

WEST TOWSON ELEMENTARY



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West Towson Elementary School Twitter Page @WestTowsonES

<http://westtowsones@bcps.org>

Go West Newsletter
May 2019

West Towson Elementary School
2018 National Blue Ribbon School



MAY

- 6-10 Teacher Appreciation Week
- 10 Volunteer Tea - School Rotunda - 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM
Westy Dance Party - Westy Reading Race
- 11 Westy Walk - Loyola Blakefield - 1:30 PM - 4:00 PM
- 14 PTA Meeting - 6:30 PM - Library
- 16 Spring 4th and 5th Grade Vocal and Instrumental Music Concert - Day - 2:00 PM
Spring 4th and 5th Grade Vocal and Instrumental Music Concert - Evening - 7:00 PM
- 17 School Spirit Day - Wear Your Blue and Gold
- 23 Fifth Grade Verification - 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM and 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM
- 24 Memorial Day Assembly - 9:30 AM
- 27 Schools & Offices Closed - Memorial Day Observed
- 29 Kindergarten Field Trip - Towson Library

A LOOK AHEAD TO JUNE

- 3 Field Day
- 4 Field Day - Rain Date
- 5 5th Grade Residency Verification - 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM and 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM
- 11 2nd Grade Talent Show - 9:45 AM - 11:15 AM
2nd Grade Picnic 11:00 AM 12:30 PM
PTA Meeting 6:30 PM - Library
1st Grade Picnic 11:30 PM - 1:30 PM
- 12 KG Picnic - 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM
3rd Grade Picnic - 12:45 PM - 3:00 PM
- 13 KG Farewell 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Go West Newsletter Distributed
School Wide Awards Assembly - 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM
- 14 5th Grade Farewell - 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM
5th Grade Reception - 10:30 PM - 11:00 PM
BCPS Dismisses 3 Hours Early - WTES to Dismiss at 12:40 PM
- 17 Last Day of School - BCPS Dismisses 3 Hours Early - WTES to Dismiss at 12:40 PM





PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR

Are you planning to move your child to a different school for the 2019-2020 school year? If the answer is yes, please contact the office at 410-887-3869 as soon as possible. This information will assist with planning next year's grade level organizations.

The office also needs the names of 5th grade students who will not attend Dumbarton or Ridgely Middle School for the 2019-2020 school year.

Your child will need information from WTES to ensure a smooth registration process for you when you enroll your child at their new school. The office is lightly staffed over the summer. Therefore, if you do not request this information by Monday, June 3, due to the many activities that take place at WTES, during the last two weeks of school, you will not receive your transfer paperwork by June 17, the last day of school. Your paperwork will be mailed to you over the summer.

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRINCIPAL

Where has the school year gone? In just over a month, the 2018-2019 school year will come to an end. In the days and weeks remaining, our students will continue to be involved in learning as well as end of the year activities. Students in the intermediate grades are preparing for vocal and instrumental music concerts. All students are working on increasing their speed, agility, and stamina in preparation for this year's Field Day. Our fifth-grade students are anticipating their Farewell Ceremony.

It is often challenging to keep the students focused on learning as the weather turns warm, the days grow longer, and the children anticipate the arrival of summer. Please continue to emphasize the importance of school and learning by checking to ensure that your children have completed their homework, discussing what your children are learning, and assisting your children to prepare for assessments.

The administration would like to thank the teachers and support staff at West Towson for all that they do to help our students learn and grow. Our wonderful PTA honored our staff last week during Teacher Appreciation Week with box lunches, flowers, and other surprises. This month provides an opportunity for our staff to be recognized for their commitment to your children and their education.

West Towson's kindergarten registration was held on April 25, 2019. **Families who were unable to register on the scheduled registration day, are urged to contact Mrs. Sidou to arrange a time to complete the enrollment process.** Mrs. Sidou can be reached at 410-887-3869.

The Baltimore County Board of Education has officially announced that June 17, 2019, will be the last day of the 2018-2019 school year. Schools will close three hours early on Friday, June 14, and Monday, June 17. As a result, our students' school day will end at 12:45 PM on these last two days of school. Many end of the year school activities are in the planning stages, so please pay careful attention to dates and times of upcoming celebrations and events as they are shared. This year's Fifth Grade Farewell will be held on Friday June 14, at 9:30 AM.

Classroom assignments for the 2019-2020 school year will be provided to families at the Sneak a Peek event, which will take place in August 2019, at the end of summer break. During the past several years, West Towson's unpredictable enrollment has forced us to make changes in classes during the summer months, often days before the students return to school.

This year's Westy Walk was held on Saturday, May 11, at Loyola Blakefield. The funds raised from last year's walk paid for our fourth graders' participation in Junior Achievement's Biztown Program, culminating in a trip to the JA facility in Owings Mills, where the students ran the city for a day. The funds also covered the cost of purchasing safety bags for all classrooms. Thank you to everyone who joined us for a day of family fun, exercise, and fundraising!

HELP NEEDED

Help is needed in our school cafeteria for the upcoming 2019-2020 school year! If you, or someone you know, would be interested, please call the school office at 410-887-3869. Cafeteria staff work for about two hours a day and are paid \$10.10 an hour. Please help us spread the word!

SAVE THE DATE

The 2019-2020 school year may seem a long way away, but it will be here before you realize it. Please put Tuesday, September 3, 2019, on your calendars to mark the first day of school for our students!

SHARED DOMICILE INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS

Shared Domicile Renewal Forms were sent to the homes of all families residing

with another family. Your child's enrollment must be renewed each year if you live in a shared domicile living arrangement. If you received a form and are no longer living in a shared domicile living arrangement, proof of residency must be provided for your new address. If you have any questions about the documentation you need to provide, please call Mrs. Sidou at 410-887-3869. **These forms must be returned to the office by June 17, 2019, or your child will be withdrawn from West Towson Elementary School. Baltimore County Public School Policy prohibits us from making any exceptions for forms turned in late.**



5th GRADE TRANSITION YEAR RESIDENCY VERIFICATION

All resident families with students currently enrolled in grades 5 or 8 are now required to verify residency with their sending school (West Towson Elementary School) prior to the start of the 2019-2020 school year. Letters were mailed out to the parents/guardians of grade students.

Failure to provide this information by June 15, 2018, will result in the receiving school (the projected Middle School) withdrawing the student prior to the start of the 2019-2020 school year, as indicated in Baltimore County Public School Policy Rule 5150. Please be advised that after June 17, you will need to work with your child's middle school to re-enroll your child.



For your convenience, the office staff will be available to assist you with your residency verification on May 23, and June 5, from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM, and 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM. **Please note that residency verification will not be accepted the week of June 11, through June 15, due to the numerous activities that will take place at West Towson Elementary School during the last week of school. Residency verification can also not be done during end of the year grade level activities, field day, or end of the year field trips.** If you have questions about your residency verification or need additional information, please contact Mrs. Sidou at 410-887-3869.

A HEALTH REMINDER FROM MRS. VANDERWAL, R.N.

If your child has been taking medication in school, please read the following information carefully. Students may not take unused or expired medications home. A parent or designated adult must retrieve the medication from school or it will be discarded. Medication should be picked up by the last day of school. If you are unable to pick up medication by the last day of school and want to make alternate arrangements, please contact me at the telephone number below.



A copy of the doctor's order will be sent to you in June with a reminder letter. If it is necessary for your child to continue taking medication during the coming school year, please return the form by the first day of school with the medication. All medication (over the counter and prescription) must have a doctor's order.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at 410-887-8037.

END OF THE YEAR EVENTS AND FIELD TRIP REMINDERS FOR PARENTS

As we near the end of the school year, the teachers have planned many exciting events that you may wish to share with your children and their classmates. Any event (picnic, class party, Field Day) where you may be interacting with other children will require that you be volunteer trained and be placed on the *Approved Volunteer* list. The school office maintains this list of approved volunteers, and only parents on that list will be allowed to participate in activities which involve interacting with the other children in the classes. Parents not on the list will only be allowed to observe the activities and/or to interact only with their children.



In order to fully participate in the class events, school events, or serve as a chaperone on field trips, it is important that you complete the online Volunteer Training course provided via the BCPS website. The training can be accessed by clicking on the link below:

http://www.bcps.org/community/volunteer_info/

The training takes approximately 10 minutes to complete. After completing the training, you must print out both your completed application and your certificate of completion (two separate documents) and send them to your child's homeroom teacher or the school office. Once your documents are received in the main office, the approval process which involves a background check takes at least 24 hours. So, don't wait until the day of the event or trip to turn in the documents!



We value your participation and we do not want to disappoint any children or parents in sharing the special joys and memories of our end of the year events and field trips. Please contact your Mrs. Ruocco, School Counselor, or your child's teacher with any questions regarding volunteering at West Towson.

PARENT SURVEY

The purpose of this survey is to determine how well your child's school is partnering with you and promoting parent involvement in your child's education. Your feedback will help guide efforts to improve special education and related services in your local school system. The Survey is anonymous so please do not write any personally identifiable information. The last date to complete the survey is May 17, 2019.

Make Your Voice Heard!

Please take 5 minutes to complete the Maryland Special Education Parent Involvement Survey.

Please complete this survey in one sitting. If you leave this page before submitting the Survey, you will have to start over. You can access the survey at the following link:

<https://www.mdparentsurvey.com/>

APPROPRIATE SPRING APPAREL

As the weather improves and the temperature rises, it is important that you discuss guidelines for appropriate school apparel with your children. Children spend recess time outside on fair weather days, and they should be wearing shoes that will protect their feet. Wearing flexible shoes that enclose the entire foot (like tennis shoes that tie) help to prevent injuries and insect bites/stings on the playground. A person's foot is less likely to slip, causing when and are less likely to slip on the steps if they are wearing appropriate shoes. To minimize distractions children should not wear short shorts, short skirts, or revealing tops. Tee shirts containing negative statements or inappropriate content should not be worn to school.

SPRING



2019-2020 SCHOOL CALENDAR

The calendar for the 2019-2020 school year is **attached**. Please review the calendar when planning family trips or vacations to avoid scheduling these important events while school is in session.



Baltimore County Public Schools 2019 - 2020 School Year

Approved: 03/05/19

August

23 (F) Administrative and Supervisory Personnel Meeting Pupil:
26 (M) Teachers and School Based Staff on Duty
27 (T) Teacher Classroom Preparation Day
28 (W) Systemwide Professional Development Activities
29(Th) Orientation for Students Entering Grades 6 and 9

September

2(M) Labor Day – Schools and Offices Closed
3 (T) Opening Day for Students
30 (M) Systemwide Professional Development Day – Schools Closed for Students –
Teachers on Duty – Rosh Hashanah

October

9 (W) Systemwide Professional Development Day – Schools Closed for Students –
Teachers on Duty – Yom Kippur
14 (M) Columbus Day*
18 (F) Systemwide Professional Development Day/MSEA Convention – Schools Closed
for Students – Teachers on Duty or at the Convention

November

8 (F) First Marking Period Ends – Elementary and Middle Schools Close 3 Hours Early for
Students – Grade Reporting and Data Analysis** – High Schools in Session Full Day
Teachers on Duty
11 (M) Veterans Day*
11-15 (M-F) American Education Week
21 (Th) Report Cards Distributed

- 22 (F) Preschool-3 and Pre-K Conference Day and Elementary Conference Day No Preschool-3 or Pre-K sessions and Schools Closed for Elementary Students – Middle and High Schools in Session Full Day – Teachers on Duty
- 27 (W) All Schools and Offices Close 3 Hours Early
- 28-29 (Th-F) Thanksgiving Holiday – Schools and Offices Closed

December

- 20 (F) Christmas Holiday/Winter Break Begins at the End of the School Day

January

- 2 (Th) Schools Reopen
- 20 (M) Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – Schools and Offices Closed
- 24 (F) Second Marking Period Ends – Schools Close 3 Hours Early for All Students – Grade Reporting and Data Analysis ** – Teachers on Duty

February

- 6(Th) Report Cards Distributed
- 12 (W) Lincoln’s Birthday*
- 17 (M) Presidents’ Day; Washington’s Birthday* – Schools and Offices Closed; (First Emergency Closure Makeup Day – if one or more emergency closures occur prior to February 17, Presidents’ Day becomes a regular school day with all schools and offices open)

March

- 25 (W) Maryland Day

April

- 3 (F) Third Marking Period Ends – Elementary and Middle Schools Close 3 Hours Early for Students Grade Reporting and Data Analysis** – High Schools in Session Full Day – Teachers on Duty; Spring Break begins at the end of the school day
- 13 (M) State Mandated Holiday - Schools and Offices Closed (Second Emergency Closure Makeup Day – if two or more emergency closures occur prior to April 13, Easter Monday becomes a regular school day with all schools and offices open)
- 14 (T) Schools Reopen
- 23 (Th) Report Cards Distributed
- 28 (T) Maryland Presidential Primary Election – Schools and Offices Closed

May

- 4 (M) Pre-K and Kindergarten Conference Day – No Preschool-3, Pre-K, or Kindergarten Sessions – Teachers on Duty
- 5 (T) Pre-K Conference Day – No Preschool-3 or Pre-K sessions – Teachers on Duty
- 22 (F) Last Day for Seniors
- 25 (M) Memorial Day Observed – Schools and Offices Closed
- 26-31 (T-Su) Commencement Exercises

June

- 1-5 (M-F) Commencement Exercises
- 10 (W) Assessment Day*** – Elementary, Middle, and High Schools in Session Full Day – Last Day of Classes for Preschool-3 and Pre-K

- 11 (Th) Assessment Day*** – Elementary and Middle Schools Close 3 Hours Early for Students – Grade Reporting and Data Analysis** – High Schools in Session Full Day – Teachers on Duty
- 12 (F) Assessment Day*** – Last Day of Classes – Elementary and Middle Schools Close 3 Hours Early for Students – Grade Reporting and Data Analysis** – High Schools in Session Full Day – Teachers on Duty
- 15 (M) Teachers On Duty – Last Day for Teachers (Third Emergency Closure Makeup Day – if three or more emergency closures occur prior to June 15, the last day for teachers becomes a regular school day for students with all schools open and teachers on duty)

16-19 (T-F) and 22 (M) Emergency Closure Make-up Days – If four or more emergency closures occur in the school year, the school year may be extended accordingly beyond June 15.

July

- 2 (Th) Summer School Teachers on Duty
- 3 (F) Independence Day Observed – Schools and Offices Closed
- 6 (M) Summer School Begins
- 31 (F) Summer School Ends

* Schools open with appropriate exercises OR appropriate exercises to be scheduled on the school day prior.

** GRADE AND DATA RECORDING, DATA ANALYSIS – Principals and teachers will have time for grade and data recording, data analysis/progress assessment.

***ASSESSMENT DAY – High schools will have the opportunity to administer traditional final exams or to use alternative assessment procedures.

Adjustments to the School Calendar - The school year will end for students on Friday, June 12, 2020. However, depending on the number of emergency closure days used (e.g., full-day closures, delayed openings, or early dismissals), the school calendar may be adjusted (e.g. re-designation of holidays as student days; adjustment of Spring break; re-designation of professional development days as student days; planned early releases, etc.) and/or the school year extended beyond June 15 in order to meet the minimum required student days/required student hours.