



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 school family to the 2021-2022 school year. As always, it has been an interesting year so far, but we know it is going to be a great one! Our school building looks beautiful, thanks to the hard work done this summer by custodians Tim Martin and David Parker and part-time custodians, Tara Smith and Nakoa Weimer.

We are very excited to see smiling faces in our hallways. We also wish to welcome students who are new to WES, as well.

The new school year has brought several changes to our staff. Mrs. Carrie Beeman is our new PreK-3 teacher. Mrs. Teresa Graham will be the instructional assistant in that classroom. Mrs. Julie Durrence and Ms. Natalie Orange are the new Kindergarten teachers, working with Mrs. Candice Smith, who has taught Kindergarten at WES for 16 years. Our new school secretary is Mrs. Shelly Fitzgerald.

We want to belatedly welcome several staff members who joined us late last year: Ms. Tessa Lutton, who is an Emotional Support Coach; Ms. Tammy Marple, who is a multiple teacher substitute; and Mr. Devin McGregor who is our Community Coordinator. Mrs. Debbie Dayton and Mrs. Debbie Llewellyn joined our cafeteria staff, too.

We are also fortunate to have these new staff members at our school. Mr. Richie Mel-lott is our new (Monday) computer technician. Mrs. Brooke Evans is a virtual grade 5 teacher, but is based at WES. Mrs. Sue Records is an additional special education teacher. Mrs. Laura Wilson is our new guidance counselor. Mrs. Staci Wilson is a new Title I reading and math teacher. Mrs. Katelyn Pratt is our new math specialist. Ms. Lee Haught has returned as speech pathologist.

We send best wishes to all who have retired, have been transferred or moved on to new positions. Mrs. Mandy Schall, ACPS math specialist, moved to another school. Our long-time technician, Mr. Blaise Blume, is working at the APCS Help Desk. Mrs. Cheryl Fradiska, school secretary, is now at West Side School. Both Mrs. Lisa Harris and Mrs. Barbara Amtower retired on July 1. We miss you!

PTA Officers for 2021-2022

Nikki Greenwald, President
Brittany Chojar, First Vice-President
Charlene Welsh, Second Vice-President
Vacant, Third Vice-President
Michelle Paitsel, Secretary
Emily Metz, Treasurer



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A Title I School
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COMING SOON

The Reading for Education Fundraiser, co-sponsored by the PTA, is coming soon!

Envelopes will be sent home during the first week of October.

From the Principal...Mr. Horne



As the first month of school ends, it has become evident that the Westernport family has a passion for our children!

I have observed the kindness and caring of the school through many actions and words that reflect the culture and climate of the community.

Our first community and family event was a huge success. I want to thank all

of our community partners and staff for working together for our children.

The school-wide expectations of being responsible, respectful, safe, and kind are being practiced by all students, staff, and visitors. It is always important to remember that good character and positive relationships with others are part of becoming a successful contributor at school

and in the community.

As the new principal, I want to develop a Westernport family where the community, students, and staff are excited to visit, learn, and grow. Families and school personnel 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 family and look forward to a great school year full of learning and fun!

If you have any questions, please feel free to call the school office at 301-359-0511 for information. You may also contact me using my email address, which is 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 was October 3rd-9th** 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 "Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety." 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 fire can start
- **Listen** for the sound of the smoke alarm
- **Learn** two ways out of each room

NFPA 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 home escape plan grid and home safety tip sheet, visit <https://www.nfpa.org/fpw>

September 6, 2021 marked the 25th anniversary of the Westernport flood, during which the first floor of WES received significant damage. (The blue high water mark can be seen on the building near the bus circle.) Over the years, trees were planted near the George's Creek as a riparian buffer (by a long-ago fourth grade class), work was done on Route 135 to improve drainage and the school had repairs and modifications to alleviate future issues. We've had a little bit of water from time to time, but nothing like that day, which was filled with mud, sweat and tears. Staff members Kim Aikman, Deb Hendrickson, Amy Smith and Beth Weber remember the six weeks spent at Barton School, lunch on the stage for those who remained at WES, loss of library books, computers and other materials (including so many teacher-made items). It sometimes still feels like yesterday.

Thanks again to all who helped on August 31-September 1 to move furniture and other items from the first floor "just in case" before the rain from Hurricane Ida reached our area (and then move it all back....) Those who helped included our custodians, ACPs Operations and Maintenance staff and those (including our own staff members) who just pitched in. It was greatly appreciated. WES had no water get inside the building (although the WeatherBug on the roof showed almost three inches of rain in its rain gauge by the end of the day...) **WE ARE GRATEFUL.** <https://tinyurl.com/94h73xa3>

WES School Calendar

- ☉ Oct. 1 (Fri.) Virtual Parent Conference Day (Elementary: 8:00-9:00 AM Teacher Plan; 9:00 AM-12:00 noon & 1:00-3:00 PM Parent Conferences)
- ☉ Oct. 23 (Sat.) Hooley Ghoully Plunge
- ☉ October 26 (Tues.) Picture Day
- ☉ October 27 (Wed.) Community Trunk or Treat
- ☉ Oct. 28 (Thurs.) End of First MP1
- ☉ Oct. 29 (Fri.) Three-Hour Early Dismissal; Teacher Work time
- ☉ Nov. 12 (Fri.) SCHOOLS CLOSED (8:00-11:00 AM Principal Staff Development; 12:00-2:00 PM Teacher Work Time; and 2:00-4:00 PM Employee Health Fair)
- ☉ Nov. 13 (Fri.) Report Cards Released
- ☉ Nov. 24 (Wed.) Three-Hour Early Dismissal-Thanksgiving Vacation Begins (Offices Closed November 25 & 26)
- ☉ Nov. 29 (Mon.) SCHOOLS CLOSED
- ☉ Nov. 30 (Tues.) Three Hour Delayed Opening—SCHOOLS REOPEN—Principal Staff Development & Teacher Work Time



Schoolwide Title I-What's That?



Westernport Elementary School is one of ten 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 will partner with family and community to build a better world—one child at a time.

OUR VISION: Westernport Elementary will strive to prepare and empower students to successfully meet the challenges of the twenty-first century, by nurturing the whole child: intellectually, physically and emotionally.