



# Wolf Pack News

## Principal's Corner - Mr. Bryan Boykin

Dear WMS Families,

Welcome to the 22-23 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 22/23 school year.

### New Staff

Corrina Velez- English Teacher

Jennifer Palermo- Math Coach

Vickie Lawrence - Special Education Teacher

Jean Piacentini- Tech Ed Teacher

Daniel Edwards- Band Teacher

Tamika Brown– Special Education Assistant

Allison Ball- Special Education Assistant

Kathleen Maconaughey- Theatre Teacher

Emily Jenkins- Special Education Teacher

Kory Bradley- Social Worker

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 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



## Steven Brown, Assistant Principal

Greetings Sixth Graders! I hope everyone is enjoying the remaining time of their summer break as it is almost time to welcome everyone back to the 2022-2023 school year!

It is with great enthusiasm that I write this letter of introduction as the new Assistant Principal of Williamsburg Middle School. I look forward to working in partnership with Mrs. Bleakley and the 6th grade staff - unified in our commitment to advocating for and providing all students and families with an educational experience where values and diversity are recognized and celebrated. As a passionate educator, I find joy in BOTH supporting students through struggles and celebrating successes with them. I look forward to working with our 6th grade students and families to ensure that a top-notch social-emotional AND academic experience is had for all of our new Wolves!

The last couple of years were difficult on us all as we navigated new terrain with the Covid-19 pandemic. Here at WMS, our students found a way to persevere through challenges we could have never imagined, and I am proud of the hard work and accomplishments of the students, teachers and staff of Williamsburg Middle School. But for our rising 6th graders, the challenges only continue... as you get comfortable with your new normal: locker combinations, different teachers for every subject, and a much more challenging and rigorous academic slate. You will need to learn how to plan for many different due dates and will be expected to be fully prepared to adapt to any other new challenges that may come your way!

Rest assured that you are in very capable and caring hands at WMS! I ask that you come to our campus with a positive and respectful attitude and try your best to ask as many questions as you need to until you are comfortable and back in your school groove!

Mr. Brown

## John Koutsouftikis, Assistant Principal

Hello Rising 7th Graders! I hope you are all enjoying your summer and creating memories that you share with us!

I am excited to see returning members of the Wolfpack and eager to meet our newest pack members. As you know, Ms. Osler is not returning this year, but she told me many wonderful things about the rising 7th graders. I look forward to getting to know you and working with you over the next two years to help you be the best citizens and students you can be! Introduce yourself to me when we pass one another in the hallway or you see me in the cafeteria.

Please think of ways to positively add to our school environment this year. Always keep in mind the 3 Rs. 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 will be taking high school level courses. Regardless of your course load, always remember that your teachers and WMS staff are here to support you. Do not hesitate to ask questions or for help.

Take care and enjoy the remaining time with family and friends. 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 day of the rest of summer!

## Assistant Principal's 8th Grade

Dear Rising 8<sup>th</sup> Graders,

We hope that your summer has been a blast and you are enjoying time with family and friends!

This year we will be tag teaming as the administrators for 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Mr. Brown will be working with the Cavaliers; Mr. K with the Patriots. We are looking forward to working with you and getting to know you better. We are familiar with one another and have worked together successfully for the past three years. We work well as a team and expect your 8<sup>th</sup> grade year will go smoothly!

As 8<sup>th</sup> graders you have the responsibility to set the tone for the school year and lead by example. As returning students, you are familiar with the expectations and the 3 Rs. Everybody performs better in a safe environment and we always want to keep that in mind when we interact with others. We are excited to see your leadership skills on display and observe acts of kindness throughout the year!

Always remember that your teachers and the WMS staff are here to help you all year regardless of your concern. We are committed to helping you and working with Ms. Brenckle to ensure that we have a great year. Don't ever hesitate to ask for help!

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 want to participate in please sign up at our activities fair and encourage a friend to as well!

Enjoy the rest of the summer and get ready for an awesome 8<sup>th</sup> grade year!

Mr. K and Mr. Brown



## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

### Important Dates to Remember

**Aug 2** - Band Meet and Greet

6PM - in person room 225

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

**Aug 17** - New Family Orientation (new to APS only)

**Aug 25** - PALS Day (6th grade only)

**Aug 29** - First Day Of School

**Sept 2 & 5** - Holiday - Labor Day

**Sept 13** - Virtual Back to School Night

**Sept 26** - Holiday - Rosh Hashanah

**Oct 5** - Holiday- Yom Kippur

**Oct 10** - No School for Students (County-wide trainings)

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

**Oct 21** - Parent/Teacher Conferences

**Oct 24** - Holiday - Diwali

**Nov 7** - End of First Quarter

## From the Clinic

Hello Williamsburg Family!

### **New clinic staff:**

Melissa Wong- Public Health Nurse. She's worked in postpartum/newborn/NICU in the hospital, as well as, pediatric home health. Her time is shared with Discovery Elementary next door.

Tuya Lkhajjav- School Health Aide. She comes from Arlington Science Focus. She can be found in the WMS clinic daily during school hours.

### **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 FAQ](#)
- ❖ [Medication Authorization Form](#)
- ❖ [Allergy Action Plan](#)
- ❖ [Asthma Action Plan](#)
- ❖ [Diabetes Management Plan](#)
- ❖ [Covid-19 Info](#)

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: Tuya Lkhajjav; Email: [elkhajjav@arlingtonva.us](mailto:elkhajjav@arlingtonva.us)

Clinic phone number: 703-228-5454



## Counseling Corner - Ms. Kenney

Wolf Pack Family!

I hope this message finds you well and relaxed during this summer. We all worked hard last school year. It seems hotter this summer, but I am pretty sure I say that every summer. We are very excited to take another step forward in getting back to the beginning of our school years with fun events to connect in the days leading up to the first day of school. My message below is from last year, but I still feel it rings true for this year as well:

*If you have some apprehension about returning to school, starting middle school or are new to APS, 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-or 2 if you need.** If you have a question...ask. If you think you are the only one feeling the way you are...trust me, you are not alone. If you are feeling nervous...that is a completely normal feeling and remember you can do it! You will find that 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 2022-2023 School Year. I can't wait to meet you all!

Go Wolves!  
Ms. Kenney  
Director of Counseling

## PALS DAY

Dear Sixth Grade Parents,

**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 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 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. Teachers and 8th grade volunteers will be there to help with locker combinations/questions, find classrooms on student schedules and answer all things WMS questions. Students can even drop off any purchased school supply items in their locker on this day. Letters with Team and TA assignments will be mailed the second week of August.

**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 29th will be here soon and our 6<sup>th</sup> grade teachers do a terrific job of acclimating students to Williamsburg Middle School.

**Date:** Thursday, August 25th

**Times:**  
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. As of March 2022, Congress has declined to provide USDA authorization to extend the current payment flexibilities. Those waivers expired on June 20, therefore our programs will return to normal or pre-Covid 19 operations when school starts. The main change is that school lunch and breakfast will no longer be automatically served at no cost to all students. This means students that do not qualify for free lunch will be expected to pay at the reduced or standard rates.

◆ **Breakfast this year will cost \$1.80; lunch will be \$3.20.**

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

6:30 a.m. – 9 p.m. 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 \$10.00  
Shorts \$13.00  
Running Shorts \$17.00  
String gym bags \$8.75

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

-Online: <https://williamsburgmiddleschoolpe2022.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.

## 2022-2023 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 Mr. Jeffrey Schonfeld, Yearbook Teacher:  
[jeffrey.schonfeld@apsva.us](mailto:jeffrey.schonfeld@apsva.us)



## 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 STUDENT DEVICES:**

- All WMS students will receive and configure their iPads in the beginning weeks of school. They will also be familiarized with the APS Acceptable Use Policy for the 2022-23 school year. More information will be sent to students and families at a later time.

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.

### **CANVAS OBSERVER ACCOUNTS:**

If you'd like access to all of your students' Canvas courses, please follow the instructions here: <https://www.apsva.us/digital-devices/digital-learning-device-help/canvas/>

## 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, Hae-Lee Solomon, if you have questions: [haelee.solomon@apsva.us](mailto:haelee.solomon@apsva.us)



## A Note From the WMS PTA

Dear Williamsburg Families,

I wanted to take an opportunity to introduce myself. I am Heather Selig, your new WMS PTA President. My family and I are long-time DC area residents. We've lived in Arlington for the last 10 years. I have a rising 7th grader – Kaitlyn, and another rising 7th grader - Cooper, at St. Anselm's Abbey School in DC. I was the PTA VP of External Relations for WMS last year. Prior to that, 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](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](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