

# Woodland Middle School Newsletter

October 2019 - (360) 841-2850



# Trojans

## PRINCIPAL NOTES

Thanks for a great start to the 2019-20 school year. As principal of Woodland Middle School, I am very appreciative of the effort of families on behalf of their children. The year has started smoothly and we are off to a great first quarter. I want to say thanks to all of the families that attended Lunch and Lockers. We are glad that you joined us and took the opportunity to meet some of your child's teachers and tour the building. We had an amazing turnout thanks to your support.

We are excited to enter our second year of implementing our tiered reading infrastructure. This initiative helps us meet individual student needs at current reading levels. It is our goal that every student can read at grade level or above when they leave WMS. We have been able to fund staff and offer a variety of reading classes thanks to support from our school board, district office, and Title I funding. Please continue to encourage reading at home to give your child extra practice. Additionally, listed below are some helpful tips in supporting your student with homework this year.

### How You can help your student with homework

1. Provide a clean, quiet space apart from the main living area for your student to do homework.
2. Help your student with the content of homework by:
  - ▶ explaining confusing concepts to the best of your ability
  - ▶ proofreading completed work
  - ▶ helping your student make a study plan to complete assignments
  - ▶ reviewing your student's planner to discuss assignments that day
3. Set up a routine for homework. Work with your student to set up a time and location for homework completion and stick to it!
4. REMEMBER, this is not YOUR homework. If your student has difficulty, encourage him/her to contact the teacher with the problem.
5. Problem solve with your student who is having trouble with homework. Don't bring up past failures, focus on the task at hand.
6. Encourage your student and praise him/her for success on homework assignments.

### ***Adapted from: Positive Discipline A Teacher's A-Z Guide***

Our theme this year is "Champions Find A Way". We want students to believe in themselves and strive to win at the game of learning and success. Finally, we look forward to serving you this year. If you have any questions or need any additional support, please contact the school at 360-841-2850. We anticipate an awesome and academically rewarding school year.

Sincerely,

James Johnston, Principal  
Woodland Middle School

## Family FAQs by Mrs. Eilts

I've recently had some great questions regarding scheduling and our reading intervention program. See below for some important facts to help answer these commonly asked questions.

### How come some students get more electives than others?

All students, grades 5-8, have 7 classes. Here's the basic breakdown:

For 5/6th grade students, the 7 classes are as follows:	For 7/8th grade students, the 7 classes are as follows:
2 ELA CORE	1 ELA CORE
2 Math CORE	1 Reading Intervention <u>or</u> 1 Elective
1 Science CORE	2 Math CORE <u>or</u> 1 Advanced Math + 1 Elective
1 Personal Finance (sem) + PE/Health (sem)	1 Science CORE
1 Elective <u>or</u> Rdg Intervention	1 Social Studies (sem) + PE/Health (sem)
	1 Elective

In summary, all 7/8th grade students get 1-3 electives, based on academic support needs. 5/6th grade students either have an elective or a reading intervention class, also based on academic support needs.

### How come my student is in reading intervention when they weren't in it before? Are they doing worse now?

Not necessarily. The structure of reading intervention looks different for 5/6th graders vs. 7/8th graders. Here's how it works:

All 5/6th grade students have 2 ELA CORE classes. 5/6th grade students who need additional support are enrolled in a Tier 3 Reading class. These classes are small and do targeted instruction to increase student achievement in the areas of reading multisyllabic words accurately, increasing vocabulary and strengthening comprehension through writing short answers.

All 7/8th grade students have only 1 ELA CORE class. 7/8th grade students who need additional support are enrolled in a Reading class. There are two levels of reading intervention at the 7/8th grade level: Tier 3 and Tier 2. Tier 3 classes are focused on reading multisyllabic words with accuracy, increasing vocabulary and strengthening comprehension through writing short answer comprehension questions. Tier 2 classes are more advanced, focusing on increasing vocabulary and demonstrating comprehension of grade level text through writing both short and extended responses. Both Tier 2 and Tier 3 classes are small and do targeted instruction to increase student achievement so students perform at or above grade level expectations.

### Can my student graduate from reading intervention?

Yes! Half way through the year at the semester, students are eligible to graduate from reading intervention. In order to graduate, students must perform well in the following areas:

- ELA CORE class
- Reading Intervention class
- January iReady Assessment
- January Acadience (DIBELS) Assessment
- ELA & Reading Teacher Recommendation
- Administration & Title Coordinator Approval

Keep in mind, we want to offer any and all support we can to ensure student success in their learning and performance on classroom and state assessments. It would be so disappointing to exit a student too early, and then the following year qualify for reading intervention again. Better to stay in reading intervention all year if it's a close call to receive needed support to excel and graduate out of the program for good the following year. But of course, each student is considered individually so the decision is personalized. **Have other questions or input? Don't hesitate to reach out to me!**

## **Families with 5th graders**

Beginning Wednesday, October 3rd there will be a weekly after school math club! The club will be held on Wednesdays from 3:45-4:30. This is a great time to get help on the weekly homework, make-up missing assignments, complete missed quizzes/tests, and/or just get extra math help! Please come ready to work and have transportation home afterward.

## **Digital Citizenship Week**

During the week of October 14th through 18th we will be bringing awareness to digital citizenship. Digital citizenship is the ability to think critically, behave safely, and participate responsibly in the digital world. With the increased amount of time students spend in front of a screen, this is becoming ever more important.

This fall students will be completing lessons from Common Sense Education. Common Sense is the nation's leading nonprofit organization dedicated to helping kids thrive in a world of media and technology. If you are looking for information or resources to help you and your child navigate the digital world safely and responsibly, check out their website for parents: Common Sense Media at [www.commonsensemedia.org](http://www.commonsensemedia.org).

For more information or questions regarding Digital Citizenship Week, contact Candice Shepherd at [shepherc@woodlandschools.org](mailto:shepherc@woodlandschools.org) or (360) 841-2987.

## **Fall Book Fair**

Our annual Fall Book Fair will be held October 21st through 25th in our library. It will be open during regular school hours and in the evening on October 22nd during conferences. This is a great opportunity to purchase books and support our school at the same time. Cash, check, debit and credit welcome. For more information or questions regarding the fair, contact Candice Shepherd at [shepherc@woodlandschools.org](mailto:shepherc@woodlandschools.org) or (360) 841-2987.

And don't forget! You can purchase online from an expanded selection of titles Pre-K through adult by going to <http://www.scholastic.com/bf/woodlandms2019> and following the link toward the bottom of the page. Online shopping runs October 16th through 29th.

**"Be the change you wish to see in the world"**

## **PTSA Annual Walk for Kids Fundraiser**

Hello Middle School Parents,

The PTSA's Annual Walk for Kids is coming up on October 11th. We will be sending the packets home with kids on Friday, September 27th. We are asking that kids bring them back by Thursday October 10th.

Thank you all for your help, we are looking forward to a successful fundraiser this year. If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at: [anagee1018@gmail.com](mailto:anagee1018@gmail.com) or [woodlandpts@gmail.com](mailto:woodlandpts@gmail.com).

Alisa Agee, WPTSA Treasurer

## **PTSA Meeting Dates**

Our October meeting will be October 17th @ 6pm at North Fork Elementary School in the Library. We will be asking for volunteers for the annual Walk-a-Thon on Friday October 11th. If you have any questions, please feel free to email us at [woodlandpts@gmail.com](mailto:woodlandpts@gmail.com) or find us on Facebook at Woodland PTSA.

**Here are the dates and locations for the rest of the meetings:**

**November 21st, 6pm - Woodland Middle School Library**

**April 16th, 6pm - Columbia Elementary School (Formerly WPS)**

**May 21st, 6pm - North Fork Elementary School (Formerly WIS)**

## **Volunteers**

If you plan on volunteering this year at WMS, please fill out a Volunteer Disclosure Statement that can be located online at [Woodlandschools.org](http://Woodlandschools.org) website or come into the school office and fill one out. <https://bit.ly/2n1Ea4n>

## October Important Dates

Oct 1 - Winter 1 Sports Registration Opens on Family ID @<https://bit.ly/2FYZZeb>

Oct 3 - Woodland Trap Club tryouts/orientation @6pm at Vancouver Trap Club

Oct 4 - Boys' Golf & Girls' Soccer Pictures

Oct 5 - XC Harriet Classic @Bryant Park

Oct 11 - PTSA Walk-a-Thon Fundraiser

Oct 12- XC Bill Kehoe South Sound Invite@Saint Martin's Univeristy

Oct 17 - The Great Washington Shake Out Drill

Oct 17 - PTSA Meeting 6pm, North Fork Elementary School

Oct 18 - Spirit Day (Breast Cancer Awareness)

Oct 22 - Early Release @12:35 pm

Oct 22 - **Fall Conferences 1-3:30 pm & 4:30-7:15pm**

Oct 23 - Early Release @12:35 pm

Oct 23 - **Fall Conferences 1-3:30 pm**

Oct 24 - Early Release @12:35 pm

Oct 24 - **Fall Conferences 1-3:30 pm**

Oct 24 - Early Release @12:35 pm

Oct 24 - **Fall Conferences 1-3:30 pm**

Oct 24 - XC League Championships @TBD

Oct 25 - Early Release @12:35 pm

Oct 28 - **Picture Retakes**

Oct 28 - Winter 1 Practices Begin - Wrestling & Girls' Basketball

Oct 29 - WMS Fall Choral Concert @WHS

Oct 30 - Quarter 1 Ends

Oct 31 - **Non Student Day/ Staff Day  
(NO School)**



## Give your child a healthy start!

Mornings can be rushed, but it is important to make time for breakfast.

Children can benefit from the School Breakfast Program! Studies show that school breakfast can raise test scores while improving classroom attentiveness and behavior. Make sure your kids start the school day with a healthy meal!



In Honor of National School Lunch Week, we will be having a "Free Lunch Friday" on Friday, October 18th. Any students can join us for a free lunch. Make sure to come check it out!



**A BIG thank you to Invest ED for supporting our school and working toward their mission to provide immediate help for secondary students in Washington to improve their attendance, engagement and graduation rates.**

## **NEW WMS Supervision Schedule**

Commons doors will be open at 9:15 am (Monday) and 8:00 am (T-F). This is when the school can provide supervision for students. Students will need to remain in the commons area until 9:35 am (Monday) and 8:20 am (T-F). After that time, students may go to the following supervised areas:

- Yellow Gym
- Outside Area near the Yellow Gym
- Stay in the Commons
- Go to the Library
- Head to their lockers

## **Messages from the Woodland Middle School Office Staff**

Parents it is imperative that you contact the office as early as possible in the day with messages that need to be delivered to students. **If at all possible, contact the office prior to 3 pm with messages.**

Food Service payments must be received **prior to 10:00 am** in order for them to be processed for the same business day.

### **Nondiscrimination Statement:**

Woodland Public School District does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression, gender identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following employee(s) has been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination:

- Vicky Barnes, Title, IX Officer, Civil Right Coordinator, and Affirmative Action Officer, 800 Second St. Woodland, WA 98674, [barnesv@woodlandschools.org](mailto:barnesv@woodlandschools.org), (360) 841-2702
- Jake Hall, 504 Coordinator, 800 Second St. Woodland, WA 98674, [halj@woodlandschools.org](mailto:halj@woodlandschools.org), (360) 841-2720

You can report discrimination and discriminatory harassment to any school staff member or to the district's Civil Rights Coordinator, listed above. You also have the right to file a complaint. For a copy of your district's nondiscrimination policy and procedure, contact your school or district office or view it online at [www.woodlandschools.org](http://www.woodlandschools.org).