



# Wolf Pack News

## Principal's Corner - Mr. Bryan Boykin

Dear WMS Families,

Welcome to the 24-25 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 24/25 school year.

### New Staff

Heather Klanderman- Reading Teacher  
Geoffrey O'Malley - Science Teacher  
Michelle Janney- Special Ed Teacher  
Zozan Siso- Instructional Assistant  
Noor Azmat- Instructional Assistant

Anna Montesi – English Teacher  
Carolina Clontz- English Teacher  
Alexandra Bender- Special Ed Teacher  
Tracy Mihas- Instructional Assistant  
Tkeyah Russell- Special Ed Teacher

Kaley Nicholson- Math Teacher  
Logan Thompson- Science Teacher  
Mary Campion- MIPA Teacher  
Mitchell Bass- Instructional Assistant

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



## Yolanda Nashid, Assistant Principal 6th

Dear 6th Graders,

I hope that you are spending your summer engaged in relaxing activities that bring a smile to your face and fill your heart with laughter. It is now time to take on that much anticipated role of becoming the newest members of our wolfpack at Williamsburg Middle School. I know that it can be a little overwhelming, but I promise you it will be worth the wait!

My name is Ms. Nashid, and I am your Assistant Principal for this school year. We will spend lots of time getting to know each other, sharing ideas, and trying to figure out which class you need to get to next! I am excited to support you in your 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 that 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 School. Our students are fun, kind, and ready to learn! We also believe in working together. You are entering a learning environment that will help foster a lifetime love of learning and the opportunity to meet new peers and gain new experiences. 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 Our Shared Environment**. Enjoy the rest of your summer. I can't wait to see you!

Ms. Nashid

## Nicole Johnson, Assistant Principal 7th

Dear 7th Graders,

Welcome back to school! The Capitals and Wizards 7th grade teams and I welcome you back to the Pack where I will be your 7th grade Assistant Principal. If you are new to Williamsburg, we extend a huge welcome – you are going to have a terrific year! While I hope that you and your families enjoyed the summertime, I'm excited for the close of summer because it means I get to welcome you and your teachers to the halls and classrooms at WMS!

**So, what makes 7th grade special?** Here's the scoop:

**Leading the Pack:** As rising 7th graders, you become the leaders of our building with the 8th graders! You'll set the tone for our 6th graders and inspire them with your knowledge and experience. **Level Up on Responsibility:** 7th grade requires a higher degree of organization and responsibility. Think of it like training for the awesome things you'll accomplish in the future! You'll be managing multiple classes, maybe taking on some high school courses, tackling more assignments, and becoming even more independent learners.

**Time Management Master:** Completing all your work on time is a key skill you'll hone in 7th grade. We'll provide you with the tools and support you need to become a time management master!

A safe and respectful environment helps everyone thrive. Show your leadership by following the **3 R's: Respect Yourself, Respect Others, and Respect Our Shared Environment**. Beyond the Classroom: I hope to see many of you taking advantage of the sports and/or after-school clubs and activities offered at WMS. Activities are a great way to explore your interests, make new friends, and have some fun! 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.

Dr. Johnson

## Colleen Koval, Assistant Principal 8th

Dear 8th Graders,

I am happy to I welcome you back to the WolfPack as your 8th grade Assistant Principal, I started at WMS on May 1, 2024, which gave me the opportunity to get to know the Class of 2025. As summer comes to a close, I am excited to see you return to school, and If you are a new student to Williamsburg, welcome!! I'm excited to see each of you and welcome the great WMS teachers back on August 26, 2024. This year we will strive to be good stewards of our community and have a terrific 2024-2025 school year at WMS.

**So, what makes 8th grade special?**

**Leading the Pack:** As 8th grade students, you are the de facto leaders of our building. While 7th grade students will return for a second year, you will return for your **third** (and final) year. Therefore, I will look to each of you to lead by example and to emulate the **three "R's" Respect Yourself, Respect Others, and Respect Our Shared Environment** at all times. I will also look to you to support each other, as well as your teachers, counselors, substitutes, cafeteria and custodial staff as you learn, share your experiences, and demonstrate acceptance for all within the WolfPack. This year, you will need a higher degree of organization and responsibility to manage multiple classes and to become an independent learner.

**Time Management::** To help you prepare for high school, you will need to complete your work on time, maintain a high level of engagement in your classes, and balance extracurricular, performing arts and sports activities. I look forward to hearing about your individual goals and aspirations for 8th grade (and beyond) and know that I am here to support each of you.

Make plans now to attend the Activities Fair where you can explore new interests for 8th grade. More information will be provided for this event after you return to school. Remember, put the "W" in all that you do this year and **support each other** as the wonderful, talented, and inspirational WMS class of 2025. Go Wolves!!!

Dr. Koval



## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

### Important Dates to Remember

**Aug 12** - Team and TA Letter

**Aug 14** - New Family Orientation (**new to APS only**)

**Aug 22** - PALS Day (6th grade only)

**Aug 26** - First Day Of School

**Aug 30 & Sept 2** - Holiday - Labor Day

**Oct 3** - Holiday- Rosh Hashanah

**Oct 11** - No School for Students- Parent/Teacher Conferences

**Oct 14** - No School for Students- Countywide PL

**Oct 31** - 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](#)
- ❖ [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](mailto:mwong@arlingtonva.us)

School Health Aide: Rahel Gebregiorgis; Email: [rgebregiorgis@arlingtonva.us](mailto:rgebregiorgis@arlingtonva.us)

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

Clinic phone number: 703-228-5454



## 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 Tuesday, August 13th.**

### 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 26th 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 22th

Times: 8am - 9:30am Grizzlies  
10am - 11:30am Coyotes

## 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. 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: Mr. Gardner - 6th grade, Ms. Brenckle - 7th grade, Ms. Bleakley - 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!  
Ms. Kenney  
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 this year will cost \$2.00; lunch is \$3.50**

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)

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, 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 \$13.00  
Running Shorts \$18.00  
String gym bags \$9.00

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

-Online: <https://williamsburgmiddleschoolpe2024.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 11th.** All sales are final.

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

## 2024-2025 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)

The Yearbook sold out in 2024, so families are strongly encouraged to place their orders early. Don't miss out on the memories!!

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 2024-25 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)

Please contact our ITC, Christine Stokes-Beverley, if you have questions: ([christine.stokes@apsva.us](mailto: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 Jill Gaspar, and I will be your WMS PTA President during the 2024-2025 school year. As the parent of a rising 8th Grader 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. To meet this objective, the PTA supports WMS through membership, fundraising and volunteerism.

Our PTA membership dues begin at \$15 and are optional. 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 grades, 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.*

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

Volunteer opportunities with WMS PTA are regularly posted in the weekly newsletter and on the Williamsburg Parents 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](#), [Facebook](#), and social media @wmspta\_wolves. 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!

Please feel free to contact me at any time at [president@wmspta.org](mailto:president@wmspta.org).

Jill Gaspar, WMS PTA President