

February 28, 2020

Good afternoon,

We would like to thank Melva Cole-Fleet, our BSAP Liaison, for her awesome work putting together the “Taste of Soul” event last Friday. The student entertainment, speakers and not to mention the food was outstanding. For those who attended, we hope you had as wonderful of a time as we had. Next week we head into the month of March and four full 5-day weeks of education before Spring Break. This is a great time for students to work hard and keep or bring up those grades.

We find it necessary to reach out and ask your support in helping your child use their cell phone and technology responsibly inside and outside of school. Please be vigilante in monitoring your child’s use of social media. During the winter months, 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. 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.

In addition, if your student brings a cell phone to school, they are expected to follow the **WLMS Student Cell Phone Expectations:**

- **Students are expected to put their cell phones in their locker during class time.** 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 be returned to students at the end of the day. If a student repeatedly violates policy, a parent or guardian must pick up the phone during normal office hours.
- **Wilde Lake is not responsible for lost, stolen, or broken property.**

Thank you for your support and please do not hesitate to reach out to us if you have any concerns or questions.

Important Dates:

March 2 – 6th grade author visit – Ji-li Jang

March 2 – Symphonic Band Assessment

March 3 – Concert Band Adjudication

March 6 – 8th grade Trip to Hippodrome – “Wicked”

March 10 – Spring School Pictures

March 13 – GOTCHA Store during lunch hours

March 13 – Middle School Debate

March 19 – PTSA Meeting – 7:00pm Media Center

March 27 – Spirit Day – College Day

Please visit the **Community News and Programs** page at <https://www.hcps.org/community-news-and-programs/> for announcements of upcoming events and programs sponsored by non-profit organizations.