



**Westland Middle School**  
**An International Baccalaureate World School**

5511 Massachusetts Avenue  
Bethesda, MD 20816  
Phone: 301-320-6515 Fax: 301-320-7054



August 2018

Dear Westland students,

If I were you I would be soaking up every minute of summer but I suspect that your parents may have some questions about the start of school which arrives in just over a month. This Back to School letter should help to provide some answers.

In preparation for Tuesday, September 4<sup>th</sup>,

- Get yourself set with our new [bus routes](#).
- Stock up on our [recommended school supplies](#).
- Prepare your alarm to adjust to our [revised bell schedule](#). (Only three lunches this year!)
- Order optional Westland [PE clothing online](#) by August 6<sup>th</sup>. (Pre-ordered clothes will be delivered to students during the first couple of days of school.) If you do not pre-order, you can also purchase clothing when school begins or bring your own clothes that are described below,
- And become a local expert on all the ins and outs listed below.

Most importantly, if you have not yet begun your [summer learning](#), please tackle math practice problems, enjoy a fictional book of your choice, read [A Long Walk to Water](#) (our choice) and complete the assignments in the MYP google classroom.

Looking forward to seeing you soon-ish.

Regards,

Alison L. Serino  
Proud Principal  
Twitter: @WestlandPrinc

# WESTLAND MS Overview 2018-19

## Key People

- 6<sup>th</sup> grade:
  - Administrator- Ms. Yvonne Sanya
  - Counselor- Ms. Caryn Fischer
  - Team leader- Ms. Alyssa Walstein
- 7<sup>th</sup> grade:
  - Administrator
    - Last Name A-L- Mr. Jason Jefferson
    - Last Name M-Z- Ms. Yvonne Sanya
  - Counselor- Ms. Rita Gama
  - Team leaders- Mr. Jim Ritter and Ms. Jean Emery
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade:
  - Administrator- Mr. Jason Jefferson
  - Counselor- Ms. Maria Kohlerman
  - Team leader- Ms. Tracey Tinney
- Principal- Ms. Alison Serino
- Health Room:
  - School Nurse- Ms. Heidi Weinberg
  - School Health Technician- Ms. Jane Mangum
- Department Chairpersons:
  - Arts- Mr. Dave Obstgarten
  - Counseling- Ms. Maria Kohlerman
  - English/reading- Mr. Bob Scribner
  - English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)- Ms. Alison Lepard
  - Math- Mr. Steve Katz
  - Physical and Health Education- Mr. Dave Obstgarten
  - Science- Ms. Jean Emery
  - Social Studies- Mr. Jim Ritter
  - Special Education- Ms. (Lawana) Nikia Mitchell-Lazarus
  - World Languages- Ms. Alison Lepard

## Upcoming Events/Dates

- **Orientation for new students**  
**Thursday, August 30 from 8:00 am- 12:00 pm**  
Students new to Westland will receive their schedules and visit briefly with their teachers. MCPS bus transportation is provided for students who ride buses during the school year.  
  
Parents are welcome to stay for coffee and conversation with the principal and one another from 8:15 to 9:00 am or from 11:00-11:45 am in the media center.
- **Mix/Mingle Event for New Students and Families**  
**Monday, September 3 from 3:00-5:00 pm**  
Families are invited to meet with a handful of staff and other new families, tour the building and have their last minute questions answered! Students can also try on and purchase PE clothing.
- **First Day of School for Students**  
**Tuesday, September 4 from 8:15 am to 3:00 pm**
- **No School for Students during Rosh Hashanah**  
**Monday, September 10**
- **No School for Students during Yom Kippur**  
**Wednesday, September 19**
- **(optional) 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Health Education Info Session (occurs just prior to Back to School Night)**  
**Thursday, September 20 from 6:15 to 6:45 pm**  
Parents are encouraged to hear about the health curriculum their students will experience for one quarter of the school year. The curriculum and classroom materials will be available to view.

- **Back to School Night for Parents**  
**Thursday, September 20 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm**  
 This is an opportunity for parents to visit briefly with each of their child's teachers to hear an overview of the course. Child minding will be available for kids aged 4 to 11. Shuttle buses will be provided. See info below.
- **Parent Forum- Vaping, Alcohol and Other Drugs**  
**Monday, September 24 at 7:00 pm**  
 Hear from parents, medical professionals and law enforcement personnel about the popularity and accessibility of vaping and other teen trends.
- **Student Photos**  
**Tuesday, September 25** during health or PE class  
 Students will take individual photos for our yearbook and student IDs. Families can opt to purchase photos. Make up photos will be taken on October 23.
- **Parent Visitation/Open House**  
**Monday, October 8 from 8:15-2:11**  
 Throughout the school day Westland parents are invited to visit and sit in any/some/all classes between 1<sup>st</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> period. The PTA/principal invite you to coffee during students' STAR period (8:15-8:43). Parking is quite the challenge!
- **Sixth Grade Outdoor Education**  
**Oct 22-24 or Oct 24-26 (overnight)**  
 All sixth graders are encouraged to attend a three-day, two-night environmental education experiences. More details to follow very soon.

## KEY INFO

### Agenda Books

New this year, students will have options for tracking their assignments.

1. All students have the option to receive a stapled packet for recording assignments. (We will issue a new packet each marking period.)
2. Students may purchase a generic, spiral bound agenda for \$5.00.
3. Students may use a planner, bullet journal, calendar, etc. that they supply.

### Bell Schedules

Our bell schedules include a regular school day, early release day and delayed opening. Our regular school days run from 8:15 am to 3:00 pm.

### Bus Routes

The MCPS division of transportation develops bus routes with the greatest level of forethought. However, there will likely be some route adjustments over the course of the first week or two. **Students should look for the four-digit ROUTE number on their bus not the five-digit bus number. (Typically, the route number is displayed in white decals with black numbering.)** Guest bus passes will not be available the first two weeks of school.

### Cafeteria

The cafeteria uses a computerized cash register system. Depositing funds into an account eliminates the need for students to carry money every day. Students enter their PINs to access their account. The PIN for students returning to Westland remains the same. New students will receive their PIN on the first day of school. Any money left on a student's account last year is available for spending this year.

Parents can make pre-payments to a student's account by credit card prior to the start of school. Visit **MyLunchMoney.com**, to make a prepayment using a credit card. Parents can also check meal account balances, sign up for recurring payments and much more. Students can also deposit checks

or cash to their accounts. Please see our website for additional details.

Middle school meal prices remain the same as last year: Lunch meal- \$2.80, Reduced-price Lunch meal- \$0.40, Breakfast meal- \$1.30, Reduced-price Breakfast meal- \$0.00, Milk- \$0.60

### **Directory Information Withholding**

During the first week of school, students will receive a copy of a [Parental Privacy Form](#). **If you wish to withhold a portion or all of your child's directory information (as defined on the form), please return it to the main office no later than September 14, 2018.**

### **Dress Code**

Many of the outfits our students have been wearing during the summer do NOT meet the Westland dress code. Our basic requirements are that no undergarments show (or show through) and that no clothes reveal the chest, lower back, midriff or buttocks during regular movement. New this year: While exposed bra straps are acceptable, other parts of the bra are not. Shirts must have sleeves or straps and cover stomachs and lower backs. There is no width requirement for straps.

Students should bring a change of clothes if they have any doubts about their fashion choices.

### **Extra-Curricular Activities**

Our activities (which range from softball to yearbook to robotics to green club) will be advertised as soon as we return to school. We will share information about days, sponsors and fees (where appropriate) in mid-September.

### **First Day of School**

Between 7:45 and 8:00 am 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders will gather in the gym (to the left of the main entrance) and eighth graders will gather in the cafeteria (to the right of the main entrance.) Students in any grade who wish to get breakfast should come to the cafeteria.

In the gym and cafeteria, students will look for their homeroom assignment on alphabetical lists by their last name. When dismissed at 8:00, students will report to their homeroom classrooms to

receive their schedules. The next stop will be the STAR (Students and Teacher Achieve Results) advisory period to receive other information. Students will attend their classes and have a 30 minute lunch period.

### **Free and Reduced-price Meal Applications**

Students may qualify for free or reduced-price meals based on household size and income. They may also qualify if they are receiving Food Supplement Program (FSP) or Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA) benefits. Meal benefit eligibility from last school year will remain current only through September or until a 2018-19 application is processed.

Use ONE application for ALL students in the household—including pre-K, Kindergarten and foster—even if they attend different schools. Families may apply for meal benefits for their children at any time during the school year. Applications for meal benefits are sent home with the youngest MCPS child in the family in the information packet given out at the start of each school year. Any family requesting assistance this year must complete a new application this school year. **Meal benefit applications can be completed online.**

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/food-and-nutrition/meal-payments/#FARMS>

### **Homerooms**

On the first day of school students will report to homerooms arranged alphabetically by grade by students' last names. Students will only go to homeroom three other times during the school year for report card distribution. The homeroom lists will be posted in the gym and cafeteria before school on the first day.

### **Hours**

On a typical school day, parents may drop students off to school as early as 7:00 and sit in our lobby to read, listen to music, etc. There is no staff member assigned to supervise students but there are plenty of staff members nearby. Students not involved in after school activities should depart by 3:15.

### **Listserv**

The Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA)-moderated listserv is a great way to stay connected with Westland parents and staff. Daily morning announcements from the school are posted there. Click on the "Join Westland's Listserve" link under the *Westland Quicklinks* on the left side of the Westland homepage.

### **Lockers**

Students will receive their hall locker assignments within the first couple days of school. Students will NOT have time to decorate their lockers on the first day. Locker combinations should not be shared with anyone. Students will also receive small PE lockers. Locks will be supplied by the school for the hall and PE lockers.

### **Physical Education Clothes**

All middle school students within MCPS should change their clothing daily for physical education. Westland imprinted clothing is available for purchase but not required. The change in clothes must include shorts/sweatpants (Westland gear or dark blue) and shirts/sweatshirts (Westland gear, solid gray, or solid white). All clothing should be marked with the student's name. You may [purchase clothes online](#) until Aug 6. Otherwise, students may purchase clothing during the first week of school.

### **Ride On Youth Cruiser SmarTrip® Cards**

Montgomery County residents who are 18 years or younger are eligible to purchase the card. The cost is \$2 per card—ONE CARD PER STUDENT. (Westland will sell the cards in the financial office.) The card is good on any regional transit system that accepts SmarTrip, including Metrobus and Metrorail, but the card must have stored value. Please see additional information on our website.

### **Saturday School**

As you make preparations for the start of the school year we want to tell you about a WONDERFUL academic enrichment program for students in grades 1-12 through the George B. Thomas Sr. Learning Academy more commonly known as "Saturday School." Please visit the

website <http://www.saturdayschool.org/> for information about the sites and programs throughout the county.

**Schedules** Students will receive their class schedules (with courses, teachers and room #s) during homeroom at the start of the first day of school on Tuesday, September 4.

### **STAR (Students and Teachers Achieving Results)**

On most regular school days (but not on our very first day of school), students will begin their day in their STAR class. (This will be listed as "TAP" on student schedules.) During STAR, students will experience school-wide lessons, participate in community-building circles, watch our Wake Up Westland student-produced news magazine and have opportunities for reteaching and reassessing with their teachers.

### **Vaccinations**

There are important immunization requirements for students entering 7<sup>th</sup> grade. The requirements, in place throughout the State of Maryland, require students entering 7<sup>th</sup> grade to have one Tdap (Tetanus-diphtheria-attenuated pertussis) and one meningococcal (MCV4) vaccination before the start of 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Students who do not show proof of the required immunizations will be excluded from attending school at the beginning of the school year. Parents, if you have not done so yet, please contact your doctor to make sure your child is properly immunized. **Submit a copy of the documentation to Westland as soon as possible, but no later than Tuesday, September 4- the first day of school.** Appropriate documents and further information is available on the Westland website.

### **Westland Market/Pantry**

All Westland students and families may access the Westland market/pantry weekly. We especially welcome applesauce, beans, canned fruits or vegetables, cereal, granola/snack bars, pasta, pasta sauce, peanut butter and rice.

**The Faculty and Staff of Westland Middle School  
invite parents/guardians to attend  
Back to School Night  
Thursday, September 20, 2018**



Timing	Topic	Location
6:15- 6:45 pm	(optional) Health Education/Family Life Curriculum Session For Parents of 7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> graders	Media Center
6:00 – 6:45 pm	(optional) Parent Student Teacher Association (PTSA) Welcome Expo (after school activities, volunteer opportunities, spirit wear, etc.)	Cafeteria
7:00 pm	School Welcome and Overview	STAR Classrooms
7:00 – 8:50 pm	8 Minute Teacher Presentations	Classrooms

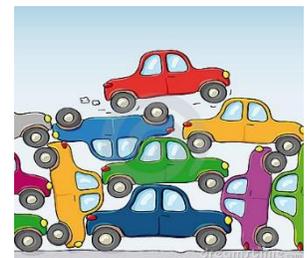
## Parent Shuttle Bus Information- Think Green and Ride a Big Yellow Machine

Parents are invited to ride to/from Westland on a free shuttle bus, which will pick up at/return to BCC High School and a few other stops within Westland neighborhoods.



## Parking Information

- Parking is VERY limited as our staff members' cars fill ALL of our spaces on any given workday! Please arrange to carpool if possible.
- **The Little Falls Library Lot is off limits!** However, you may use Little Flower School's parking lot and walk across our parking lot or the Giant/Rite Aid parking lot located in the Westbard Shopping Center and walk across our fields.



## Formal Child Care?

No, not really. However, we will be showing G-rated movies in the media center if you would like to ask your children (ages four and up) to remain there while you visit classrooms. They can watch the movies, read books, play board games or color. Student volunteers will be present.

## Pantry Donations Welcome

We welcome donations to our school's pantry at Back to School Night. This helps us stock up for the start of school. We are especially in need of applesauce, beans, canned fruit, canned soup, canned veggies, cereal, granola bars/snack bars, pasta, pasta sauce, peanut butter and rice.

