

Principal's Prowl Newsletter



BACK TO SCHOOL EDITION!!

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Banks Spicer, Assistant Principal

Weddington Elementary School

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From the Principal:

The "Back to School" commercials and ads are letting us know it is that time again! The summer flew by, but the Weddington staff is excited to see all of our Wildcats! On behalf of the Weddington Elementary staff, I would like to welcome all Wildcat families to the 2019-2020 school year! It is going to be another amazing school year!



2019 Open House Information:

Our **2019 WDES Open House** is scheduled for **Thursday, August 22nd from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.** This is a drop-in event for all students to meet their 2019-2020 teacher. In addition, all WDES Afterschool Enrichment Clubs will be set up in the gymnasium. Spirit Wear will also be available for purchase, and our amazing WDES PTO Board will be there to

Calendar of Events:

August:

8/20/19 – Kindergarten Curriculum Night – parents only – 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
8/22/19 – WDES 2019-2020 – Open House 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. Drop-in to meet the teacher.
8/22/19 – AIG information sessions -4:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.
***Parents of AIG students must attend one session.**
8/26/19 – *First Day of School for grades 1-5
8/26/19 – 8/30/19 – Staggered entry for Kindergarten students (letter to Kindergarten parents with the date forthcoming).

September:

9/2/19 – Labor Day Holiday – No School
9/9/19 – WDES Independence Day – all students walk to class independently
9/26/19 – Grandparents/Grandfriends Day – K-2
9/27/19 – Grandparents/Grandfriends Day – 3-5
9/27/19 – Elementary Cluster Night at WHS game
9/30/19 – Teacher Workday – No School for Students

***Please see the school calendar on the WDES webpage for additional dates of events.**

WEDDINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

answer all of your volunteer questions. To find out your child's 2019-2020 teacher, tables will be stationed at the front of each grade level hallway. Volunteers will be stationed at the tables with class lists. Parents should report to the section of the first letter of the last name. The UCPS Transportation will be on site to answer any route questions. Student bus transportation passes will be in your child's classroom. The WDES Afterschool Program will be available to answer your afterschool questions. If you have questions for Nurse Evans, she will be available as well. Students are welcome and encouraged to bring supplies to Open House.

In addition, new families are invited to attend the **WDES New Family Welcome** on August 22nd. The New Family Welcome will be held in the WDES Media Center. There will be two sessions to accommodate families. Please see the schedule below. This is a brief information session. Students are welcome to attend with families. See you then!

August 22nd - 3:30 – 3:45 – Parents K, 1st, 2nd grade students

August 22nd – 3:45 – 4:00 – Parents of 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students

AIG Information:

Parents of newly qualified AIG students need to attend the AIG DEP meeting during Open House in Mobile Unit 3, Mrs. Best's classroom. Parents may choose to attend the 4:00 session or the 5:00 session. Meeting should last about 30 minutes. This is NOT a drop-in event. Parents will sign their child's required AIG paperwork during the meeting. This paperwork needs to be signed before the child can attend AIG classes. Students who were in AIG last year do not need to attend this meeting.

Welcome our New Wildcat Families!

This summer we enrolled students not only from all over the country, but all over the world! We are thrilled you have chosen Weddington Elementary School and the Weddington Community as your new home. Weddington is a wonderful place to live and our cluster of schools continues to be one of the

School Hours:

The Weddington Elementary School hours are listed below. **The WDES office will close at 3:30 p.m. each day.** The doors will be locked at 3:30 p.m. and telephone calls will not be answered after 3:30 p.m. Messages can be left on the answering system with all calls being returned the next school day.

School Office Hours:

7:00 a.m. – 3:30 a.m.

Student Instructional Hours:

7:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Staff Hours:

7:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

New this year - STEAM Lab!

We are thrilled to announce that our Wildcats will now participate in once a week instruction in our new STEAM Lab! The lab will be run by Ms. Jessi Wright and she is so excited to build our STEAM program. Be sure to visit our lab in Mobile Unit 8 (previously the Art classroom). We have many items on our wish list for the STEAM lab. We appreciate any and all donations!

Wish List Items:

Plastic Straws	Pipe Cleaners
Popsicle Sticks	Marbles
Q-tips	Paper Plates
Plastic Cups	Yarn/String
Cotton Balls	Toothpicks

Parent Input Needed for the Media Center:

Parents, your input is needed! As we plan to convert our Media Center to a future focused learning space, we would like your input! Please take a moment to complete a 1 question survey using the link below on what additions you would like to see in our WDES Media Center. Thank you for your feedback!

highest performing in the state. As we start the school year, please be sure your current contact information is documented in Powerschool. This is vital to you receiving communication for administration as well as UCPS officials. If your email or your telephone number has changed since registering your child, please contact norma.felipe@ucps.k12.nc.us.

2019-2020 Student Handbook:

The 2019-2020 Student Handbook will be posted on the school website. All students and parents are required to review this information. A form will be sent home by the classroom teacher for all students and parents to sign confirming they have reviewed and understand the policies as written in the WDES Student Handbook and well as the UCPS Board Policy handbook. The signed form is due to the classroom teacher by **Friday, September 20th**.

From Mrs. Spicer:

As we gear back up for student drop off and pick up, please review these important safety reminders!

A note for car riders:

- *Children should not be let out of the vehicle until our teachers are outside to supervise arrival.
- * Students should exit all vehicles from the passenger side.
- *Car seats for students should also be on the passenger side.

Adhering to these safety regulations will ensure a smooth carpool line and the safety of all of our students!

Mrs. Spicer

Welcome to Our New WDES Staff Members:

We are very excited to have our newest staff members join the Weddington family! Please join us in providing a warm welcome to the following new Wildcat staff members.

Mrs. Mary Wolf – EC Teacher
Mrs. Pam Burns – Speech Therapist

<https://forms.gle/Bnqm9BkUQYTKEDq87>

Do you have a business or know a company interesting in donating to our school? We are currently looking for donations for our “Media Center Makeover” campaign. Be sure to go to our WDES website under Announcements for full details. There, you can click on the “Donate” button for your opportunity to help our cause. Our Wildcats deserve a 21st Century Media Center. Let’s continue our partnership and help us create a future focused learning environment.

<https://www.ucps.k12.nc.us/Domain/54>

From the WDES PTO:

PTO Board Members Needed!

PTO Special Events:

Do you like to plan events? We are looking for someone to oversee all the special events that the PTO hosts: Grandparent’s Day, Movie Night, Winterfest, Talent Show and more! You will be the point of contact and oversee the committees that will plan and run the events. Please email wdesptopresident@gmail.com if you are interested!

PTO Faculty Appreciation Committee:

Would you and a group of your friends like to take one hour a month and show our staff some appreciation? The PTO is in need of 3-4 people to take one hour a month and collect donated items to setup in the staff lounge. This runs October-April. We have supplies for you and someone will train you. Please send an email to wdesptopresident@gmail.com if you are interested!

Remember to become a PTO member during Open House!

The PTO has been busy throughout the summer making purchases for our students! From PTO funds, the PTO purchases canvas book bags, communication folders, art notebooks, agendas and we provide each teacher with a \$200 voucher to spend on needed classroom items. Also this summer, the PTO has purchased two new televisions for the cafeteria, items needed for teacher training, educational books for the teachers’ summer reading and new seating for the music department!

WEDDINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Ms. Maria Ospina – Dual Language
Ms. Roxana Rivas – Dual Language
Ms. Magdalena Miranda – Dual Language – Co-Teacher
Mrs. Jessica Guitierrez – DLI Reading
Ms. Jessi Wright – STEAM Teacher

From the School Counselor:

I am so excited to start the new school year with you! In preparation for the first day of school here are some important tips to think about this week:

1. **Start getting back on the school schedule now!** Begin to adjust your child's sleep schedule to match their school sleep schedule as close as possible. This will make for an easier first day of school early morning wakeup.
2. **Practice the power of positive thinking!** Over the next week, help your student prepare for their return by talking through what they are excited about and what they might be nervous about. Help your student rehearse a positive pep talk, or watch this one, to help alleviate some of those first day jitters. If your child is really nervous about starting the first day, don't hesitate to reach out before then.
3. **Get your student playing outside!** Take this last week to really enjoy every last moment of the "free" time they have before school starts back up. Encourage your child to play outside to clear their mind and get them energized for the upcoming school year.

I can't wait to have everyone back at Weddington and look forward to a fantastic school year!

Best,

Mrs. Jewell

One way the PTO is funded is through membership fees we ask families to pay once a year. Membership is \$15 and allows you to attend our open meetings throughout the school year and vote on certain decisions.

During Open House, you will have the opportunity to win a Wildcat basket when you become a member and be able to spin a wheel to get a free coupon to a local restaurant!

We hope to see you at the WDES PTO table!

Box Tops:

Besides the reading challenge, don't forget about our WDES Box Top challenge! Be sure to collect Box Tops all summer and bring them back in August! Remember, each Box Top is worth 10 cents for our school. They add up!

Shopping Cards:

Link your shopping cards for Harris Teeter, Publix and Amazon Smile to Weddington Elementary. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to our Treasurer at wdesptotreasurer@gmail.com.

For up to date PTO reminders and information about WDES, please like us on **Facebook at Weddington Elementary School PTO**.

**Thank you,
Your WDES PTO Board**

Weddington Cluster Events:

The Weddington Middle School Athletic Booster Club will be hosting a Family BBQ Dinner and tailgate event on Friday, August 23rd. The Pre-Sale deadline to order your meal is August 19th. For more information, please see the flyer attached in this week's email. Don't forget to join us as our Weddington Warriors take on Ardry Kell on Friday, August 23rd.

Principal Prowl Newsletters:

Have you missed one of our newsletters? You can access all Principal Prowl Newsletters on our school website. Just click on our school website link, <https://www.ucps.k12.nc.us/Domain/54>,

WELCOME BACK!
Mrs. Klein

