



Wood Acres Elementary School Principal's Update

Mrs. Marita Sherburne, Principal
Mrs. Melanie Knight, Assistant Principal
September 2019

Important Upcoming Dates

September 11	Back To School Night PreK-2 starting at 6:30 p.m.
September 12	Back To School Night Gr. 3-5 starting at 6:30 p.m.
September 30	No School for students and teachers
October 4	Early Dismissal 12:55

Back To School Nights

PTA will have tables set up in front of the building(weather permitting) at 6:00 p.m. Class presentations begin at 6:30 p.m. This is an adult only event as we do not have child care. Come learn about the things that will be happening in the classroom this year.

WELCOME NEW STAFF

Mrs. Jodi Arlen - Paraeducator and lunch recess assistant

Mrs. Linda Cassell - part time ESOL Teacher

Mrs. Elaine Chase - Paraeducator and lunch recess assistant

Mrs. Jesse Deligidish - Grade 2 teacher

Mrs. Ashley Molzahn - Kindergarten teacher

Ms. Liz Siegel - Kindergarten teacher

Ms. Shannell Stevens - Paraeducator and lunch recess assistant

Attendance Phone Calls



If you know that your child will be late or absent from school, please call the main office attendance phone line, (240) 740-1127 prior to 9:00 a.m. and leave a message. Leaving a message will help us to improve our customer service and attend to children and adults in the front office more efficiently.

Better yet use the online Report an Absence Link on left side of Wood Acres homepage.

Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

'Tis the time of year to review procedures and make sure you and your family are practicing safe habits, walking, driving or busing. The majority of our community does a wonderful job at arrival and dismissal. However, here are a few reminders for parents and caregivers.

Arrival /Kiss and Go

1. Do not get out of your car and hold up traffic. Students should exit side of car closest to the building to be safe.
2. Follow the signs and exit the loop TURN RIGHT/NO LEFT TURN
3. Parents will be permitted to walk children to class the FIRST DAY. But should exit to keep hallways clear as soon as child has found their classroom. After the first day, parents should say good-bye outside the kiss and go door, or front door flagpole.
4. If you drive to school park in designated street parking only. Attend to the NO PARKING signs. They are in place to keep people safe.
5. Cross Cromwell Drive at the crossing guard area.

Dismissal

1. Kiss and Go loop will be closed to cars and open to parents picking up at front door and kiss and go door.
2. Kindergarten and PEP walkers will be dismissed at front door.
3. Gr. 1-5 walkers will be dismissed from the kiss and go door.
4. Please make every attempt to cross at the crossing guard to be safe from drivers and busses.
5. Do not bring your dogs close to the exits. They should remain on the grassy areas. Do not leave pets unattended anywhere on school or park grounds, tied to signs, fences or trees. This is for the safety of your pet as well as the children.

When possible, please walk, don't drive to school. Be conscientious of the neighbors when parking along adjacent streets.

Happy New School Year!

We welcomed more than 660 students to Wood Acres this year. Despite the weather not being very cooperative, we had a very smooth start to the school year. We are very happy you here and hope that you will take advantage of all the parent/community centered activities we have planned throughout the year.



Parent Beginning of Year Checklist

MCPS QuickNotes is a free, subscription email service that provides parents with an important information connection to MCPS. *To subscribe, visit www.mcpsquicknotes.org fill in your email address, choose a language preference, then, click “submit” to create your personal profile.*

MCPS Parent Portal - <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/mymcps-classroom/> videos and directions on how to sign up. Make sure you update your emergency information on the portal.

PTA Ato Z Connect is a way for you to get community and school announcements
PTA website link: <https://www.woodacrespta.org/who-we-are-1/#atozbanner>

Cafeteria - Checks should be made payable to Wood Acres Cafeteria. Lunch accounts may also be monitored and funded via mylunchmoney.com . You will need your child's MCPS Student ID # to set up the account. ID numbers can be found on last year's report card. ID numbers are also available from your child's teacher, or the main office staff.

Parent Handbook and Lunch Recess Handbook

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/woodacres> When you review with your child, you will click a button at the end for them to get a special wrist band “My effort and attitude determine everything!”

Child Abuse Neglect online training – Once you have completed the online presentation please print email and bring to school for our records.

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/childabuseandneglect/>

End of Day Plans

Play-dates should be prearranged at least one day before they are to occur and a note should be sent to the classroom teacher to clarify the exit plan. Advanced planning will decrease your child's anxiety when plans are altered. While you are attending to the needs of one child, here at school, we are ensuring that all students arrive to their destination safely. Our buses are quite full this year and we cannot accommodate additional riders going to play-dates or locations. If there are emergency last minute changes, you may call and leave a message with one of the people in the office. Email is not an efficient method to communicate this information since we do not always get to check it before end of day. We pass on the messages to classroom teachers by 3:00. Your cooperation with this practice is greatly appreciated.

Emergency Drills

Throughout the school year, each school in MCPS is required to conduct five fire drill evacuations and two lockdown and shelter drills. The regular practice of these different types of drills helps children and adults in the building to problem solve and improve response to unforeseen circumstances. Directions for all these drills are posted in the classrooms for assistance with appropriate safety steps.

Fire drills require everyone to evacuate the building. All students, staff and parents are accounted for at their evacuation location. Should you be volunteering in the building at that time, please leave the building through the nearest exit and relocate to a classroom teacher so that your presence can be noted.

SHELTER drill is used to alert staff that an emergency or crisis exists at or near our school. Students, staff and parents are accounted for in their classrooms using the email system and walkie talkie. Instruction generally continues unless there are unusual circumstances where activity might need to be restricted. An elevated SHELTER may require that the doors be locked and students remain in classrooms without switching for specials, lunch or recess for a period of time.

LOCKDOWN drill is used to describe an emergency or crisis at our school. LOCKDOWN is called if danger exists inside or outside the building and requires moving to an immediate lockdown mode. When it is safe to do so, students, staff and parents are accounted for using the email system in their lockdown location. If you are volunteering in the building at the time of the announcement, move immediately to the nearest securable space.

ACTIVE SHOOTER drill will also be conducted this year under the supervision of MCPS security. As with all drills, we will talk through steps with everyone so they can learn and not be fearful that the drill is REAL. It is a delicate balance we are trying to maintain with all the drills.

WAVE Values for the Month

Being a good student at school is more than just the work children do with their teachers, it is also about interacting in a positive way with others both in and out of the classroom.

MORAL COURAGE is doing the right thing even when it isn't the popular idea. Standing up and telling friends when you think they have said or done something wrong is tough, but shows moral courage.

RESPONSIBILITY – Being responsible means doing what is asked of you and taking it seriously. When you complete your work assignments, you are being a responsible learners