



Wolf Pack News

Principal's Corner - Mr. Bryan Boykin

Dear WMS Families,

Welcome to the 25-26 school year! It is always a little bittersweet to see the summer come to an end, but the start of a new school year always brings excitement and energy into our community. The administrative team, counseling department, and custodial staff have been hard at work making sure everything is ready for the first day of school.

Inside the pages of this newsletter, you will find information needed to prepare for the school year. Additional information will be sent on the first day of school that will require your immediate attention. School supply lists can be found on the WMS website.

This year at Williamsburg we will be adding several new members to our family. Please join me in welcoming them, as we look forward to the experience and energy they will bring to our amazing staff. Listed below, are all of our new staff members for the 25/26 school year.

New Staff

Zaria Gassaway- PE	Lukas Eade- Math	Alinah Mphofe- Special Ed	Katherine Rixey- Math
Sarah Griffin-Math	Stuart Ki- Math	Julia Davidson- Special Ed	Shannon Coryell- ELA
Alyssa Shevchuk- ELA	Caitlin Malley- ELA	Walter Schutz- ELA	Shawna Carmody- Social Studies
Glenda Ortiz-Dumey- EL	Faisal Hassen-Health/PE	Shanea Blount - FLS	Carrie Simkin - Special Ed
Damaris Colon Acevedo-Spanish	James Randle - Theater	Bryan Whitcomb-Science	Taylor Burke-MIPA IA
Abigail Daniel-MIPA IA	Katherine Novello-School Sub	Wanda Gehring - School Sub	Abigail Strebe-School Sub
Margaret Purtell- Social Studies			

As we close on the summer, remember that middle school is an exciting time for exploration and discovery. If you are new to middle school, don't worry, we are here to support you! If you are a returning student, we are looking forward to helping you take the next step on your middle school journey, and continuing the work we have already begun.

Williamsburg Middle School is a wonderful place to learn and grow. We place an emphasis on effort, good citizenship, and challenge our students academically to be successful. The staff is committed to our students and helping them explore their interests as they continue to discover who they are and what they want to be. Enjoy the rest of your summer. We look forward to seeing you all very soon!

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WMS Important Phone Numbers:

Main Office:
703-228-5450

Attendance:
703-228-5444

After School Activities:
703-228-2446

Registrar:
703-228-5441

Clinic:
703-228-5454

Check-In Program:
703-228-5476

Fax:
703-536-2870



Colleen Koval, Assistant Principal 6th

Dear 6th Graders, I am happy to welcome each of you as our newest members of the Wolf Pack where I will be your 6th grade Assistant Principal. I am looking forward to the opportunity to get to know each of you and the **class of 2028**. I know we will do great things together, and we are going to have a terrific year!

So, what makes 6th grade special? As 6th grade students, I will look to each of you to embrace the WMS culture by emulating our three "R's": **Respect Yourself, Respect Others and Respect Our Shared Environment**. It is important that you do your best each day by supporting each other and your teachers as you learn, share your experiences, demonstrate kindness and acceptance at WMS. It is also time to **Level Up on Responsibility** since 6th grade requires a higher degree of organization. You will be required to manage multiple classes, complete all of your assignments and consistently demonstrate increased independence. I am looking forward to learning about you, your goals and aspirations and know that I am here to support you, always. Remember, put the "W" in everything you do at school, the community, athletics, at home, in performing arts and at extra-curricular activities as you represent the **WMS class of 2028**.

Please join me welcoming each of the amazing Williamsburg teachers and staff back to WMS. Let's have a terrific school year! **Go Wolves!!!**

Dr. Koval

Yolanda Nashid, Assistant Principal 7th

Dear 7th Graders,

Welcome back! Mr. Gardner and I are very proud of the excellent job you did last year! For those of you who are new to WMS, welcome to the Wolf Pack! **Together**, we are the **class of 2027**. Better known as **Fraggles**. Why Fraggles? I'm glad that you asked, I can't wait to explain!

Like all Williamsburg Wolves, we follow our **"3 R's"**:

- ★ Respect yourself
- ★ Respect others
- ★ Respect our shared environment

This means that we are kind, courageous, and always willing to help others. As Fraggles, we are also high-spirited, full of laughter, and we know what it means to work hard!

You are now prepared to take on new responsibilities and new adventures. This year will be full of exciting opportunities! It is also a great year to continue to improve your self-advocacy skills. Don't worry! If you need help, just ask an adult. Your teachers, Mr. Gardner, and myself are here to help guide you along the way. We hope to see many of you taking advantage of the sports, after school clubs, and activities offered at WMS. Middle school is a time to try new things, and see what makes you the unique individual that you are!

Let's get ready for an awesome 7th grade year, and remember, "Put the W in EVERYTHING!" Can't wait to see you 😊

Go Wolves!

Ms. Nashid

Nicole Johnson, Assistant Principal 8th

Dear 8th Graders (Class of 2026)

Welcome back to the WolfPack! I can't wait to see your smiling faces and to officially welcome you as leaders of our school community. To our new students joining us this year, welcome to Williamsburg!

WHAT SETS YOU APART as an 8TH GRADER?

Leading the Pack:
As 8th graders, you are the leaders of WMS. While our 7th graders are returning for a second year, you are entering your third, and final, year here. With that comes the responsibility to lead by example. I encourage each of you to always embody our three "R's": **Respect Yourself, Respect Others, and Respect Our Shared Environment**. Your actions set the tone, and I know you will rise to the occasion. This leadership also means supporting one another, your teachers, counselors, substitutes, and our dedicated cafeteria and custodial teams. Show kindness, embrace differences, and help create a welcoming space for everyone in the WolfPack.

Time Management:
This year comes with more responsibility and independence. Stay organized, manage your time well, and stay engaged in class to balance academics, activities, and more. These habits will help prepare you for high school. Set goals, try something new, and get involved in our school community—I'm here to support you every step of the way.

Let's make it a memorable year. Put the "W" in all you do and lift each other up as the incredible WMS Class of 2026!

Go
Dr. Johnson

Wolves!



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Important Dates to Remember

Aug 13 - New Family Orientation (*new to APS & transfer student 7th/8th grade only*)

Aug 21 - PALS Day (6th grade only)

Aug 25 - First Day Of School

Aug 29 & Sept 1 - Holiday - Labor Day

Sept 17 - Back to School Night

Sept 23 - Holiday- Rosh Hashanah

Oct 2- Holiday- Yom Kippur

Oct 10 - Early Release- Parent/Teacher Conferences

Oct 13 - No School for Students

Oct 21- Diwali

Oct 29- Early Release- PL for Staff

Nov 3 - End of First Quarter

Nov 4- No School for Students (grade prep)

Clinic Corner

Hello Williamsburg Family!

Here are some of the services we provide:

- ❖ Routine first-aid and sick-child care
- ❖ Emergency care
- ❖ Administration of medications (Virginia law requires that all medications, prescription or over-the-counter, given in school be accompanied by a medication authorization form)
- ❖ Hearing/vision screenings (for all 7th grade students, new students, and by special request)
- ❖ Coordination with teachers of accommodations relating to short-term (i.e. concussions, injuries) and chronic conditions
- ❖ Case management of students with complex health-care needs
- ❖ Coordination with special education staff and mental health/counseling staff
- ❖ Education on a variety of topics to students, staff, and parents
- ❖ Prevention measures and student contact tracing of communicable diseases

Helpful Links:

- ❖ [School Health](#)
- ❖ [Medication Authorization Form](#)
- ❖ [Allergy Action Plan](#)
- ❖ [Asthma Action Plan](#)
- ❖ [Diabetes Management Plan](#)
- ❖ [Seizure Action Plan](#)

Reminders:

- ❖ All medications in school need a signed Medication Authorization form filled out and brought to school by a parent.
- ❖ Accommodation for injuries 3 days or longer require a note from a doctor.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or if you'd like to discuss anything related to your child's health care needs. We look forward to working with the families and staff!

Have a safe and healthy rest of the summer!!

Clinic Contact Info:

Public Health Nurse: Melissa Wong; Email: mwong@arlingtonva.us

School Health Aide: Rahel Gebregiorgis; Email: rgebregiorgis@arlingtonva.us

Clinic hours: 7:30am- 3:00pm

Clinic phone number: 703-228-5454



Teams, TAs and PALS DAY

Team and TA Assignments:

PALS DAY for 6th Grade Families:

Pastries, Agendas, Lockers, and Schedules (PALS) are just a few of the things we will go over on PALS Day. Sixth grade teachers, administration, counselors and WMS Student Ambassadors are eager to make introductions and help ease the transition to middle school.

Students and parents will meet in the auditorium to start. Each team will go over a typical 6th grade day and answer questions. Students will then leave with their TA teachers for an introduction to their classroom and to practice their locker combination, while parents stay for additional information. Teachers and student ambassadors will be there to help with locker combinations/questions, find classrooms on student schedules and answer all things WMS questions. Students can drop off any purchased school supply items in their locker on this day.

STUDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO COME TO PALS DAY WITH QUESTIONS READY TO BE ASKED OF CURRENT STUDENTS AND TEACHERS!

Parents and students will reunite in the cafeteria for snacks. This is a great opportunity to mingle with Williamsburg staff. Also, the PE department will be selling uniforms online this year, (more information can be found on page 6). **Don't worry if you cannot attend PALS Day!** August 25th will be here soon and our 6th grade teachers do a terrific job of acclimating students to Williamsburg Middle School.

Date: **Thursday, August 21st**

<u>Times:</u>	8am - 9:30am	Grizzlies
	10am - 11:30am	Coyotes
	12:15pm - 1:45pm	Panthers

Counseling Corner - Ms. Russo

Wolf Pack Family!

I hope you are having a great summer and taking time to recharge your batteries and enjoy time with family and friends. We are so excited to kick off a new school year! We are looking forward to continuing to see how we can support all students and their families with their middle school experience. The school counseling team this year will be: Ms. Bleakley - 6th grade, Mr. Gardner - 7th grade, Ms. Brenckle - 8th grade and Ms. Battle, Intervention Counselor, who supports all grade levels. We are looking forward to seeing returning students, students new to APS and our new 6th grade class in August!

Go Wolves!

Director of Counseling

Student Schedules and Course Choices

The School Counseling Department is working hard over the summer to finalize schedules. Please remember that this takes time to balance classes and, though there may be some platforms and apps where students are able to see their schedules, *all* schedules are subject to change as we continue to balance classes and register new students. As a reminder, there will be cases where student alternates to their electives will need to be used as there are courses that are not able to be run due to low enrollment or staffing resources to offer the course. In addition, there are times where conflicts arise in scheduling because, as we are a smaller middle school, we have fewer times in the schedule where different courses are able to be offered.



The Office of School Nutrition Services provides a variety of nutritious choices for breakfast and lunch every day. Our menus are planned by a registered Dietician in accordance with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans. The school lunch program is operated under the federally funded National School Lunch program and administered by the USDA and the Virginia Department of Education.

- **Breakfast \$2.25 Lunch \$3.60 (Student Second Lunch \$4.60)**

Arlington Public Schools provide free meals and reduced-price meals for elementary, middle and high school students who are eligible under the National School Lunch Program and National School Breakfast Program. Children from households whose income is at or below designated financial levels are eligible for free or reduced-priced meals. Applications are available here: <https://www.myschoolapps.com/> We look forward to serving you this school year.

Arlington Public Schools offers students and parents flexibility in paying for meals, through the **MySchoolBucks app**, ([My School Bucks](#)) a secure online payment portal that accepts VISA® or MasterCard®

From the Office

Going to be absent or need to get your homework?

To be sure absences are properly recorded and excused, a parent/guardian must contact the school. A phone call from a parent or guardian to the Attendance Line or an email to the Attendance Secretary will excuse an absence, if the reason meets APS policy. Contact with the school must be made within 48 hours of a student's return to excuse the absence.

If students are absent for more than two days, parents can request homework by calling the office by 9:00 am, and the homework will be available by 3:00 pm in the front office that same day.

Attendance hotline: [703-228-5444](tel:703-228-5444) or [submit on Parentvue](#)

Email: williamsburg.attendance@apsva.us

Messages & Deliveries for Your Student

We understand that sometimes students forget things. Please limit phone messages and drop off items to **emergency situations** only. Please label items, including lunches with your student's name and grade level and place it in the appropriate grade level box inside the front doors of the building.

To keep class disruptions to a minimum students must come to the office during their lunch or class transition to pick up their items.

Transportation Questions?

Please remember that the transportation office is open to receive phone calls if you have questions. Additionally, there is a list of frequently asked questions available on the County Website:

www.arlington.k12.va.us/Page/2933

Transportation Call Center: 703-228-6640

The Call Center is open
6:00 am– 6:00 pm weekdays

Fall bus assignments for bus eligible students will be posted in ParentVue the week before school begins.



After School Activities & Late Bus

We encourage every student to get involved at Williamsburg Middle School. There is something for everyone. We have an extensive After School Activities Program run by our Activities Coordinator, Ms. Hogwood. Have an idea for a club or activity? Students who want to start a club or activity are encouraged to contact Ms. Hogwood. She will help them get started.

Williamsburg also has an Interscholastic Sports Program. To try out, students must have a [physical](#) dated after May 1st of the current school year. Fall sports include tennis, girls' and boys' soccer, diving, and cheerleading and girls basketball. Winter sports include wrestling and boys' basketball. Spring sports include swimming and track. Tryouts are required for all sports except diving, swimming, wrestling, and track. Late buses are provided for all athletes on game and practice days. Eighth graders can participate in Yorktown sports teams such as cross county, field hockey, football, baseball, softball, volleyball, crew, and lacrosse.

Please hold all sports forms until August 28th, 2025. Electronic copies of sports forms will NOT be accepted. Sports will begin as early as the **second week of school**.

The Intramural Program is an extension of our Interscholastic Sports Program and Physical Education Program. Students are encouraged to participate in activities such as: flag football, soccer, volleyball, softball, basketball, field hockey, ultimate Frisbee, badminton and fitness/weight room.

The Intramural Program meets Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, from 3:30pm to 4:05pm. Students play sports in teams under the supervision of WMS staff. All students are welcome to attend any day they choose. There are two After School Periods, with most clubs and activities taking place during After School Period 1.

After School Period 1 is from 2:45 PM-3:40 PM

After School Period 2 is from 3:40 PM-4:05 PM

Late Buses are provided Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday for students staying after school. **The late bus leaves Williamsburg at 4:15 PM.**

Check the WMS Activities calendar on the school website for more information about activity meeting dates, times, and information.

PE Uniforms

Shirt \$11.00
Shorts \$13.50
Running Shorts \$18.00
String gym bags \$9.00

THREE EASY STEPS TO ORDER:

-Online: [PE Uniforms Link](#)

-Choose your items and add them to your cart

-Securely checkout with your credit card

All goods will be delivered to the school and will be distributed by the PE department.

Size charts are available for each item. Click on "View Size Charts" above the size option for more details.

Ordering is open through August 10th. All sales are final.

There is no school-based sale. Uniforms only available online.

2025-2026 Yearbook

The WMS Yearbook is a great way to highlight, record, and commemorate this school year!

Cost: \$47.00

Order Form Options:

- **Online** (preferred)
- **Hard Copy** – available by request only (Please return completed forms with cash or check made out to WMS)

Questions? Contact Ms. McFerran, Yearbook Teacher:
andrea.mcferran@apsva.us



Technology

FOR PARENTS: PARENTVUE AND SCHOOLTALK EMAILS:

If you have any problems with logging into ParentVue or forgot your password, please see the [ParentVue and Canas Help page](#). If you never activated your account for ParentVue, please contact our main office at 703-228-5450.

If you are not receiving SchoolTalk emails, please log into your ParentVue account. You can update your email within ParentVue. That's the email that receives the SchoolTalk messages.

FOR STUDENT DEVICES:

6th grade WMS students will receive and configure their iPads in the beginning weeks of school. Returning to APS students will need to hand back their old iPads from their APS elementary schools. They will also be familiarized with the APS Acceptable Use Policy for the 2025-26 school year. More information will be sent to students and families at a later time.

Students should report any technical issues to their TA teachers. Their TA teachers will report these issues through the technical support system.

CANVAS OBSERVER ACCOUNTS:

If you'd like access to all of your students' Canvas courses, please follow these [instructions](#).

Important URLs to note:

ParentVue access:

https://va-arl-psv.edupoint.com/PXP2_Login.aspx

Please contact our ITC, Christine Stokes-Beverley, if you have questions at christine.stokes@apsva.us



A Note From the WMS PTA

Greetings Williamsburg Families!

I am excited to welcome our new and returning Wolf Pack families to the Williamsburg Middle School (WMS) Parent Teacher Association (PTA). My name is Mike O'Leary, and I will be your WMS PTA President during the 2025-2026 school year. As the parent of two rising 8th graders, I look forward to working with your families and the incredible staff at WMS this year.

The PTA is committed to providing a safe, enriching educational environment for our students by supporting WMS families, teachers, and staff. Below are three ways you can support our PTA:

1. Join: The first and most important way you can support our PTA is by becoming a member. Our PTA membership dues begin at \$15. These dues help cover our PTA operations, with a portion supporting our parent organization, Virginia PTA. Additionally, the WMS PTA has an optional Activity Fee of \$40 per student, which helps fund grade level activities like Fall Fest, school dances, Courtyard Chaos for the 6th/7th graders, and end-of-year activities for the 8th graders. Donations to No Frills are also optional but are used to help fund PTA-sponsored programs like teacher classroom grants, which enhance the classroom learning experience. *These PTA supported activities are open to **ALL** students, regardless of a family's ability to pay dues, activity fees, or donate, and as a non-profit, your donations are tax deductible.*

2. Stay Informed: The PTA sends a weekly newsletter throughout the school year which includes important dates, information, and contact details for the PTA Board. To sign up for the newsletter, please click [here](#).

The PTA also holds regular meetings to discuss upcoming events at the school and issues of interest to WMS parents including a variety of topics that impact the education of students at WMS and in Arlington County more generally. Because we appreciate that WMS families are busy during the school year, we offer options to attend these meetings virtually.

3. Volunteer: There are always opportunities to donate your time or ideas to support our PTA. Whether you have interest in a long term position or assisting on a one-time project, please reach out to us.

Volunteer opportunities with WMS PTA are also regularly posted in the weekly newsletter and on the Williamsburg Middle School PTA Facebook page. We always need volunteers who can donate their time to plan and support PTA events like our Book Fair, School Picture Day, Wolfchella, and Teacher Appreciation Week.

I also invite you to connect with the PTA through our [website](#) and [Facebook](#). I hope all of our WMS families, students, and staff are enjoying a relaxing, healthy, and safe summer. I look forward to seeing you in the Fall!

If you have questions or want to discuss any of the points above, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at president@wmspta.org.

Mike O'Leary, WMS PTA President