

WASHINGTON GROVE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Office of the Principal

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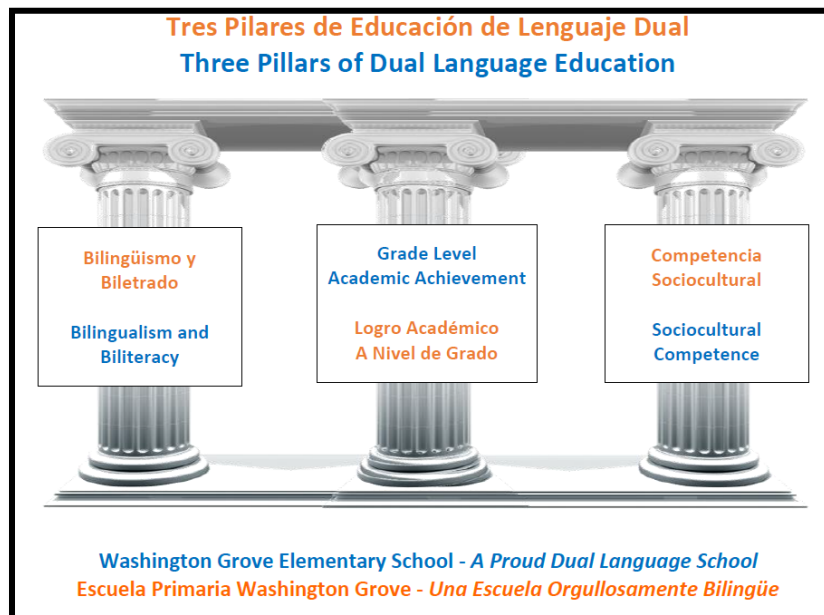


August 12, 2019

Dear Washington Grove Families,

On behalf of the staff at Washington Grove Elementary School (WGES), I am happy to welcome you to the 2019 - 2020 school year. I hope this letter finds you well and enjoying a restful and relaxing summer. We welcome back our returning families and are thrilled to welcome all of our new Washington Grove students and their families to our first year of learning together. We are looking forward to enhancing our partnership with you to ensure all children achieve at their highest potential. We believe that in order to be successful our children need support both at home and at school.

Washington Grove is a **PROUD DUAL LANGUAGE** school. This year all students in grades K – 2 will spend half their day learning in Spanish and half their day learning in English. This time will also include Spanish instruction in Art and STEM. Our program is growing and we are excited about our commitment to the three pillars of Dual Language Instruction.



Moving our entire school to this instructional model is a journey we share with you and we are committed to building our joint knowledge and capacity.

We had a busy summer of learning at WGES this summer. We worked with almost 150 of our students for five weeks during ELO SAIL and STEP. Students participated in math, reading, writing, physical literacy, art and science activities. In addition, we had students in grades 3 – 5 participating in the BELL program at South Lake Elementary School. While our students were learning, our staff continued to hone their skills. They participated in numerous professional development opportunities that will enhance the teaching and learning for our students at WGES.

Finally, our building service staff has been working hard to make sure that Washington Grove is ready for students, staff and families. I want to thank Mr. Figueroa and his hardworking staff for their dedication to making Washington Grove a clean and safe environment. Please join us on August 24th from 8:00 – 10:00 a.m. as we spruce up the outside with mulch and flowers.

Currently, our enrollment is 452 students. We plan to have four classes in Kindergarten, four classes each in Grades 1 and 2, three classes in Grade 3, two classes in Grade 4, and two classes in Grade 5. We will also have a Head Start class, 3 sessions of half-day Pre-K, 1 class of full-day Pre-K Plus, and 6 PEP classes.

Summer is always a time of change and with that change comes staffing updates. I am very excited about the team we have collaboratively built to work with our students this year. They are a group of dynamic, student focused and passionate educators who are ready to create an amazing chapter in the lives of our students. They are eager to continue our commitment to high standards of academic excellence and strong emphasis on developing students who see themselves as learners and recognize the good in themselves and others. I know you will join me in welcoming our new Washington Grove Cougars to the family. You will be able to welcome them personally at Open House and Back-to-School Night.

Washington Grove Position	Staff Name
First Grade Spanish	Javier Pentzke
First Grade Spanish	Gisela Morales-Colón
Second Grade Spanish	Carol Fernandez*
Second Grade English	Veronica Garrett
Second Grade Spanish	Sara Salas Baeza
Fourth Grade	Dana Proven
Fourth Grade (.5)	Cara Flanders
Fifth Grade	Cassandra Cavanah

Washington Grove Position	Staff Name
PEP Teacher	Eileen Heaps
PEP Parent Educator	Teresa Hackett
ESOL	Julie Rodriguez
ESOL	Roxana Najera
Physical Education	Kyle Clarkson
Attendance Secretary	Milagros Jurado
PEP Paraeducator	Clarissa Allotey

We are also excited to announce new opportunities for some of our staff within WGES.

New Washington Grove Position	Teacher Name
Dual Language Enrichment	Judy Cobian
Dual Language Immersion Coordinator	Serena Keeney-Horsch
Fourth Grade	Shane Kurtz
Second Grade English	Amy Mendez
Third Grade	Lisa Rozman
Third Grade	Andrew Schwartz
Fifth Grade	Gabby French

Our Leadership Team met for three days this summer to define our focus for the 2019 - 2020 school year. We worked together to discuss how to best support our students both academically and emotionally. We are committed to delivering high quality first instruction, planning collaboratively, and differentiating instruction to meet the needs of all students. As a staff, we will continue to build our cultural proficiency to create welcoming and engaging classroom environments for all students. We believe that by focusing on these areas, we will provide your children with a quality instructional program in a school climate that promotes high expectations for all students.

Once again, I would like to express my excitement about this school year. When we work TOGETHER students succeed. I look forward to partnering with the dedicated staff at Washington Grove to ensure that ALL Washington Grove Cougars achieve success. **TOGETHER WE THRIVE EN DOS IDIOMAS.**

Sincerely,

Dr. Amy J. Alonso

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Principal