



Washington Township Schools



“Making a Difference”

Important Reminder

Parents and guardians please review your emergency contact information sheet and return it to school as soon as possible. Also, please review your contact information in the Honeywell Instant Alert System. It is critical to make sure this information is correct and up to date in the system so that the school can contact you regarding your child.

In addition to reviewing your contact information, please send a note to school if your child's afterschool arrangements will be modified. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your child's school.

Back-to-School Nights

Back-to-School Nights are being held on Wednesday, September 9th at Port Colden School and Thursday, September 10th at Brass Castle School with a special Grade 6 Back-to-School / Stokes Trip Informational Night on Wednesday, September 16th.

Parents/Guardians are reminded that Back-to-School Night is an opportunity for your child's classroom teacher to share and provide information about their instruction program. If you should have specific questions regarding your child, please schedule a conference with the teacher for another time.

Please look for specific Back-to-School Night schedules in our Friday e-blast. As a reminder all important notices can be found on the district website. Click on the “eblast” button on the bottom of the home page.

Washington Township PTA

Remember to check out the PTA website at washingtontownship.my-pta.org.

Please join us for our first PTA meeting of the year on Tuesday, September 15th @ 7:00pm in the Brass Castle Library.



Child Care Program

We continue to offer a parent-paid childcare program for the parents / guardians of our students who work. Margaret Lyons, our Child Care Director, would like to extend a warm welcome to all of the new families and to also let them know that they are welcome to come visit our child care program in order to become familiar with its services.

It is important that parents of children in grades K-3 register their children for our afternoon Child Care Program so that their children can go to the program in an emergency. To learn more about our program, or make an appointment with Mrs. Lyons, please call 908-413-7046. Mrs. Lyons is very excited about the new school year and will continue to make subtle changes to enhance its operation.

Child Find Outreach

Every school district is charged with reaching out to children in the community who may need any kind of assistance academically, socially or emotionally. If there is someone who feels that they have, or know of a child or a family who may need assistance through the school, please contact Mrs. Kaluzny in our Special Services Office at 908-689-1188 x 3610.

Highly Qualified Notification

As per the United States Department of Education's No Child Left Behind Law of 2002, school districts must notify parents of the highly qualified status of all teaching staff members. The law requires that all schools receiving Title I funds must inform parents of their right to ask schools about the qualifications of their child's teachers. Our school receives Title I funding and we are happy to share this information with you.

We believe that nothing is more important to your child's education than having a well-prepared and highly qualified teacher. The law requires that all teachers must meet a specific legal definition of "highly qualified" in order to teacher in schools and that definition has three parts:

- at least a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher education;
- that the teacher be fully licensed and certified; and
- that they demonstrate expertise in their field.

We are pleased to report that once again all teaching staff members meet the "highly qualified" standard established by the New Jersey Department of Education.

More information regarding Title I services can be found on our district website.

Keith Neuhs, NCLB Grant Coordinator

Birthday Invitations / Treats



Parents are reminded that invitations to home birthday parties may be distributed in school, but they need to be distributed as follows with no exceptions: the entire class, all boys or all girls. Parents should also present the birthday invitations to the teachers for distribution.



If you would like to have your child celebrate his/her birthday in school by having a small treat for their classmates, please check with the classroom teacher a **minimum of 2 days** prior regarding any allergy/ dietary concerns there may be in the classroom. The treat needs to be dropped off in the main office in the morning. Parents are reminded that all treats should be easily distributed, such as a cup cake or cookie. Teachers are not permitted to cut up "sheet cakes" nor will they distribute frozen treats, such as ice cream. We do not have the refrigeration space required to store them. Finally, please do not send in "birthday-bag treats" for your child's classmates; it is gracious of a parent to do that, but we must remember all families do not have the resources to provide each child with such a gift.

School Fire / Emergency Drills

General Assembly Bill 3002, enacted on January 11, 2010, requires districts to hold 1 fire drill and 1 emergency drill per month. Emergency drills must include the following: lockdown, bomb treat, evacuation (non-fire) and active shooter. As in the past, we will continue to have the police and other first-responders visit our schools during these drills to observe and provide feedback. The purpose of this legislation is to practice these emergency drills so that schools are prepared to respond to these types of emergencies. It is important that parents understand the guidelines, which we must adhere to regarding these drills.

When these emergency drills are being held we will no longer announce them as drills. The Warren County Prosecutor's Office issued guidance regarding the language used when drills are practiced. We are to simply announce, in clear talk, "Lockdown – the school is now in lockdown". It is their view that every drill should be "conducted as close to the actual situation as possible". Therefore, we will no longer announce a "lockdown drill" but simply say, "Lockdown – the school is now in lockdown."

With regard to the notification of our parents, we will not notify parents that drills have occurred. We will, however, notify parents about actual events, once directed by the police department.

NJ School Boards – Parent Connections

Check out the "Parent Connections" page on the NJ School Boards Association website at: www.njsba.org/parents.

There is a wealth of information to help keep our parents and community better informed. This site premiered last fall and continues to be updated with useful information and links. There is information on school finance, how schools are run, and student achievement. There is also a tab that provides links to a media library with more great resources.

Counselor's Corner — September 2015

The slower days of summer hold a special place in my heart. Spending lazy evenings getting ice cream when it's so hot outside that the cone drips faster than I can keep up... having all my children home for a little while... sweet corn on the cobb, bike rides and my toes in the warm sand (I will not give up my flip flops without a fight!) These are the times memories are made of...

With that being said, I am so happy to be 'home' here with you all in Washington Township! I missed you and your children! It's going to be a fabulous year!

For those new to our district - WELCOME! You will find Washington Township School District to be a warm, welcoming place where we care about the 'whole' child both in and out of school. I can be reached via email dtierney@washtwpsd.org or at Brass Castle 908-689-1188 ext 611 or Port Colden 908-689-0681. I look forward to speaking with and meeting our new families and reconnecting with old friends in the coming weeks!

Counselor's Corner — September 2015 (continued)


The focus for the early weeks of school is RESPECT. - the cornerstone of our character. Students will be reminded of respect for teachers, staff, peers, property and self through Character Education, small group and individual meetings. Positive incentive programs will be ongoing in each school to support student's who are making good choices, treating others with respect without being reminded and having a positive attitude throughout the day.

I encourage you to reflect on the following (one of my favorite quotes:)

Good character is more to be praised than outstanding talent. Most talents are, to some extent, a gift. Good Character, by contrast, is not given to us. We have to build it piece by piece - by thought, choice, courage and determination." J. Luther



September 2015

SUN	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT
	 <p>Back to School!</p>	1 Teacher In Service	2 Teacher In Service	3 Welcome Back! Remember the GOLDEN RULE- respect yourself, your friends and your teachers	4 Start the school year with a posi- tive attitude and share a smile!	5
6	7 Enjoy your day off ;)	8 Use your Re- spectful behavior on the school bus	9 RESPECT – Give It To Get It!	10 Make good choices-be respon- sible for your own actions	11 Be a respectful listener – let oth- ers speak	12
13	14 Even little ges- tures matter – hold the door open for some- one today	15 It’s not only what you say but how you say it that’s important – use a respectful tone	16 Respect comes in many forms - Thank the cafete- ria workers for making you a yum- my lunch	17 Smile at some- one you don’t usu- ally talk to	18 Respect is catching-respect yourself and oth- ers will follow	19
20	21 Making eye contact when someone is speaking shows respect	22 Talk to some- one you don’t usu- ally hang out with today	23 Show respect for our environ- ment – recycle!	24 Are you remem- bering your bus manners?	25 We all make mistakes – show respect through forgiveness	26
27	28 Start the week off right- give someone a com- pliment	29 Be your best self– your teach- ers, friends and your bus driver will respect you	30 Stay in control- respect yourself and take pride in your work			

“Never judge someone by the way he looks or a book by the way it’s covered; for inside those tattered pages, there’s a lot to be discovered.” S. Cosgrove
Let’s begin our year together by getting to know the person on the inside and practicing respectful, kind behavior to our friends, teachers and family.

WELCOME BACK!