



# Wolf Pack News

## Principal's Corner - Mr. Bryan Boykin

Dear WMS Families,

Welcome to the 23-24 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 welcoming 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 23/24 school year.

### New Staff

Brihanna Russell- English Teacher  
Emily Seifert - Special Education Teacher  
Joshua Bruno - Math Teacher  
Malika Mouflet- Special Education Teacher  
Katherine Hibner- English Teacher

Courtney Morse-- Special Education Teacher  
Bailey Valdick- Special Education Teacher  
Jennifer Taylor - Special Education Teacher  
Natalie Battle - Intervention Counselor  
Roza Dizayee- English Teacher

Megan Rabatin- English Teacher  
Kate Delenick- Reading Teacher

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 help 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 interest 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



### Nicole Johnson, Assistant Principal

Dear 6th Graders,

I hope you are relaxing and making special memories with your friends and families. It is now time to look forward to a wonderful new school year at Williamsburg Middle - home of the Wolves!

My name is Mrs. Johnson, and I am your assistant principal for this school year. I welcome you to WMS, and I am thrilled to support you in this exciting new middle school experience. I know you have many questions about your transition to middle school and 6th grade. Your teachers and all the staff here have been preparing to welcome and support you so you can have a successful first day and week! More information regarding all the important things you need to know as a 6th grader is available in this newsletter and on the WMS website. Additional information will be sent on the first day of school

We have high expectations for every student at Williamsburg Middle. Our students are fun, kind, and ready to learn. We also believe in working together. You are coming to a learning environment that will help foster a lifetime love of learning and the opportunity to meet new peers and experience new experiences before high school. I hope to see many of you taking advantage of the sports or after-school clubs and activities offered at WMS. If you want to participate in an activity, please sign up at our activities fair and encourage a friend to join! Finally, remember to follow the 3 R's - Respect Yourself, Respect Others, and Respect for Shared Environment. Enjoy the rest of your summer, and I will see you soon!

Mrs. Johnson.

### Assistant Principals-7th Grade

Dear 7th Graders,

We hope that your summer has been a blast and you are enjoying your days surrounded by family and friends!

This year the 7<sup>th</sup> grade will have two assistant principals, one for each team. Our new assistant principal and friend, Mrs. Johnson, will be supporting you this year as the administrator for the Capitals; Mr. K for the Wizards. We are looking forward to supporting each of you. We have been working together all summer to get ready for an amazing school year.

As 7<sup>th</sup> graders many of you will be taking your first high school level course. What an exciting opportunity! We want each of you to do your absolute best in the classroom, on the athletic field, on the stage, etc. There are many wonderful and supportive staff members who are all eager to help you if and when you need it. This is a great year to improve your self-advocacy skills. If you need help, ask an adult.

We all do better in an environment where we feel safe and respected. Let's keep that in mind at all times when we interact with others. We are excited to see your leadership skills on display and observe acts of kindness throughout the year! Don't forget the 3 R's (Respect Yourself, Others, and Our Shared Environment).

We hope to see many of you taking advantage of the sports and/or after school clubs and activities offered at WMS. If there is an activity you would like to participate in please sign up at our activities fair and encourage a friend to as well! Information about the fair will come out shortly after you return to school.

As we approach the school year, this is a perfect time to set goals for yourself. Enjoy the rest of the summer and get ready for an awesome 7<sup>th</sup> grade year! - Mrs. Johnson & Mr. K

### John Koutsouftikis, Assistant Principal

Hello 8th Graders!

I hope you are all enjoying your summer and creating memories that you share with us when you return to school!

I can't wait to see our returning members of the Wolfpack and am eager to meet our newest pack members. I was excited to find out that I will be the 8<sup>th</sup> grade Assistant Principal this upcoming year. I saw so much growth among you as 7<sup>th</sup> graders and am eager to see you all continue to mature and prosper as 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Being an 8<sup>th</sup> grader comes with expectations as the oldest students at WMS. It is a time to show the WMS community that you follow the 3 Rs (respect yourself, others, and our shared environment), model them, and lead by example. As the summer winds down, think of ways to positively add to our school environment this year. Let's treat one another with respect and stand up for classmates when we see or hear something that isn't respectful. We all perform better when we can learn in a safe environment. I hope to see a lot of examples of leadership from you as well as acts of citizenship that make you beam with pride!

Some of you took high school level courses as 7<sup>th</sup> graders; all of you will be taking World Geography this year, which is a high school level course. Always remember that your teachers and other WMS staff members are here to support you. Do not hesitate to ask questions or for help.

Set goals for the upcoming year and get yourself ready for a great year. Make the most of the days you have left this summer. Soak in the sun and enjoy time with family and friends. Ask me about Costa Rica!! I can't wait to see you!

Hugs and Fist Bumps, Mr. K



## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

### Important Dates to Remember

**Aug 15** - Team and TA Letter Mailouts

**Aug 16** - New Family Orientation (**new to APS only**)

**Aug 24** - PALS Day (6th grade only)

**Aug 28** - First Day Of School

**Sept 1 & 4** - Holiday - Labor Day

**Sept 25** - Holiday - Yom Kippur

**Oct 9** - No School for Students (County-wide trainings)

**Oct 13/14** - School Portrait Days (make-up day 11/19)

**Oct 20** - Parent/Teacher Conferences

**Nov 7** - End of First Quarter

## 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](#)

**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](mailto:mwong@arlingtonva.us)

School Health Aide: Tuyá Lkhajjav; Email: [elkhajjav@arlingtonva.us](mailto:elkhajjav@arlingtonva.us)

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

Clinic phone number: 703-228-5454



## Counseling Corner - Ms. Kenney

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. However, don't forget being bored in the summer is also not a bad thing 😊, it can help students grow in their tolerance for uncomfortable emotions and stretch their creativity and problem solving skills.

We have exciting changes this summer! First, we have a new member of the school counseling team joining us this year. Ms. Natalie Battle will be joining WMS in her role at the Intervention School Counselor. She will be working with students in all grade levels both individually and in small groups. The grade level school counselors will be: Ms. Brenckle - 6th grade, Ms. Bleakley - 7th grade and Mr. Gardner - 8th grade.

Second, we are very excited about our new school counseling suite offices, which will now be separate and across the hall from the new main office. Maybe this will mean we can work on students not asking, "Am I in trouble?" when they come to see the school counselor sometimes 😊. We can only hope.

Lastly, we are working very hard on schedules this summer, especially with the addition of the intensified courses in 7th and 8th grade. Though we work extremely hard to ensure that students are able to take their top elective choices, there may be cases where it not possible due to additional restrictions or conflicts in the schedules as a result of more course offerings.

We are looking forward to seeing returning students, students new to APS and our new 6th grade class in August!

Go Wolves!  
Ms. Kenney  
Director of Counseling

## Teams, TAs and PALS DAY

### Team and TA Assignments:

Letters with Team and TA assignments will be mailed out the second week of August. Families should receive their letter no later than Monday, August 14th.

### PALS DAY for 6th Grade Families:

Pastries, Agendas, Lockers, and Schedules 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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 28th will be here soon and our 6<sup>th</sup> grade teachers do a terrific job of acclimating students to Williamsburg Middle School.

<u>Date:</u>	Thursday, August 24th
<u>Times:</u>	8am - 9:30am    Grizzlies
	10am - 11:30am    Coyotes



**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 this year will cost \$2.00; lunch is \$3.50. Milk is 80 cents.**

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.

## 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)

Email: [williamsburg.attendance@apsva.us](mailto: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 are able to 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](http://www.arlington.k12.va.us/Page/2933)

**Transportation Call Center:** 703-228-6640

The Call Center is open  
6:00 a.m. – 6pm 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.

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 2:45 PM-3:40 PM**

**After School Period 2 3:40 PM-4:05 PM**

Late Buses are provided Monday, Tuesday, 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 \$13.00  
Running Shorts \$18.00  
String gym bags \$9.00

### **THREE EASY STEPS TO ORDER:**

-Online: <https://williamsburgmiddleschoolpe2023.itemorder.com/shop/home/>

-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 15th.** All sales are final.

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

## 2023-2024 Yearbook

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

Cost: \$45.00

### Order Form Options:

- **Online** (preferred) – the ordering portal will activate on 8/25/22
- **Hard Copy** – available by request only (Please return completed forms with cash or check made out to WMS)

The Yearbook sold out in 2022, so families are strongly encouraged to place their orders early. Don't miss out on the memories!!

Questions? Contact Ms. Briones,, Yearbook Teacher:  
elizabeth.briones@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 2023-24 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](https://va-arl-psv.edupoint.com/PXP2_Login.aspx)

### **Parent Tech. Help:**

<https://williamsburg.apsva.us/technology/tech-help/tech-help-parents/>

Please contact our ITC, Samuel Wightman, if you have questions: [samuel.wightman@apsva.us](mailto:samuel.wightman@apsva.us)



## A Note From the WMS PTA

Dear Williamsburg Families,

I wanted to take an opportunity to introduce myself. I am Heather Selig, this is my 2nd year as WMS PTA President. My family and I are long-time DC area residents. We've lived in Arlington for the last 12 years. I have a rising 8th grader – Kaitlyn and Cooper. Prior to WMS PTA, I spent four years on the PTA Board for Montessori Public School of Arlington.

I look forward to working with our families and the WMS staff this year to provide for a safe place and a high-quality education for our kids. The PTA is working hard with WMS to prepare for the new school year.

The PTA sends a weekly newsletter during the school year which includes important dates, information, and contact for the new PTA Board. To sign up for the newsletter, go to: <http://tinyurl.com/wmsptanews>. Even if you've paid dues in the past, please sign up for the newsletter. If you can't remember if you've signed up for the newsletter, go ahead and fill it out again.

You can also stay connected to the PTA via our website: [wmspta.org](http://wmspta.org), on Facebook: Williamsburg Middle School PTA, and on Twitter: wmspta\_wolves.

I hope that all of our families, students, and staff are healthy and safe. Please feel free to contact me at any time with questions at [president@wmspta.org](mailto:president@wmspta.org). Have an enjoyable rest of your summer, and I look forward to seeing you all in September.

Heather Selig

WMS PTA President