

WEST TOWSON ELEMENTARY



Jason Barnett, Principal
Christopher Carter, Assistant Principal

School Office: 443-809-3869
Health Suite: 443-809-8037

WTES Website: <http://westtowsones@bcps.org>

Go West Newsletter
January 2024



West Towson Elementary

#1 Elementary School in the State of Maryland

#3 School in the State of Maryland

(MSDE 2023 Report Card Data)



JANUARY

- 2-19 Table Tennis - Students Will Participate During Their Weekly Physical Education Class
- 15 Schools and Offices Closed - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 16 SGA - 8:30 AM - 9:00 AM - Room 217
- 17-22 Vision and Hearing Screening
- 19 Second Marking Period Ends - Schools Close 3 Hours Early for Students - Grade Reporting and Data Analysis for Teachers
- 20 West Towson Elementary School Day at Towson University- Watching the Men's Towson University Basketball Team - 4:00 PM
- 22 5th Grade Students - Articulation - Dumbarton Middle School - 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM
- 26 School Spirit Day - Show Your Westy Pride
- 29 Report Cards Distributed

A LOOK AHEAD TO FEBRUARY

- 2 Little Mermaid - WTES Students - Dumbarton Middle School - 7:00 PM
- 5-9 School Counselor Appreciation Week
- 6 Grade 5 FT Goucher College 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM
- 8 Spirit Day - Wear Your Favorite Team Jersey Day
Go West Newsletter Distributed
- 9 Systemwide Professional Development Day - Schools Closed for Students - Teachers on Duty
- 12 SGA Meeting - 8:30 AM - 9:00 AM - Room 217
- 14 Valentines for Vets Mixer - Ridge Ruxton - 9:30 AM - 10:45 AM - Character Crew and SGA
- 15 Band Retention Field Trip - Towson High School - Time TBD
National School Resource Officer Day

HAPPY NEW YEAR WESTIES!



FROM THE DESK OF THE PRINCIPAL

JASON BARNETT

Happy New Year! I hope the start of 2024 brings good health and happiness to all. Welcome back! A huge thank you to our school community for the many acts of kindness provided to the teachers and staff before the Winter Break. Your good wishes and thoughtfulness were greatly appreciated.

Schools are closed for students on Monday, January 15th for Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The second marking period ends on Friday, January 19th. Schools will be closing 3 hours early for students on the 19th, dismissal for West Towson will begin at 1:05 PM. These last weeks of the grading period are an excellent time to talk with your child about his or her progress. Please login and check Schoology frequently in order stay informed of your child's progress. There is still time for hard work to bring up any grades that do not reflect the best effort.

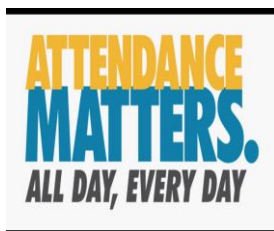
All students will receive their report cards on Monday, January 29th. The months between winter break and spring break provide the longest uninterrupted time for instruction during the school year. Please continue to monitor your children's attendance, check their homework, review their classroom performance, assist them to study for tests, and reinforce their positive behavior.

On these frosty mornings, it is important to remind all families to listen to the news to learn whether school is open on time. Most television news programs run information along the bottom of the television screen throughout the broadcast. You may call 443-809-5555 for information or check the BCPS website. It is important that we keep the school phone lines open for communication, so please do not call school.

This is also a good time to review procedures with your child in case schools close early. If your phone numbers have changed during the first part of the school year, please call school so we can send home new Emergency Contact forms to update your information.

I look forward to a rewarding 2024 with all our West Towson families. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call. I welcome the opportunity to talk with you.

WEST TOWSON ATTENDANCE COMMITTEE



Each month the West Towson Attendance Committee meets to review student attendance and to contact families regarding absences. The committee focuses on students who have eight or more absences at this point in the school year. At times, attendance letters are sent and/or phone calls are made to families with students who have eight or more absences so the school and the family can be in communication regarding the reason for absences and to verify the attendance report on file at the school. A reminder that student vacations are marked as unexcused absences. Please contact your child's homeroom teacher and Athena Sidou at asidou@bcps.org with any attendance notes. We strive for

staff and students to have 95% attendance within a school year but understand that there are special circumstances. If you have any questions regarding your child's attendance, please reach out to Mr. Barnett or Mr. Carter at 443-809-3869. Thank you!

WEST TOWSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DAY AT TOWSON UNIVERSITY

West Towson families are invited to attend West Towson Elementary Day at Towson University, as they watch the men's basketball game between Towson and Campbell, on Saturday, January 20, 2024.

The game starts at 4:00 PM and tickets are \$5.00 with the promo code "WEST". To purchase tickets please visit TowsonTigers.com/west and click "unlock" and then use promo code "WEST".

Students who currently have a 95% attendance rate during the 23-24 school year will receive one free ticket.

Ben Rabin, 4th grade teacher, will also be honored as the WTES nominee for the BCPS Teacher of the Year.

Please click on the link below to listen to a message from Coach Skerry personally inviting our Westies to attend. Towson Tigers Video Link"

<https://youtu.be/T0rjhGn6DGs>

FROM THE FRONT OFFICE



Just a reminder - If any of your contact information should happen to change during the school year such as cell phone, home address, etc., please call the front office at 410-887-3869 so our records can be updated. It is very important that we be able to contact you in case of an emergency. Thank you for your assistance in this matter!



WESTY WALK NEWS

The 2023 Westy Walk was a huge success! Thanks to all the sponsors, donors, parents, students, and staff for making it such a great event! We can't wait to see everyone on May 4, 2024. The event is not possible without the generosity of local businesses. During this holiday season, please consider patronizing these businesses and thanking them for their generosity.



If you are interested in being involved in this event or have a business that would be interested in being a sponsor, please contact Mr. Rabin at brabin@bcps.org or Ms. Ford at dford3@bcps.org

*The Westy Walk is not a PTA sponsored event. It is organized by a dedicated group of parent volunteers and staff. Funds from the program directly impact the school. This year, we purchased new classroom document cameras and are working on upgrades to the school sound system. Funds go into the West Towson Elementary account at the Education Foundation for Baltimore County.

Corporate Sponsors	Silent Auction Donors
Raesyne Performance Walking Corlis Construction Site Link Uber Bagels Mickey's Auto Repair Charm City Run Roland Park Orthodontics Seasons Pizza, Towson Rita's Italian Ice, Towson Wolf Insurance Agency The Graf Family Smith, Gildea, and Schmidt LLC Immaculate Detailing Casa Figlia Daft McCune Walker, Inc Armagh Village	Aberdeen Ironbirds About Faces Baltimore Coffee and Tea Baltimore Ravens Beckett Hitch Bowie Baysox Coppermine Dick's Sporting Goods Eagles Nest Country Club Jessica Leigh Photography Lauren Daue Photography McDonogh Summer Camps ProMD Health Roland Park Orthodontics Science North Salon and Blow Dry Bar The Mine Tiny Easel Towsontowne Rec Council

WEATHER INFORMATION PHONE LINE

With the arrival of cooler weather and the potential for inclement weather, parents may find the weather information phone line helpful. This important resource is provided through Baltimore County Public Schools. To hear the latest information about weather related closing, call 443-809-5555. Please do not call the school office with questions related to weather or school closings. Parents are also encouraged to sign up for weather related closing information.



PRIVATE SCHOOL REQUEST FOR RECORDS

Occasionally, West Towson Elementary School receives requests from parents to send their child's records to private educational institutions for consideration of placement. As per Board Rule 5230, Student Records, this request must be received in writing along with a signed copy of the BCPS Consent for Release of Records form to release any information to another school or educational institution. Transcript requests are processed on a first come, first served basis. All requests will be processed within 15 business days after receipt of the completed form and payment in the amount of \$5.00.





Please do not send these requests to your child's homeroom teacher. Instead, please send all requests to the main office to be processed.

WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN TO SCHOOL - WHEN SHOULD THEY STAY HOME - NEWS FROM NURSE VANDERWAL



STUDENTS SHOULD STAY HOME IF THEY HAVE:

A Fever	Vomiting	Diarrhea	Head Lice	Pink Eyes
				
Temperature of 100°F or higher.	Two or more episodes within the past 24 hours.	Two or more episodes within the past 24 hours.	Live head lice or new nits.	Redness with crusty drainage from eye.

STUDENTS ARE READY TO RETURN WHEN:

Free from fever for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication (e.g. Tylenol, Motrin).	Free from vomiting for at least 24 hours or until cleared by a medical provider.	Free from diarrhea for at least 24 hours or until cleared by a medical provider.	Completed recommended treatment and no evidence of new live lice.	Cleared for return with documentation from a medical provider, after taking antibiotics for 24 hours, or until symptoms have resolved.
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For the latest information from CDC on COVID-19, RSV, and the Flu: <https://www.cdc.gov/respiratory-viruses/index.html>

Maryland Communicable Disease Summary: <https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/IDEHSharedDocuments/CDSummary.pdf>

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BCPS INCLEMENT WEATHER DAYS - ADJUSTMENT TO THE BCPS SCHOOL CALENDAR

Adjustments to the School Calendar

As shown, this calendar includes three (3) emergency closure make-up days. If no emergency closure days occur, the school year will end for students on Tuesday, June 11, 2024, and the Assessment Days, the last day of classes for Preschool-3 and Pre-K, and the last day for teachers will be re-designated accordingly. Should emergency closures occur, the make-up days will be as follows:

Emergency Closure #1 Make-up Day will be Wednesday, June 12, 2024

Emergency Closure #2 Make-up Day will be Thursday, June 13, 2024

Emergency Closure #3 Make-up Day will be Friday, June 14, 2024

Please note that if more than three (3) emergency closures occur and/or there are a significant number of delayed openings and/or early dismissals used, the school calendar also may be adjusted appropriately to meet the minimum required student days AND the required number of student hours.

These readjustments may include the re-designation of holidays as student days; the adjustment of Spring break; the re-designation of professional development days as student days; the cancellation of planned early releases; and the extension of the school year beyond Tuesday, June 18, 2024.

ATTENTION VOLUNTEERS

During the 2023 - 2024 school year, would you like to... chaperone a field trip, attend a class party, be a mystery reader, serve as a room parent, or a classroom/school volunteer? In order to interact with West Towson students during the school day (in any capacity) you **MUST** be volunteer trained.



Each year parents are asked to complete volunteer training. Please be proactive and complete these forms as soon as possible. Volunteer training can be accessed online at www.bcps.org under the 'Community' tab and is titled 'Volunteers'. All volunteers must complete the volunteer application **AND** participate in an orientation/training session annually. You will be provided with a certificate once you successfully complete the training. **Please submit the volunteer application and the valid training certificate to West Towson's Front Office Secretary, Athena Sidou.** These may be submitted by hard copy or electronically to asidou@bcps.org. Thank you for your willingness to help.



Please Post this flyer on your refrigerator during the winter months.

West Towson Elementary School Late Openings/Early Closings Inclement Weather Procedures

Information about school operations is announced publicly as soon as possible on local radio and television stations and other media including the internet. If schools are delayed or closed, the announcement is usually made by 5:30 a.m. If schools are closing one or two hours early, the announcement is usually made by 10:30 a.m. If schools close 3 hours early, the announcement is usually made by 10:00 a.m. Please refer to the following for your most current weather-related information:

- BCPS web page <http://www.bcps.org>
- The Education Channel, Comcast Cable Channel 73
- BCPS Telephone Information 443-809-5555
- Local radio and television stations

School opens 1 hour late:

- School begins at 10:20 a.m.
- Doors open at 10:05 a.m.

School opens 2 hours late:

- School begins at 11:20 a.m.
- Doors open at 11:05 a.m.

School closes 1 hour early:

- School will be dismissed at 3:05 p.m.

School closes 2 hours early:

- School will be dismissed at 2:05 p.m.

School closes 3 hours early:

- School will be dismissed at 1:00 p.m.



If **ONLY** West Towson closes early due to an unexpected emergency, or the School Superintendent rules that the system-wide closing is unexpected, the school is required to make direct contact by speaking with or contacting by email a parent or emergency contact before sending the child home. It is important to stay close to the phone or your computer in the event of such an emergency to receive the call from the school or to respond to the email. If the school representative does not speak directly with a parent or emergency contact, or receive a return email, the child will remain at school.

Girls Softball

SPRING 2024

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!



Girls ages 4-18 are welcome to register in the LTRC girls softball program. We offer leagues for ages 4-5, 6-7, 8-9, 10-11, 12-13, and 14+. We encourage you to sign up your daughters today to play this great game, learn new skills, and develop new and lasting friendships.

IT'S A FUN EXPERIENCE
FOR EVERYONE!



REGULAR REGISTRATION THROUGH MARCH 8, 2024

Registration and additional information can be found at the LTRC Girls Softball Website: <http://www.ltrcgirlssoftball.org/>



Should you require special accommodations (i.e. sign language interpreter, large print, etc.), please give as much notice as possible by calling the Therapeutic Office at [410-887-5370](tel:410-887-5370) (voice) or 887-5319 (TTY/Deaf). This program is designed to provide a healthy and enjoyable experience for your child. However, it is not licensed childcare. Therefore, parents are encouraged to discuss attendance expectations with their children. Department staff and volunteers cannot detain youth wishing to leave at any time. These materials are neither sponsored by nor endorsed by the Board of Education of Baltimore County or the Superintendent.

