



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

Building the Future—One Child at a Time

Welcome Back to Westernport Elementary!

We want to welcome our WES family to the 2025-2026 school year. We know it is going to be a great one! Our school building looks beautiful, thanks to the extremely hard work done this summer by head custodian, Tim Martin, and custodians Tara Smith, Renee Taylor and Wisha Ahern. We also greatly appreciate the work done by the many ACPS employees and local contractors who helped to get our building (especially the second floor) ready for staff and students to return. We are very excited to see smiling faces in our hallways. We also wish to again welcome students who are new to WES.

The new school year has brought changes to our staff. We are fortunate to have these new staff members at our school. Ms. Sophia Shively is a new fifth grade teacher. We also want to welcome Mr. Ben Preston and Mr. Tyler Elliott as temporary members of our cafeteria staff. New instructional assistants include Ms. Sarah Anderson, Ms. Ashley Cole and Mrs. Michelle Paitzel. Some of our staff members are also teaching different grade levels. Ms. Ellie Bolton is now teaching Kindergarten. Mrs. Candice Smith is has moved to first grade. Mrs. Staci Wilson has moved from reading intervention to second grade. Mrs. Kara Zufall has moved from first grade to reading intervention. Mrs. Erin Johnson is the new school psychologist. Mrs. Michele

Deatelhauser is the new literacy coach.

We send best wishes to all who have retired or moved on to new positions. Mrs. Janice Raines retired in June. (We miss you, Mrs. Raines!) Mrs. Jennifer Kallenborn, longtime school psychologist, and Mrs. Donna Beeman, longtime literacy coach, are now serving other ACPS schools. Farewell, friends.



Back to School Night, which was held on Thursday, August 21, 2025, was a great success. Thanks to all of the staff members and business partners who came out to support this annual event. All students received a souvenir of their choice, which included fairy wands, light-up yoyos or sunglasses, all featuring the Westernport calico cat logo. 16 community partners participated in the event. Students especially loved to see the town fire truck, which was parked in the school lot.

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

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COMING SOON

The Reading for Education Fundraiser is coming soon! Lanyards will be sent home October 13th.

From the Principal...Mr. Horne



WOW! I have been amazed by the ability of our staff, students, and families to come together to persevere through the many challenges we have faced over the past six months. Each one of you has my gratitude for all of the encouragement, understanding, and support that you continue to give for the success of our children. Together we are an amazing WES school family! As the year progresses, we will continue to adapt to

meet the needs of our children and to provide a fun, enriching, loving learning environment! To help with the success of our children, please take a moment to review our school-wide expectations of being responsible, respectful, safe, and kind. It is always important to remember that character and positive relationships with others are part of becoming a successful contributor at school and in the community. Families

and school staff want to achieve the same overall goal - a safe, secure environment where students have the support and resources needed to be successful. We welcome you as part of the Westernport Elementary School family and look forward to a great school year full of learning and fun! Please watch for a variety of volunteer opportunities throughout the year. Together we can make a difference in our children's lives.

If you have any questions or need anything please give me a call at 301-359-0511 or contact me by email using Derek.Horne@acpsmd.org.





Fire Prevention=Every Week

No one wants to hear the sound of sirens as fire trucks scream through the streets. But fires are a reality. Fire Prevention Week is October 5-11, 2025 and The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) always uses this as an opportunity to educate students and parents about fire safety. This year's theme is "Charge into Fire Safety: Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home!" The NFPA website reminds us to **buy only listed products**. When buying a product that uses a lithium-ion battery look for a safety certification mark such as UL, ETL, or CSA. This means it meets important safety standards. **Charge devices safely**. Always use the cords that came with the product to charge. Follow the instructions from the manufacturer. Buy new chargers from the manufacturer or one that the manufacturer has approved. Charge your device on a hard surface. Don't overcharge your device. Unplug it or remove the battery when it's fully charged. **Recycle batteries responsibly**. Don't throw lithium-ion batteries in the trash or regular recycling bins because they could start a fire. Recycle your device or battery at a safe battery recycling location. Visit call2recycle.org to find a recycling spot near you. Once a fire starts in your home, you may have as little as two minutes to escape. Advance planning and a practiced fire escape route can save lives. NFPA suggests the following when making an escape plan for your family:

- **Look** for places that a fire may start
- **Listen** for the sound of the smoke alarm
- **Learn** two ways out of each room

NFPA, which has sponsored Fire Prevention Week since 1922, also stresses general fire prevention and lists a series of checks to be made in the home to lessen the chances for a fire. To obtain a variety of home safety tips, visit the NFPA website by going to <https://www.nfpa.org/events/fire-prevention-week>

WES School Calendar

- ⊙ Oct. 17 (Fri.) Three-Hour Early Dismissal-Staff Development/Teacher Work Time
- ⊙ Oct. 20-24 (Mon.-Fri.) Red Ribbon Week
- ⊙ Oct. 28 (Tues.) STEAM and Trunk & Treat @5:00 -6:30 PM
- ⊙ Oct. 30 (Thurs.) End of Marking Period 1 (MP1); Halloween Parade
- ⊙ Oct. 31 (Fri.) SCHOOLS CLOSED-AM-Principal Staff Development; PM-Teacher Work Time
- ⊙ Nov. 2 (Sun.) Daylight Savings Ends (Turn your clocks back on Saturday night!)
- ⊙ Nov. 10 (Mon.) SCHOOLS CLOSED-AM-Principal Staff Development; PM-Teacher Work Time
- ⊙ Nov. 14 (Fri.) Report Cards Released
- ⊙ Nov. 26 (Wed.) Three-Hour Early Dismissal-Thanksgiving Vacation Begins (Offices Closed November 27 & 28) Schools reopen Dec. 2nd.

**Fall Back One Hour
Sunday, November 2, 2025.**



Schoolwide Title I-What's That?



Westernport Elementary School is one of nine schools in Allegany County which have been identified to receive Title I funds and to operate a schoolwide Title I program.

Criteria

- At least 40% of the student population is eligible for Free and Reduced Meals (FARMS)
- Title I funds are used to upgrade the educational program so that the education for ALL children is improved
- All children are eligible for Title I services

Program Components

- Comprehensive needs assessment of the entire school which focuses on the achievement of students on the state academic content and achievement standards

- Schoolwide reform strategies that are evidence based and are designed to address the needs of all students and especially the low achieving students
- Strategies to increase parent/family/stakeholder engagement
- Plans to assist preschool children in their transition from early childhood programs to elementary school
- Coordination and integration of federal, state, and local services and programs including violence prevention, nutrition, housing, Head Start, adult education, vocational and technical education, and job training

Each Title I school develops a schoolwide plan which includes all of the school wide Title I components and

which may be reviewed on each school's website. Title I plans are available in each school office for parent/community review and comment. Annually, principals review the Title I schoolwide program with parents.



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.

In an Emergency...Take Action

IN AN EMERGENCY TAKE ACTION



HOLD! In your room or area. Clear the halls.

STUDENTS

Clear the hallways and remain in room or area until the "All Clear" is announced
Do business as usual

ADULTS

Close and lock the door
Account for students and adults
Do business as usual



SECURE! Get inside. Lock outside doors.

STUDENTS

Return to inside of building
Do business as usual

ADULTS

Bring everyone indoors
Lock outside doors
Increase situational awareness
Account for students and adults
Do business as usual



LOCKDOWN! Locks, lights, out of sight.

STUDENTS

Move away from sight
Maintain silence
Do not open the door

ADULTS

Recover students from hallway if possible
Lock the classroom door
Turn out the lights
Move away from sight
Maintain silence
Do not open the door
Prepare to evade or defend



EVACUATE! (A location may be specified)

STUDENTS

Leave stuff behind if required to
If possible, bring your phone
Follow instructions

ADULTS

Lead students to Evacuation location
Account for students and adults
Notify if missing, extra or injured students or adults



SHELTER! Hazard and safety strategy.

STUDENTS

Use appropriate safety strategy for the hazard

Hazard

Tornado
Hazard
Earthquake
Tsunami

Safety Strategy

Evacuate to shelter area
Seal the room
Drop, cover and hold
Get to high ground

ADULTS

Lead safety strategy
Account for students and adults
Notify if missing, extra or injured students or adults

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Grandparents Day, Hooray!

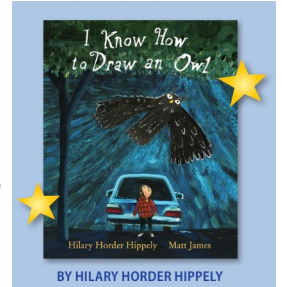
Westernport Elementary celebrated Grandparents Day on Wednesday, October 1, 2025. Grandparents and students participated in a variety of outdoor activities, which included hand painting, bingo and family pictures. Students in grades K-2 spent time with their grandparents in the morning and students in grades 3-5 enjoyed seeing their grandparents in the afternoon. Special thanks to Mr. Devin McGregor for organizing this event and we also want to say thanks to the staff and volunteers who helped during the day. It was great to see so many grandparents visit WES.



Author Hilary Horder Hippely, Visits WES

Author Hilary Horder Hippely visited Westernport Elementary School on Friday, October 3, 2025 to talk to students about her book, *I Know How to Draw an Owl*. This presentation was brought to WES due to a two-year partnership between Westernport Elementary and the Frostburg State University Children's Literature Centre.

Ms. Hippely was a teacher for over 30 years. She told students that she got the idea for her book when she walking along the beach. There she found one of her students living in a car with her mother. She was touched by the bravery of that family and of other families she met during her teaching career who held onto hope amid many hardships. It took Ms. Hippely two years to write the book and one year for the illustrator, Mr. Matt James, to complete the pictures. The words in the book travelled from Seattle to New York to Canada and finally to China where the book was printed, then back to bookstores and libraries here.



Ms. Hippely was in Frostburg this week to receive the 13th annual CLC Children's Book Award from Frostburg State University Children's Literature Centre. This award is given to the author of a children's picture book which most embodies the attributes of compassion, love, or courage. The aim of the CLC is to encourage and support an author/illustrator in the early years of their career, and one who has published in the United States within the past three years. The author, in conjunction with FSU, purchased 220 copies of the books for students and staff (thanks so much!) and a copy of the book complete with the award label was also donated to the school library. Ms. Hippely placed a bookplate in each book and wrote each child's name in the book. As requested by the author, Mrs. Hendrickson, media specialist, read the book to each class prior to the author visit in collaboration with Mr. John Seibert, art teacher. (Shown at left is Ms. Hippely presenting student, Scarlet Glascoe, with a copy of the book.)

Celebration of Bravery and Resilience

Mr. Paul Monteiro, Secretary of the Department of Service and Civic Innovation, visited the staff and students of Westernport Elementary on Friday, October 3, 2025 to represent Maryland Governor Wes Moore. Mr. Monteiro commend students and staff their for positive actions at the time of the May 13, 2025 flood. Citations were presented by Mr. Robin Summerfield, representing Senator Chris Van Hollen, and Ms. Edena Bradford, representing Congresswoman April McClain Delaney, in recognition of courage, bravery and resilience, as well as strength, courage and determination in the midst of perilous circumstances. Lisa Clark, AmeriCorps representative, and Dr. Sarah O'Neal presented each student and staff member with a Certificate of Bravery. Special guests included Dr. Darlene Brannigan Smith, FSU President; Dr. Michael Martirano, ACPS Superintendent of Schools; Ms. Jacqueline Enright, ACPS Director of Elementary and Early Childhood Education as well as staff and volunteers from the FSU Children's Literature Centre.

Go Gold For Childhood Cancer

Go Gold for Childhood Cancer was celebrated at WES during the month of September. Approximately \$1,500 was raised by students and staff to help Brayden Iliff, son of cafeteria manager, Emily Lewis, and his family make trips to WVU Children's Hospital in Morgantown, WV for Brayden's medical tests and treatments. Ms. Shively's class raised the most

A door decorating contest was also held. All the doors were so great that it was hard to choose the best ones. The first place winner was Miss Candice's room. Her class won a trip to McDonald's for a treat. In second place was Mrs. Rodriguez's room and tied for third place were the doors decorated by Mr. Benson and Ms. Chapman's class as well as by Mrs. Hendrickson, who made ribbons in honor of those WES alumni who (except for our dear student, Tyler Miller) were survivors of childhood cancer. All students received a popsicle for participating in the contest.

Students also wore gold to highlight the fight against various Childhood Cancers.





The Mobile Science Lab Experience: Aquatics Products



Westernport students recently participated in Maryland Agriculture in the Classroom during the week of September 22-26, 2025. 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, Aquatics Products, was supplied by the Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation and their yellow trailer was parked on the front lawn of the school. Activities for students in grades K-5

included scientific investigations such as "Who Lives in the Wetlands"; "Wetland Charm"; "Oysters and the Chesapeake Bay"; "Salt Water Layers"; "But Outs"; and "Crabs and the Chesapeake Bay." In one activity, Ms. O'Neill had several students dress up as bugs and talked to their classmates about the eyes and mouths found on different types of bugs. Students used their noses to identify different scents just as a bug would. Finally, students made their own bug! The Ag Products Mobile Lab Experience is supported by grant funds provided through the Allegany County Public Schools.

Shown are Layla Atkinson, dressed as a bug and Deven Durst and Eli Dolly showing off the bugs that they created.

In Other News...

BOOK VENDING... We would like to remind parents that WES has a book vending machine. Students may earn a chance to choose a free book from the machine in a variety of ways, all connected to English Language Arts (ELA) activities. Three students per class will receive a special token to spend at the end of each month. Picture books and chapter books will be available for students. Books will have variety of reading levels and will allow students to find a book of personal interest. We hope that your child will be bringing a special book home. The first book vending event of the school year will be on Friday, October 10th.



A BAND AND ORCHESTRA RECRUITMENT assembly was held in the Gym/Cafeteria of WES on August 29, 2025. A group of ACPS staff members who teach band or orchestra classes, including our own Mr. Harold McClay, band teacher, and Mr. Rob Wallace, orchestra teacher, came to WES to highlight instruments that fourth and fifth grade students might want to learn this year. They did (and always do) an impressive concert!



On Tuesday, October 7th, the Kindergarten classes went on a walking field trip to the fire station. Annual visits to the fire station began in 1977 when the late Mrs. Judy Fogle, Kindergarten teacher, urged that the fire company teach children more about fire safety after three young WES students, James, Rosalee and Glen Shugars, died in a fire at their home in McCoole. The fire company has continued to do so to this day.

On Wednesday, October 8th, several members of Potomac Fire Company No. 2 spent the day at Westernport Elementary School to talk with students about fire prevention.

Pictured in firefighter gear are Emmett Householder and Russell Hans.



Creative use of space at Westernport Elementary School due to the construction on the first floor is the order of the day. Here is the third grade AEP group meeting with Mrs. Hendrickson in the Alley Corridor while the library is being used for Thursday Art classes.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

The Allegany County Library System says...We want to hear from you!

Join us for a Westernport Library Town Hall on Wednesday, October 22, from 6-8 PM at the Bruce Outreach Center. This is your chance to share your thoughts, ideas, and hopes for the future of library services in our community.

Learn more and register here: www.alleganycountylibrary.info/westlibsurvey/

Can't make it? No worries—you can still make your voice heard! Take our community survey, open throughout October. Paper copies will be available at select locations, including Westernport and Lonaconing Town Halls, after October 1.

bit.ly/ACLSWestLibSurvey

Attend the Town Hall or complete the survey for a chance to win one of four \$50 local gift cards!

Let's shape the future of the Westernport Library together!

Westernport Library @ 121 Main



Opening November 3

Monday 1:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Wednesday 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Friday 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM



Temporary Westernport Library Location
121 Main Street
Westernport, Maryland, 21562

The Allegany County Library System has announced that a temporary library will be opened in Westernport in November. The location will be at 121 Main Street. Pop-up libraries have been held in front of the current library, which is closed for renovation after the May 13th flood.

