "buzzed" in, please do not hold the door open for others who are behind you. They also need to push the button when they get to the door, and then they will be let into the lobby. Thank you for your cooperation with this important safety issue.







# Counselor's Corner



"Kindness" is the character trait of the month for February. During this month, lessons during guidance and social skills classes will feature the topic of kindness to others and kindness to oneself. In addition, Westernport Elementary School will hold a school wide kindness competition between classrooms. Encourage your child to show kindness to others and take time to show kindness to themselves as well!

In March, Ms. Tessa and I will continue to teach the Toolbox curriculum and will be gearing up for statewide testing. The Character trait for March is "positive attitude/growth mindset" which encourages students to find the best in any situation and to never give up (even if things seem "boring" or hard to do!)

Every marking period, perfect attendance awards will be given out to students who are in school **every day**. Attendance is a crucial part of your child's education - instilling good attendance habits in elementary school has proven to be beneficial for academic and future school success. Students with perfect attendance will earn the opportunity to participate in a fun after school field trip!

## Books to check out:

*Who I Am: Words I Tell Myself*, by Susan Verde (available in our school library)

*Connor Kissed Me*, by Zehava (available in our school library)

*Beautiful Oops!*, by Barney Saltzberg (available in our school library)

**Happy, Healthy Kids Tip:** Research suggests that 20 minutes of uninterrupted, quality time with your child is more valuable than hours spent together multi-tasking. This short burst of focused time together builds your connection and makes your child feel valued, important, and loved.

Each day during the month of February, or whatever time period works for you, surprise your child with a heart on his or her bedroom door with a positive statement about them on it! Examples: You are so helpful! You make me smile!

As always, please contact us if you have any questions or concerns about your child!

Laura Wilson - School Counselor

Tessa Fitzgerald - Social Emotional Coach



## Westernport Elementary PBIS



**What is PBIS?** PBIS is a process for creating a safer, positive, and more effective school environment. It focuses on improving a school's ability to teach and support positive behavior for all students. PBIS allows our school to design, implement, and evaluate effective school-wide rules and procedures.

**What are the school rules?** We **PAWS to be Respectful, Responsible, Safe, and Kind!** This is the expectation for our students and staff. These rules can be applied to and used to teach discipline at school as well as home. Parents can use these four rules with their children to help correct homework habits, attendance issues, bad attitudes, and other family conflicts. The students are reminded throughout the school day of these rules. The PBIS language helps create a consistent flow of positive behavior.

**PBIS School Wide Events** Westernport will be hosting PBIS school wide events. Students may earn their admission to these events by meeting the guidelines for each event. Parent letters will be sent home before each event. These incentives may include a fall event, spirit week, winter movie, dance, Winter Olympics, and a Spring Fling, which is the biggest event at the year's end.

If you have any questions, contact Mr. Devin McGregor or Mrs. Laura Wilson (PBIS chairs) at 301-359-0511



## Thank you, Reeves Private Foundation!

Westernport Elementary School was recently awarded a **\$1,900.00 grant** from the J. Norman and Margaret J. Reeves Private Foundation, which is administrated by First United Trust & Investments.

The mission of the Reeves Private Foundation is to benefit non-profit organizations in the vicinity of Westernport, Maryland; Keyser, West Virginia; Luke, Maryland and Piedmont, West Virginia. A committee of local representatives from those areas evaluates each grant request based on its merits and how the grant meets the desires of the foundation.

This is the ninth year that the Reeves Foundation has awarded a grant to the school. Mrs. Deborah Hendrickson, library media specialist, applied for the grant in August and the check arrived at the school in the fall.

The grant money will be used to allow students choose a "free" book from an in-person book fair and/or to allow students to select a book from a choice sheet, depending on what works best this year.

We are extremely grateful to the Reeves Private Foundation. for this support for the One Student/One Book program that we have had in the past and for their support for the spring book fair, which will be held from April 7-11, 2025.

## Memorial Book Donations

Ms. Sheila Golden, former special education teacher at Westernport Elementary, donated money to the school library in memory of her colleagues who passed away recently. Ms. Golden's donation was used to purchase picture books in memory of Beverly (White) Davis and Phyllis Thompson, both of whom worked at WES as instructional assistants. Thanks, Ms. Golden!

## Resolutions for a Happy New Year

No one will ever get out of this world alive.  
Resolve therefore to maintain a reasonable sense of values.

Take care of yourself. Good health is everyone's major source of wealth. Without it, happiness is almost impossible.

Resolve to be cheerful & helpful. People will repay you in kind.

Avoid angry, abrasive persons. They are generally vengeful.

Avoid zealots. They are generally humorless.

Resolve to listen more & to talk less.

No one ever learns anything by talking.

Be chary of giving advice. Wise men don't need it, & fools won't heed it.

Resolve to be tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving, & tolerant of the weak & the wrong. Sometime in life you will have been all of these.

Do not equate money with success. There are many successful money-makers who are miserable failures as human beings. What counts most about success is how a person achieves it.

---Lloyd Shearer (1985)

WES Faculty and Staff wishes all of you a belated, but a VERY Happy New Year!



## Meet the (New) Staff

**Ms. Samantha Eckart** is a new instructional assistant at Westernport Elementary. She works in grade three, but assists elsewhere, as needed. Ms. Sam is the mother of two: Caroline, a third grade student at WES and Callen, a four-year old. In her free time, Ms. Sam loves to bake, read, do puzzle games and coach competitive cheerleading. Ms. Sam is a native of Maryland; she grew up in Carroll County and has lived in Allegany County since 2011.

**Ms. Wisha Ahern** is a new member of the custodial staff at WES. This is the first time that she has worked for the Allegany County Public Schools. Ms. Ahern is a native of Oakland and graduated from Mountain Ridge High School and also graduated from CCTE in health occupations. She is the mother of three boys and two girls and lives in the George's Creek area. Ms. Ahern has a busy household which also includes a Great Dane puppy, a cat, an iguana and a bearded dragon. She is happy to be at Westernport Elementary.

## Citizens of the Month (December 2024 and January 2025)



Students selected as "Citizens of the Month" were recently chosen. **The character trait for December was integrity.** These students recognized for being honest and "doing the right thing even when no one is looking" were Kindergarten-Oaklyn Reynolds & Wyatt Becker; Grade 1-Myles Eversole, Michael Hans & Adalynn Fisher; Grade 2-Ava Bruce & Caysen Lafferty; Grade 3-Luke Richards & Olivia VanPelt;; Grade 4-Drew Perez & Weston Reed; and Grade 5-Devyn Pritts & Colton Dawson.

**The character trait for January was Fairness.** Students who were recognized for "doing things that treat all people equally and with respect." were Kindergarten-Cohen Lewis & Ryley Spiker; Grade 1-Lilah Haines, Lukas Robinson & Mariska Ward; Grade 2-Pennie Beard & Karlee Rivera-Constable; Grade 3-Jayme Greenwald & Mack Brashear; Grade 4-Aliyah Shingler & William Wade; and Grade 5-Lennon Metz & Jacob Mayhew. Congratulations, students.

Upcoming character traits that WES students will be learning about is:

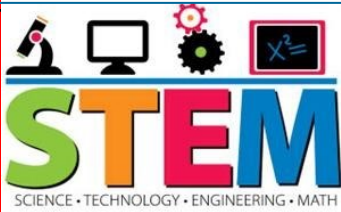
(February) **Kindness**, which means "saying or doing something positive."

(March) **Positive Attitude/Growth Mindset**, which means "Trying to find the best in any situation."

**OUR MISSION:** Westernport Elementary School will empower our students to successfully meet the challenges of the twenty-first century, by nurturing the whole child: intellectually, physically and emotionally.

**OUR VISION:** We will partner with family and community to build a better world - one child at a time.

# The Mobile Science Lab Experience-Ag Products



Westernport students recently participated in Maryland Agriculture in the Classroom. Students were given a series of 25-minute mini-lessons by teacher, Ms. Dena O'Neill, who spent the week at WES. The Mobile Science Lab Experience with the theme, Ag Products, was supplied by the Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation and their yellow trailer was parked for a week on the front lawn of the school. Activities for students in grades K-5 included scientific investigations including "Egg-citing Eggs", "The Cow in the Kitchen", "Thirsty Stems", "Here, There and Everywhere" and "CSI Candy Investigator." an activity on Tuesday Ms. O'Neill used a story to discuss what ingredients are needed to make French toast. This was followed by a mini-experiment to show students how to make butter by shaking up a container holding heavy cream. Shown (at right) are Avaa Croson and Adalynn Fisher working together to "churn" the heavy cream into butter. The Ag Products Mobile Lab Experience is supported by grant funds provided through the Allegany County Public Schools.



## Weather @WES



ONLINE WEATHER CENTER

EARTH NETWORKS

Westernport ES  
01/20/2022 12:03:15 PM

28.1°

Switch to Metric



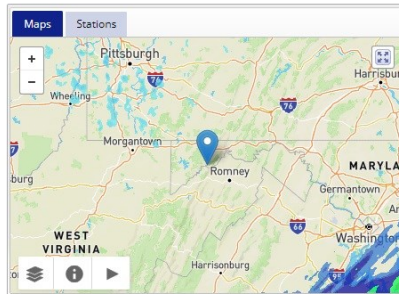
Latitude: 39.4817  
Longitude: -79.0406  
Elevation: 997 ft

TEMPERATURE	WIND	PRECIPITATION
Hi/Low 38°/27°	Current N 11.8 mph	Today 0.00"
Feels Like 17.9°	Gust N 19.5 mph	Rate 0.00"
Dew Point 13.0°	Avg. ESE 9.7 mph	

WET BULB GLOBE TEMPERATURE

Current -- 10 Min Avg. --

HUMIDITY	PRESSURE	ALMANAC
Current 52.5%	Current 30.27"	Sunrise 7:32 AM
High 87.9%	High 30.29"	Sunset 5:22 PM
Low 52.3%	Low 30.02"	Moonphase 95%



10-Day Forecast	Hourly Forecast
THUR	FRI
SAT	SUN
MON	TUES
WED	THUR
FRI	SAT

A rooftop WeatherBug device has provided weather information for WES since the year 2000 (or earlier.) The WeatherBug collects data about temperature, rainfall and other information directly from the roof of WES and then this information is streamed out to the internet. (Note: Sometimes the wind speed indicator gets stuck so the "real feel" of the temperature may be lower than the roof temperature!) To access this information, use the Weather@WES link near the bottom of the school website, which can be found at [acpsmd.org/wt](http://acpsmd.org/wt).

## A reminder about...HANDICAPPED PARKING

Attention Parents and Grandparents: Please do not block the handicapped parking spots at any time. These spaces are especially needed in the morning and evening for student drop-off and pick up. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

## To a Groundhog...



### To a Groundhog on February 2

Wake up, sleepyhead!  
Put your dreams away.  
Everyone is waiting  
for what you have to say.  
Will your shadow make a blot  
on the snow today or not?  
Will the sun start turning hot?  
Will the month be cold, or what?  
Hurry, sir, and tell us  
on this Groundhog Day.

Wake up, sleepyhead!  
What's a little snow?  
If your shadow follows you,  
back inside you'll go.  
Will the coming six weeks be  
wintry, cold, and shivery?  
Balmy, warm, and summery?  
Groundhog, what's your prophecy?  
Better get your glasses on,  
So you'll really know!

(Anonymous)





# ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Missing a day of school here and there may not seem like much, but absences add up!

**When a student misses 2 days a month..**

They will miss 20 DAYS a year.

They will miss 30 HOURS of math over the school year.

They will miss 60 HOURS of reading & writing over the school year.

They will miss over 1 YEAR of school by graduation.

**When a student misses 4 days a month..**

They will miss 40 DAYS a year.

They will miss 60 HOURS of math over the school year.

They will miss 120 HOURS of reading & writing over the school year.

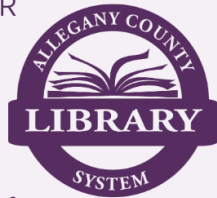
They will miss over 2 YEARS of school by graduation.

## STAR Cards from YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY

# STAR CARD

## Student Access Resource

Students in Allegany County Public Schools and participating private schools have special, student library cards known as STAR CARDS. With STAR CARDS students can access exclusive library resources plus check out up to five books or audiobooks with no late fees.



## What is a **STAR CARD**?

The STAR CARD is your access key to the world of information and learning. It is a special library account, which you can use to borrow books, e-books, magazines, journals, online encyclopedia, and other resources. Language learning tools & homework help available.

**Request a *STAR CARD* number.**

When you check out at the circulation desk, tell the staff you want to use your **STAR CARD**. They will ask for your name and birth date to confirm your identity. You can write your number here.

Prefix	
2 2 2 1 0 S	

**www.alleganycountylibrary.info/  
starcardrequest**



**Scan to request a  
STAR Card number.**

January 2025

## What is my PIN number?

Important: Your STAR CARD account has a four-digit PIN Number or password which is set to the last four digits of your STAR CARD.

## How do I use my **STAR CARD** at the Allegany County Library System?

**You have access to:**



Live tutors available 7 days a week  
between 2 PM-Midnight, EST



Casual, cultural, and conversational learning. 70+ languages with conversation-based language lessons for web, iOS, and Android.



Explore amazing adventures in science, nature, culture, archaeology, and space. Best for children aged 6-14.



Use to: Prep for SAT, ACT, GED,  
and more. Research undergrad  
and graduate programs.  
Find tuition assistance.



Explore your passions:

- Photography
- Drawing
- Music
- Coding
- Jewelry making



*\*Must be 13 years or older  
for a Udemy account*

**301-729-0855**

***Please note that all resources can be accessed with a regular library card as well.***

**[www.alleganycountylibrary.info](http://www.alleganycountylibrary.info)**

*These materials are neither sponsored nor endorsed by the Board of Education of Allegany County, the Superintendent, or this school.*

If you have any questions, contact any branch <https://www.alleganycountylibrary.info/>

The library which is closest to our school is right here in Westernport. The library phone number is 301-359-0455. You may speak to Mrs. Kathy, Mr. William or Mrs. Linda and they will be glad to help you. The Westernport Library is open on Mondays and Tuesdays from 1:00-8:00 PM and on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 AM until 5:00 PM.