

WEST TOWSON ELEMENTARY



Jason Barnett, Principal
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Go West Newsletter
April 2024



West Towson Elementary

#1 Elementary School in the State of Maryland

#3 School in the State of Maryland

(MSDE 2023 Report Card Data)



A LOOK AHEAD TO APRIL

- 1-5 National Assistant Principal's Week
- 2 Schools Reopen
- 2-30 My School Cares Program
- 5 Third Marking Period Ends - All Schools Close 3 Hours Early for Students - Grade Reporting Analysis - Teachers On Duty
Westy Walk Pep Rally Gym/Cafeteria - 9:45 AM - 10:30 AM
- 8 SGA Meeting - Room 217 - 8:30 AM - 9:00 AM
- 10 Systemwide Professional Development Day - Schools Closed for Students - Teachers On Duty
- 13 Clothing for Cash Recycling Program - Clothing & Show Drive 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM - Front Parking Lot
- 16 Report Cards Distributed (please call the school for an appointment)
Pre-Kg Screening
- 18 Kindergarten Registration (please call the school for an appointment)
- 19 Career Day - Gym - 9:30 AM - 12:15 PM
- 20 Towson University Lacrosse Day for WTES - Johnny Unitas Stadium - **Each student will receive two tickets. Tickets will be sent home with students on April 8.**
- 22 Earth Day Assembly - K-2 2:15 PM - 2:45 PM = 3-5 3:00 PM - 3:30 PM
- 23 School Bus Driver Appreciation Day
- 24 Administrative Professionals Day
- 26 Schools and Offices Close 3 Hours Early
Spirit Day -Tourist Day - Tacky Shirt Day
- 27 BCPS Choral & Recorder Concert - Carver Center - 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM
- 29 Kindergarten Conference Day - No School for Kindergarten Students
- 30 Pre-Kindergarten Conference Day - No School for Pre-Kindergarten Students

A LOOK AHEAD TO MAY

- 1 School Principal Appreciation Day
- 2 Grades 2 and 3 Concert - Day - 2:05 PM- 3:05 PM Multi-Purpose Room.
Grades 2 and 3 Concert - Evening - 6:30 PM - 7:30 Multi-Purpose Room
- 3 Kindness Day - Wear Bright Colors and or Clothing with A Positive Message
School Lunch Hero Appreciation Day
- 4 Westy Walk - 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM - West Towson Elementary School
- 6-10 Teacher Appreciation Week
- 7 Teacher Appreciation Day
- 8 School Nurse Appreciation Day
- 10 School Spirit - Teacher Appreciation Day - Dress Like a Staff Member
- 14 Election Day - Schools Closed
- 16 WTES Art Show - 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM
- 17 Schools and Offices Close 3 Hours Early
- 20 SGA - 8:30 AM - 9:00 AM - Room 217
- 21 Grade 2 Field Trip - Ladew Gardens - 9:30 AM - 2:45 PM
Grade 5 Field Trip - Washington, DC - 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM
- 23 Memorial Day Parade - WTES - Back Fields - 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM
- 24 Volunteer Tea - 9:30 AM - 10:30 - Rotunda
School Spirit - Wear Your Blue and Gold - Show Your Westy Spirit
- 27 School Closed Memorial Day
- 29 Grades 4 and 5 Spring Concert - Day - 2:05 PM - 3:05 PM
Grades 4 and 5 Spring Concert - Evening - 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Save the date for the 2024 Westy Walk - Saturday, May 4, 2024

WE NEED YOU!

Forms will be sent home this week.



PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR

Are you planning to move your child to a different school for the 2024-2025 school year? If the answer is yes, please contact the office at 443-809-3869, or email Mrs. Sidou at asidou@bcps.org and Mrs. Ford at dford3@bcps.org. This

information will assist us as we plan next year's grade level organizations. This includes current grade 5 students, who will not attend Dumbarton for the 2024-2025 school year.



Due to the numerous year end events that take place at WTES during the last two weeks of school, the office will not be able to prepare any Maryland Transfers packets after June 1, 2024. If you do not request a Maryland Transfer packet, prior to June 1, you will not receive the packet until after the end of the school year. We apologize for any inconvenience that this may cause.

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRINCIPAL

JASON BARNETT

Happy Spring to everyone! The third quarter ends on April 5th and report cards will go home April 15th. Please log on to Schoology and FOCUS to review your child's progress. Encourage them to finish the year strong! There is still a lot of learning to be done, so this is a great time to talk to your child about staying on task, completing homework and class work assignments, and working hard every day. We continue to be proud of the performance of our students from Prekindergarten to grade 5. Our students should be commended for demonstrating confidence, courage and determination while completing the Winter MAP assessment. We also appreciate the commitment and dedication of our phenomenal staff as they work to ensure that all students achieve. In addition, we recognize the many contributions parents make as you volunteer at school, ensure that your children complete homework assignments, and work hard to reinforce skills at home. Parents, students, and teachers working together truly support a winning team!! April 24, is Administrative Professionals Day, and we are very fortunate to have two of the best administrative assistants in Baltimore County! Special thanks to Mrs. Ford and Mrs. Sidou for the wonderful job they do every day. Our entire school community appreciates their friendly support, please stop by this month and let them know!!!

IMPORTANT TESTING DATES

Please review the dates below and add them to your calendar.

Please try to avoid making appointments for your child on their testing dates. Your assistance and cooperation are greatly appreciated.



➤ **MCAP - April ELA and May Math, 2024**

Every year, our third, fourth, and fifth-grade students of West Towson Elementary participate in the Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP). MCAP assesses the Maryland College and Career Ready Standards (MCCRS) in English Language Arts and Math. The assessments will be taken on a computer. [MCAP Link](#)

WESTY WALK NEWS

The Westy Walk is a collaborative effort between the community, families, and the school, to provide a fun-filled day of activities for our students and their families, as well as to raise funds for WTES, through the West Towson Educational Foundation.

This year's event will be held on Saturday, May 6, from 1:30 PM - 4:00 PM, at West Towson Elementary School. Continuous shuttle bus service will be provided from the lower parking lot of the E building on the Greenwood Campus, to and from WTES. All funds raised support the school's needs that cannot be covered by the PTA or through the BCPS operating budget.

The funds raised from previous years' events were used to build the new playground, purchase supplementary instructional materials, purchase walkie-talkies for all staff to enhance security, and refresh our classroom technology. Be sure to add this important date to your calendars. There will be tasty food, entertainment, and a silent auction. Paperwork was sent home with your child this week.

For Westy Walk sponsorship or donation opportunities, please contact the Westy Walk co-chairs, Mr. Rabin at brabin@bcps.org or Ms. Ford at dford3@bcps.org. For your convenience, you will find a corporate sponsor form at the end of this newsletter. If you own a business or know of someone who does, please share this corporate sponsorship information with them.

You can also find Westy Walk information and forms on the school's website at westtowsones@bcps.org

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.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Kindergarten registration

West Towson Elementary has scheduled kindergarten registration on Thursday, April 18, 2024. In order to locate students who may be entering kindergarten for the 2024- 2025 school year, please share this information with friends and neighbors in your community who may have a child entering our school in the fall. In accordance with Baltimore County Public School Policy, incoming 2024-2025 kindergarten students must be five years old by September 1, (born between 9/2/18 - 9/1/19). If you are interested or know of someone who has a child ready for

kindergarten who may not receive our newsletter **and lives within the West Towson boundaries**, please call the school office at 443-809-3869 to receive a registration packet, or please fill out the attached kindergarten registration form at the end of the newsletter and return it to West Towson Elementary.

You will need the following documentation to register your child.

- Child's birth certificate
- Immunization records
- Proof of residency - this includes a copy of your lease, tax bill, or mortgage statement and three additional proofs of residency, dated within the past 60 days, matching the address that you provide
- Your photo ID -

EARLY ADMISSION INTO KINDERGARTEN TESTING

In order to be considered for early admission to kindergarten for school year 2024-2025, the child must turn five between September 2, and October 14, 2024.



Early Admission Request Deadlines:

1. Early admission requests for the succeeding school year must be submitted to the home school principal between January 15 and May 1 of the current school year.
2. For students applying for a magnet program, early admission requests must be submitted to the home school principal by no later than the published magnet application deadline. Assessments for students applying for enrollment in a magnet program will take place in January so that the recommendation decision for early admission may be forwarded to the Office of Magnet Programs by the last business day of January.

3. The deadlines outlined in this section are mandatory. Early admission requests will be deemed timely if hand-delivered to the home school on or before May 1, communicated via email to the home school, on or before May 1, or postmarked by May 1.

The procedures for requesting early admission to kindergarten may be obtained at the child's home school, from the Office of Early Childhood Programs, or on the Baltimore County Public Schools' (BCPS) Web site at the following link: [Parent Guidelines for Applying for Early Admission to Kindergarten](#)

PRE-KG SCREENING FOR THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR

If you would like to have your child screened, to see if they are eligible to attend West Towson's pre-kindergarten program for the 2024-2025 school year, please complete and return the form included at the end of the newsletter and return to the school office as soon as possible.



To be eligible to be screened for pre-kindergarten for the 2024-2025 school year, the child must have a date of birth between 9/2/2019 and 09/01/2020. The child must also reside within the West Towson Elementary School boundaries. Once your form has been received and processed, a screening packet will be mailed to you. Prekindergarten registration will take place on Tuesday, April 16, 2024.

GROUPING FOR STUDENTS

During the months of May and June, we are not only preparing for the end of the year, but we are also planning for the 24-25 school year. Teachers will be meeting within and among grade levels to discuss the most effective way to deliver the instructional program to your children. As we plan for the coming year, a great deal of time is spent assigning children to classes. Our goal is to create instructional groups that are designed to meet the needs of your children. When placing children in classes and various instructional groups, the decisions are based upon a number of factors. Information from assessments, classroom performance, and teacher reports regarding student strengths and weaknesses are considered as we develop instructional groups and classes. We also consider the needs of children who receive special services such as speech, ELL, and special education, and positive/negative student interactions. Balancing the many and varied factors is indeed a challenging task, and families are asked not to request a teacher or class for their children.

CONGRATULATIONS MR. RABIN!

Mr. Benjamin Rabin, grade 4 teacher and West Towson Elementary Schools Teacher of the Year, will be celebrated by Baltimore County Public Schools, at the 2024 Champions for Children Awards Celebration, on Thursday, April 18, 2024, at 4:00 PM, at the George Washington Carver Center. West Towson Elementary School is enormously proud to have such an amazing and dedicated Westy on our staff. Goooooooooooo West! Goooooooooooo Mr. Rabin!



5TH GRADE TRANSITION YEAR RESIDENCY VERIFICATION

Baltimore County Public Schools, Policy and Rule 5150, require that all resident families with students currently enrolled in grades 5 or 8, are required to verify residency with their sending school (West Towson Elementary School for 5th grade students) prior to the start of the 2024-2025 school year. Letters will be mailed out to the parents/guardians of our fifth-grade students in early May and all documentation will be due by June 7. Failure to provide the requested information to West Towson Elementary School will result in the student being withdrawn. If you have any questions or need assistance, please feel to contact Mrs. Sidou at 443-809-3869 or email at asidou@bcps.org.

Please note that we will be unable to receive verification documents in-person during the last week of school due to the numerous activities that take place at WTES.

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 note that this process must be updated every year to be volunteer trained.

WEST TOWSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

6914 N. Charles Street 8902 Towson, MD 21204



Kindergarten Registration for the 2024-2025 School Year

If you have a child (or know of a neighborhood child) who should be registering for kindergarten for the 2024-2025 school year, please complete and return this form to the school office as soon as possible.

To be eligible to enter kindergarten for the 2024-2025 school year, the child must have a date of birth between 9/2/2018 and 09/01/2019. The child must also reside within the West Towson Elementary School boundaries. Once your form has been received and processed, a registration packet will be mailed to you. Kindergarten registration will take place on Thursday, April 18, 2024.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Child's Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Parent/Guardian's Name _____ Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Parent/Guardian's Name _____ Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Address _____

County/State/Zip Code _____

Please return this form to WTES via US mail, or scan and email to asidou@bcps.org. If you have any questions, please call West Towson Elementary School at 443-809-3869.

West Towson Office Use Only
Registration packet mailed: (date) _____
Appointment date and time _____ Notes: _____

WEST TOWSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

6914 N. Charles Street 8902 Towson, MD 21204



Pre- Kindergarten Screening for the 2024-2025 School Year

If you would like to have your child screened, to see if they are eligible to attend West Towson's pre-kindergarten program for the 2024-2025 school year, please complete and return this form to the school office as soon as possible.

To be eligible to be screened for pre-kindergarten for the 2024-2025 school year, the child must have a date of birth between 9/2/2019 and 09/01/2020. The child must also reside within the West Towson Elementary School boundaries. Once your form has been received and processed, a screening packet will be mailed to you in mid-March. Prekindergarten registration will take place on April 16, 2024.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN SCREENING

Child's Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Parent/Guardian Home Phone Cell Phone Work Phone

Parent/Guardian Home Phone Cell Phone Work Phone

Address

County/State/Zip Code

Please return this form to WTES via US mail, or scan and email to asidou@bcps.org. If you have any questions, please call West Towson Elementary School at 443-809-3869.

West Towson Office Use Only

Registration packet mailed: (date) _____

Appointment date and time _____ Notes:

West Towson Elementary School is participating in the
Clothing To Cash[®]  Recycling Program



Clothing & Shoe Drive
Saturday, April 13, 2024
10:00am - 2:00pm

Clean Out Your Closet & Help WTES Green School Projects Raise Money!

Our goal is for every student to bring in 2-3 bags of clothing. Bring in as much as you can! Our school will make thousands of dollars if everyone participates.

West Towson ES Green School Projects will be paid for every pound collected.
All materials will be Reworn, Repurposed or finally Recycled.

Look for our white truck in the school parking lot
April 13, 2024 10:00am to 2:00pm.



Help Support Our School & Save The Environment One Bag At A Time.



WE ACCEPT NEW & GENTLY USED:



Clothing

(Women's, Men's & Children's, Clothing, Coats, Etc.)

Footwear

(Shoes, Sneakers, Boots, Cleats, Etc.)

Textiles

(Bedding, Sheets, Blankets, Towels)

Accessories

(Handbags, Backpacks, Gloves, Scarves, Jewelry, Wallets)

**ACCEPTED ITEMS MUST BE
CLEAN, DRY, IN BAGS and TIED CLOSED**



WE DO NOT ACCEPT

Furniture, Food, Cushions, Plastic / Glass Items, Carpet,
TV's, Electronics, Books or Toys.

My School Cares Program

Courtesy of the Greater Baltimore
Area Chick-fil-A Restaurants

Collection Dates: April 2 - April 30, 2024

Pajama collections can be held between February 5-April 30, 2024.

*Sponsored by the
WTES Character Crew

Service Project: Casey Cares Pajama Drive

ABOUT CASEY CARES: Casey Cares is a non-profit organization that enhances the lives of critically ill children and their families by providing opportunities for family fun and engagement outside of the doctor appointments and hospital stays.

One of the major needs for Casey Cares is donations of New Pajamas for infants through young adult sizes. They provide fun pajamas to children on their birthdays, in the hospital and during in-home treatments to cheer them. They work with regional hospitals to provide pajamas throughout the year and give out over 60,000 pairs each year.

LEARN MORE: www.caseycares.org

Join in the fun and win prizes!

Individual Prizes:

PARTICIPATION PRIZE: Each student who donates a new pair of pajamas will receive a coupon good for a free Chick-fil-A® Kids Meal (Elementary School) or Chick-fil-A® Sandwich/8 ct. Nuggets (Middle School). Value approximately \$5.29-\$6.59 per student.

SUPER STAR PJ COLLECTOR: Any individual that collects more than 40 new pairs of pajamas by hosting their own drive will receive a 20" Plush Chick-fil-A® Cow, and Chick-fil-A® Catering Tray Card good for a free small tray (value: \$70).

Team Prizes:

TOP 3 FUNDRAISING SCHOOL HOMEROOMS: (Collecting over 40 new pair of pajamas)

- Prize: Cookie coupon and Small Plush Cows delivered to your school (value: \$105.00).
- Homeroom Teacher will receive a coupon for a Small Chick-fil-A® Catering Tray (value: \$37.00).

The participating school may submit up to (3) homeroom classes that qualified in collecting over 40 new pair of pajamas. In the event of a tie, the school will make the final decision on the top 3 homerooms selected to win the Milk & Cookie, Small Plush Cow party.

All pajamas will be collected by a Baltimore Area Chick-fil-A® or Casey Cares representative on Tuesday, April 30. Tracking sheets must be used & turned in for prizes. No exceptions.

