

January 19, 2018

Greetings WLMS!

Even with the recent weather interruptions, next week marks the end of second quarter. Remember that students will be dismissed 3 hours early this Friday, January 26, so that teachers can finalize second quarter grades. Second quarter report cards will be issued on Monday, February 5th.

Over the next few weeks, we will be refreshing learning and behavior expectations with all students through morning announcements “Wake Up Wilde Lake”, classroom refreshers, and grade level town hall mid-year meetings. We ask for your partnership in a couple of areas . . .

- Please revisit the “WLMS Cell Phone Expectations” below with your student. We respect that many students bring cell phones to school for safety and communication purposes with home. Students are allowed to have cell phones during arrival, dismissal & lunch/recess time. We ask parents to support us by **only texting your child when necessary** within the school day **during their lunch/recess period – 6th - 10:48-11:18, 7th - 11:39-12:09, 8th – 12:30-1:00**. If you need to contact your child for an emergency, please call the school phone and one of the front office secretaries will assist you.
- Please be vigilante in monitoring your child’s use of social media. Since Winter Break, we have witnessed an increase in students’ inappropriate communication (profane language, disparaging remarks) through social media. While most of this communication is occurring while students are at home or outside of school, remarks are triggering unsafe feelings and a disruption to our school learning environment. Just because your child does not have his/her own cell phone does not mean that they are not accessing chat sites through their friends’ phones or computers. In addition, students can use aliases or proxy web browsers to access restricted sites. Please make it your job to educate yourselves as parents on the different sites on which your child might already have an account (Kik, Snapchat, Instagram, etc.). Read the “Terms of Use”. Most sites require students to be at least 13 years old to use the service. Take the time to read the comments and language being used by other teenagers on the site. Make time this weekend to have a conversation with your child about your expectations for technology use and take the necessary actions. According to the HCPSS Code of Conduct, Cyberbullying and School Disruption (including behavior that originates off campus with technology) can result in a range of consequences from a student conference to parent contact to suspension from school, and expulsion from school. We are committed to making Wilde Lake Middle School a safe and productive learning environment. Therefore, the administration has no tolerance for cyber-

bullying and any derogatory comments made towards others. The HCPSS Code of Conduct will continue to be enforced to protect all students and our learning environment. Parents, your monitoring at home will make the difference in partnering with us to create both a positive school and community environment for our students.

WLMS Student Cell Phone Expectations

- **Students are expected to put their cell phones in their locker during class time.** *(There may be a few exceptions when teachers invite students on occasions to bring their cell phones to class for a specific learning activity and/or a personal cell phone is part of a student's specific learning plan.)*
- Students may use their cell phones and electronic devices during lunch and recess, but use is not permitted in hallways at any time.
- Students may listen to music using one earbud during lunch and recess (but not in the hallways); only one earbud/headphone (not two) is permitted during lunch/recess for safety reasons.
- Students are not allowed at any time to videotape, audiotape or take photographs during the school day, including during the bus ride to and from school.
- **Students who fail to adhere to this policy may have their property confiscated. Such property will not be returned to students, and will only be returned to a parent or guardian during regular office hours.**
- Wilde Lake is not responsible for lost, stolen, or broken property.

Thank you again for your partnership. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Anne Swartz, Lexi Couch, Denise Young, James McVey

Important Dates:

Jan. 23 – Incoming 6th grade Parent Orientation for 18/19 school year - 6:30pm

Jan. 26 – 3 Hour Early Dismissal - End of 2nd Marking Period (A Day)

Jan. 29 – A Day – Beginning of Second Semester

Feb. 1 – String Fling Field Trip

Feb. 5 – JAWS After School Program begins

Feb. 5 – Report Cards Issued

WLMS Student Attendance:

If your child is absent from school, please remember to send in a note to excuse the absence. Also, a reminder that the school day begins at 8:00. It is very important that students arrive on time to start the day off right. Please send all attendance questions and notes to Heather Godwin, Teacher's Secretary. Ms. Godwin has assumed the attendance role at WLMS. Her email is heather_godwin@hcpss or you can leave her a message at 410-313-6957 – mailbox 3507.

MAP Testing

This year HCPSS reduced the number of times that we would administer the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) test from three administrations to two. The students took the first test in the fall and will be taking the final administration of the MAP test in February. They will take the Reading MAP during their English classes the week of February 5th and the Math MAP during their Math classes the week of February 12th. We appreciate your support in not scheduling appointments that take students out of school during this time frame.

Summer School 2018:

Online registration for Comprehensive Summer School classes will begin on **February 1st at 3pm through February 15th**. The online registration windows will be open from the 1st through the 15th of every month, February through June. Classes fill up quickly, so if interested, please sign up as soon as possible.

Registration Website - <http://tinyurl.com/HCPSSSummerSchool>

Heart & Sole at WLMS:

Save the date! Registration for the Spring season of Heart & Sole at WLMS starts on February 11. Heart & Sole is a life-changing, experiential learning program for girls in 6th-8th grade that combines training for a 3.1 mile running event with self-esteem enhancing, uplifting workouts. Heart & Sole is designed specifically to focus on the complex needs of middle school girls and addresses the whole girl – body, brain, heart, spirit, and social connections – and creates a positive, structured space for girls to learn about themselves, build self-esteem, explore new ideas, cultivate empathy, strengthen connections, and develop life skills that will help them as they navigate the challenges of adolescence and beyond. The Wilde Lake Middle School team will meet after school twice a week for 10 weeks on Monday and Thursday afternoons, starting March 19. The season ending 5k will be held on Saturday, June 2. Generous financial assistance is available for qualifying families. Visit www.gotcentralmd.org to register (starting at 12 noon on February 11). Call 443-583-7740 for financial assistance information or with questions. Additional volunteer coaches needed - email jessamine.duvall@girlsontherun.org for more information!

Atholton High School's award-winning theatre department will present the hilarious and touching romance *The Addams Family Musical* with Words and Music by Andrew Lippa and Book by Rick Elice and Marshall Brickman, March 1-3, 2018. Show times are Thursday and Friday at 7:00 PM, and Saturday at 2:00 PM and 7:00 PM. Atholton High School is located in Columbia, at 6520 Freetown Road, between Cedar Lane and Route 29. Please see our website www.atholtonboosters.org for more details and ticket information.