



Wolf Pack News

Principal's Corner - Mr. Bryan Boykin

Dear WMS Families,

Welcome to the 21-22 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 the necessary information needed to prepare for the school year. Team assignments, your child's TA teacher, and room numbers will be mailed on August 20th so please be on the lookout for this. Additional information will be sent on the first day of school that will require your immediate attention. School supply lists can also be found on the WMS website.

This year at Williamsburg 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 21/22 school year.

New Staff

Ann Allred- English Teacher

Melissa Rankin- Math Teacher

Joshua Bruno- Math Teacher

Imani Omowale- Special Education Teacher

David Sydney– Instructional Assistant

Lisa Kaintoch – Nurse

Brendan Lyons- Special Education Teacher

Daffany Nance- Special Education Teacher

Tristie Purdie - English Teacher

As we close on the summer remember that middle school is an exciting time of 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 the help you can provide our new students and contributing to our culture of shared leadership / shared responsibility.

Williamsburg Middle School is a wonderful place to learn and grow. We work hard, and we enjoy what we do every day. Our staff is dedicated to helping our students and giving them the tools they need to create the future we can believe in. 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

Extended Day:
703-228-5476

Fax:
703-536-2870



Jody Osler, Assistant Principal

Hello Sixth Graders!

Welcome to the Wolf Pack! I am so excited that you are going to be part of the Williamsburg family! You are about to embark on an amazing adventure called *Middle School*, where you will make new friends, experience incredible learning opportunities, and become more independent along the way. Your teachers, counselors, administrators, and other staff members are here to help you make a smooth transition as you become Williamsburg Wolves!

I know the last year and a half of your elementary school life was challenging - but you finished strong, and now you are definitely ready to take on an even bigger challenge - middle school!

As a new middle school student, I want to encourage you to take advantage of the many opportunities and activities offered. We will have a variety of sports and clubs, in addition to the elective courses made available. I ask that you strive to do three things when you come to Williamsburg. First, make good choices for yourself. Second, set goals and work hard to meet them. Third, be kind to one another.

As a 6th grader, you will be assigned to a Team - you will be either a Panther, a Coyote, or a Grizzly. Support your new teammates and teachers with smiles and patience and positivity - that will make everyone's year a good one, especially as we return to full time in-person learning for the first time since your 4th grade year!

I look forward to meeting each one of you when we kick off the 2021-2022 school year. Until then, continue having an awesome summer break!

Smiles, Ms. Osler :)

Bryan Boykin, Principal

Hello Seventh Graders!

Welcome to the next step of your middle school journey. I hope you all have had an amazing summer filled with opportunities to see friends and family as we try to regain a sense of normalcy. Last year we experienced many transitions together from virtual to hybrid learning but we successfully made it. This year will be an opportunity get back to basics and have a complete middle school experience.

As a 7th grader, your teachers will expect you to be a little more independent and provide more self directed learning opportunities. Don't worry, because we all understand you will still need our support.. For some of you it will be your first time in the building and the staff is ready to help you get acclimated.

This year we will be returning to teams. Each of you will be either a Capitol or a Wizard. Enjoy the rest of the summer, and I look forward to seeing you all in a few weeks. GO WOLVES!

Mr. Boykin

John Koutsouftikis, Assistant Principal

Hello future Patriots, Hokies, or Cavaliers! I hope you are having fun and enjoying your summer. After the way 6th grade ended and with being virtual for most of 7th grade, we ALL needed a relaxing summer to catch our breaths, unwind, and return to enjoying our passions, hobbies, and interests.

I hope we all reconnect with one another and bring back the school spirit and positive energy that we had in 6th grade. I am committed to helping to ensure that you have a fun and successful 8th grade year. The transition back to school for five full days is going to be challenging for all of us (students, teachers, administrators). Let's support one another-be there for your friends, check in with classmates who need a smile or uplifting comment. We will all get back into the swing of things in short time, but it may take longer for some of us. Staff members are here for all of you. I hope to see a lot of examples of leadership from you as well as acts of citizenship that make you beam with pride!

This year we will be returning to teams. Each of you will be either a Patriot, Hokie, or Cavalier. I look forward to seeing all of you. I am excited to meet our newest Wolves and meet the Wolves who joined us last year, but who remained virtual throughout the year.

Continue to take care of yourselves. Enjoy your time with your family and friends. The transition back to school is going to be fine. We are here to help you all if you need it. I can't wait to see you!

Hugs and Fist Bumps,

Mr. K

P.S. Your first HW assignment of the year is to enjoy every single day of the rest of summer!



Counseling Corner - Ms. Kenney

Wolf Pack Family!

I hope you have had a relaxing, fun and restorative summer so far. I am so excited to see you all in less than a month, YAY! This year will be mixed with excitement, learning and possible bumps in the road as we all transition back into a full school experience.

If you have some apprehension about returning to school and/or starting middle school, that's okay! We are all here to help make this year great. That includes teacher, counselors, staff and administration. We are all in this together (are we still saying that now?). Step one no matter what...take a deep breath. If you have a question...ask. If you think you are the only one feeling the way you are...trust me you, you are not alone. If you are feeling nervous...remember you can do it and once you are there, no matter what it was, you can do again the next time :).

The whole student services staff is here to help, listen and support your start at WMS for the 2021-2022 School Year. I can't wait to see you soon!

Go Wolves!

Ms. Kenney

PALS DAY

Dear Sixth Grade Parents,

Pizza/Pastries, Acclimation, Lockers, and Schedules are just a few of the things we will go over on PALS Day. Sixth grade teachers, administration, counselors and some awesome 8th grade volunteers 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. Teachers and 8th grade volunteers will be there to help with locker combinations, find classrooms on student schedules and answer WMS questions. Students can even drop off any purchased school supply items in their locker on this day.

Parents and students will then reunite in the cafeteria for snacks. This is a great opportunity to mingle with Williamsburg staff. The PE department will be selling uniforms online this year, information can be found on page 6 of the newsletter. Don't worry if you cannot attend PALS Day. August 30th is just around the corner and 6th grade teachers do a terrific job of acclimating students to Williamsburg Middle School.

Date:

Thursday, August 26, 2021

Times:

8am - 9:30am

10am - 11:30am

12am - 1:30 pm

Grizzlies

Panthers

Coyotes



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Important Dates to Remember

Aug 17 - Team assignments will be mailed

Aug 26 - PALS Day

Aug 30 - First Day Of School

Sept 14 - Virtual Back to School Night

Oct 18/19 - School Portrait Days (make-up day 11/30)

Oct 22 - Parent/Teacher Conference

From the Clinic

Welcome to Williamsburg Middle School! My name is Lisa Kaintoch and I am the public health nurse that covers Williamsburg Middle School. I can also be found at Discovery Elementary School, just across the way.

Our clinic aide, Devon Smith, can be found in the clinic during school hours. I can be readily reached via email at lkaintoch@arlingtonva.us to set up an appointment.

I'd like to share some important information about our clinic:

Here are some of the services we provide:

Routine first-aid and sick-child care

Emergency care

Administration of medications

Hearing/vision screenings (for all 7th grade students, new students, and by special request)

Coordination with teachers/staff 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

Medications at School:

We keep medications for many of our students in the clinic. This includes: emergency (i.e. inhalers and EpiPens), daily (i.e. ADHD or seizure medications), short-term (i.e. antibiotics), and as-needed (i.e. pain medication for headaches, eye drops for allergies) medications. Virginia law requires that all medications (whether prescription or over-the-counter) given in school be accompanied by a medication authorization form completed by a physician.

These forms can be downloaded from the following link: <https://health.arlingtonva.us/public-health/school-health/>

Questions: Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or if you'd like to discuss anything related to your child's health care needs. I look forward to meeting our new students and seeing our returning students.



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. We look forward to serving you this school year.

- ❖ **2021-2022 breakfast and lunch will be provided free of charge**
- ❖ **Students will have the option to eat meals outside weather permitting**

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 on the Arlington County Schools website.

Health and Safety

Masks will be required, regardless of vaccination status, while inside the building and on school buses, but are not required when eating or when outside during PE, athletics, or other activities.

No temperature checks or screening are required upon arrival at the bus or school.



From the Office

Going to be absent or need to get your homework?

To be sure your child's 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 a note, email to the Attendance Secretary will excuse an absence. Contact with the school must be made within 48 hours of a student's return to school to excuse the absence.

If students are absent for more than 2 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. After business hours, the homework will be placed in the black bins on the outside of the office door.

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

Transportation Call Center

703-228-6640

The Call Center is open

6:30 a.m. – 9 p.m. weekdays



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 3:20pm to 4:00pm. 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 2:35 PM-3:30 PM

After School Period 2 3:30 PM-4:00 PM

Late Buses are provided Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday for students staying after school. All students riding the late bus will be required to have a Wolf Bus Pass. The Wolf Bus Pass will be signed by two sponsors for each of the two after school periods the student attended. **The late bus leaves Williamsburg at 4:10PM.**

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

PE Uniforms

Shirt \$8.00
Shorts \$12.00
Running Shorts \$15.00 - \$16.75
String gym bags \$7.00

THREE EASY STEPS TO ORDER:

- Go Online to <https://williamsburgmiddleschoolpe2021.itemorder.com/>
- 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 September 12th. All sales are final.

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

2021-2022 Yearbook

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

Cost: \$40.00

Order Form Options:

- Online, after the first day of school
- Hard Copies at Back to School Night

Please return completed forms with cash or check made out to WMS. The earlier ordered the better. You would hate to miss this opportunity and autographing the covers at the end of the year!

Any yearbook questions, please contact Ms. Ashley Hogwood or Mr. Jeffrey Schonfeld



Technology

FOR PARENTS: PARENTVUE AND SCHOOLTALK EMAILS:

If you have any problems with logging into ParentVue or forgot your password, please see: <https://www.apsva.us/family-access-center/> for parent help resources.

- 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 STUDENTS AND STUDENT PASSWORDS:

- For our returning APS families: we did NOT change any returning student passwords for APS StudentVue (Google) passwords. Students will continue to use the same APS passwords that they used last school year.
- Please also make sure that your student can log into his/her iPad. If they forgot the passcode to unlock, the student should submit a student tech. help form.
- For our new APS families: please submit a student tech. help form. Our school ITC will be in contact with you to give you that information. Students will use this password to log into StudentVue to view her/her grades/assignments and access APS Google Drive and Canvas.
- We will provide more information later in August for our rising 6th grade families and new to APS 7th and 8th grade families about getting or swapping iPads.

Students should report any technical issues through our student tech. help form. This form can be found on the WMS homepage under Quicklinks. This process organizes the technical issues and if they have been resolved or need to be resolved at the county level.

Important URLs to note:

ParentVue and StudentVue access:

https://vue.apsva.us/PXP2_Login.aspx

Parent Tech. Help:

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

Please contact our ITC, Hae-Lee Solomon, if you have questions: haelee.solomon@apsva.us



A Note From the WMS PTA

Dear Williamsburg Families,

I wanted to take an opportunity to introduce myself. I am Sara Batla, your new WMS PTA President. My family and I are long-time Arlingtonians. Both my mother and I attended Jamestown, Williamsburg, and Yorktown so I'm thrilled that my sons are following in that tradition. I have a rising 8th grader – Dylan, and a rising Junior at Yorktown – Colin. I was the PTA VP of Communications for WMS last year. Prior to that, I spent four years on the PTA Board for Jamestown.

I look forward to working with you and the WMS staff during this unprecedented time to provide safe, high-quality education for our kids. The PTA is working hard with WMS to prepare for the new school year and what that will look like in our community.

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> . You can also stay connected to the PTA via our website: wmspta.org., on Facebook: Williamsburg Middle School PTA, and on Twitter: [wmspta_wolves](https://twitter.com/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. Have an enjoyable rest of your summer, and I look forward to seeing you all in September—even if it's virtually!

Sara Batla

WMS PTA President