
August 2024

NEWSCHESTER



Melissa Geraine, Principal

Avis Goodman, Assistant Principal

William Hartner, Assistant Principal

Main Office

(754) 322-8900

Attendance Line

(754) 322-8902

Aftercare Line

(754) 322-8927

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Wildcat Families!

Welcome back to school! I hope you had a wonderful summer and are as excited as we are for the new academic year.

This year, we are celebrating our **50th anniversary**, and our theme is "**The Great Kindness Challenge.**" We are committed to fostering a culture of kindness and respect, encouraging students to make a positive impact in our community.

We are excited that Broward County is now an A district. Westchester is also proud that we maintained our A grade, reflecting our dedication to academic excellence and the hard work of our students, staff, and parents. Your support is vital to our success, and we look forward to collaborating with you to ensure each student's success.

Open communication is key to a thriving school environment. Please feel free to reach out with any questions, concerns, or suggestions. We value your partnership and are here to support your child's educational journey.

Thank you for being a part of our school community. Let's make this a fantastic year filled with learning, growth, and kindness.

Warm Regards,

Mrs. Geraine, Your Proud Principal



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Westchester Elementary PTA

Phone: 754-322-8900

Website: www.browardschools.com/westchester



Aug 12: First Day of School

Aug 13: Independence Day

Aug 21: Open House (PreK-2)6pm-7pm

Aug 28: Open House (3 – 5) 6pm-7pm

Sep 2: No School: Labor Day

Sep 10: PTA Meeting

Sep 11: SAC Meeting 2:30 pm



Safety and security are our top priorities. Please make sure to remember the following safety procedures:

- ❖ All visitors **MUST** report to the front office and must have I.D. to gain access to our school.
- ❖ All visitors must go through our Raptor Visitor System.
- ❖ Students will wear their I.D.s while on campus.
- ❖ Parents must update their contact information with the front office.
- ❖ Visitors must stop at the front gate and speak with our Campus Monitor to gain entrance to campus.
- ❖ Identification is needed to gain access to front office.

Student Placement 2024-2025

A great deal of time, effort and thought has gone into the process of student placement. Classrooms have been balanced academically and socially. Our class lists are structured to provide equitable classes sizes at each grade level. Moving students is difficult without causing imbalances and inequities. Thank you so much for being positive with your child and helping him or her understand that it is impossible to place all students with a preferred best friend or teacher. ALL our staff work hard to make school a positive experience for all students. Westchester is eagerly looking forward to enriching your child's life. We appreciate you for understanding that it can take a few weeks for a child to acclimate to a new grade.



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- ❖ The first bell rings at 7:55 a.m. each morning.
- ❖ On campus supervision begins at 7:30 a.m.
- ❖ Breakfast begins at 7:30 a.m. All students are invited to eat breakfast at no charge.
- ❖ It is vital that students arrive to school on-time.
- ❖ K - 2 car rider students are dropped off and picked up in the front of the school, at the main entrance on Royal Palm.
- ❖ K-2 Walkers enter and exit through Gate 2 at the front of the school (corner of Royal Palm and 123 Ave)
- ❖ 3 - 5 car rider students are dropped off and picked up at the rear of the school on 123rd Avenue. If you have more than one child, use the drop off and pick up area of the youngest child.
- ❖ 3 - 5 Walkers enter and exit at rear of campus, Gate 6, on 123rd Avenue.
- ❖ Please do not park or leave cars unattended in the car loop area.
- ❖ If you are tardy, you must come into the office to sign your child into school.
- ❖ Dismissal is 2:00 p.m.
- ❖ Early Release Day dismissal is 12:00 p.m.

For the safety of our students, we ask that parents in the car lane abide by some simple safety rules:

- ❖ No cell phone usage when in the car line.
- ❖ Parents, please remain in your car.
- ❖ Please make sure your child is prepared to exit the vehicle when you pull into the car line.
- ❖ Children are to exit from the right side of the vehicle (sidewalk)
- ❖ Please stay in one lane, the outside lane is for those cars that are parking or exiting.
- ❖ Pull all the way up. The safety of your child/children is our top priority.



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2024-2025 School Year Registration

We are continuously taking registrations for this school year. During the school year, our office is open for registrations Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Items needed for registration: Two proofs of residence, original birth certificate, and health/immunization record. If you have an incoming kindergarten student, they must be five years old on/or before September 1, 2024.

If you have any questions, please call our office at 754-322-8900

Get FOCUSED



**FOCUS
PARENT
PORTAL**

Register for a parent
account by visiting
www.browardschools.com/focus

Community Eligibility Provision

Westchester Elementary is happy to announce the Food and Nutrition Service Department will continue to provide all students with free breakfast and lunch under the CEP for the 2024-2025 school year.

This means all students enrolled at Westchester will receive breakfast and lunch at no cost.

BROWARD
County Public Schools
Established 1915

It's time to
POWER UP!

**BREAKFAST AND LUNCH
AT NO CHARGE**

COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY PROVISION (CEP)

If your child attends a school that participates in a Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), the student is eligible for **breakfast and lunch at no charge**. CEP provides meals at no charge for every student in this school, so parents don't need to complete an application to qualify.

The School Board of Broward County, Florida, prohibits any policy or procedure which results in discrimination on the basis of age, color, disability, gender, sexual orientation, genetic information, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex or social economic status. The School Board also prohibits unequal access to the fine arts and other regulated public services. Individuals who wish to file a complaint should contact the school's administrator or the Director, Equal Opportunity, Transportation/ADA Compliance Department & District's Equity, Accessibility/Title III, at Governmental Affairs, 201 S. Florida Avenue, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33301-2118. Individuals with disabilities, including accommodations, are to be referred to the Disabilities and Accessibility Act of 2003, (ADA), may call Florida Department of Education, Accessibility/ADA Compliance Department, 201 S. Florida Avenue, Tallahassee, Florida 32304-3118. www.browardschools.com



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SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL



What is SAC?

School Advisory Council

SAC is responsible for studying the school's academic record and developing an annual plan to improve education in vital areas such as student achievement, curriculum, safety and discipline.

- Mandated by State Statute
- Main purpose is increasing student achievement through school improvement
- Chair can be SBBC employee and/or parent



SAC meets about 8 times a year and discusses topics like how can the school improve, how should teacher bonuses be paid out, what needs to be done to increase academic and social performance

Members: Parents, Teachers, Principal, SAF Chair, Students (HS), Community representatives

What is PTA?

Parent Teacher Association



The PTA is a very active group of parents, teachers and administrators that works to enhance the educational opportunities for our children through fun family events and advocating for all students. A wide array of opportunities are available to volunteers for various PTA committees.

Members: Parents, Teachers, All stakeholders of the school

What is SAF?

School Advisory Forum

The goal of the Advisory Forum is to improve the education experience through communication, advocacy, and partnerships between Parents, Schools, and the Broward County School District.

- Mandated by School Board Policy
- Main purpose is communication between stakeholders, the school, and the Area Advisory Council
- Chair must be a parent

JANUARY						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4		
7	8	9	10	11		
14	15	16	17	18		
21	22	23	24	25		
28	29	30	31			

APRIL						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5		
8	9	10	11	12		
15	16	17	18	19		
22	23	24	25	26		
29	30					

SAF meets about 4 times a year and also visits the district Area Advisory Council. Among the topics discussed are: school safety, students well being, calendar and start & end of school year, traffic issues

Members: Parents, Principal, Teachers, Students (HS), Business partners and employees of the school

You CAN make a difference

If you are interested in improving the school and its academic classes your child attends, you are encouraged to join SAC.

If you are looking for a way to impact change in the school system then SAF is for you! Where your ideas are wanted, your input is welcome, and your voice is heard. It is the place for information and communication for all topics pertaining to the school.

Take an active role in your children's school and join the PTA. There is no better way to know what's going on in the school than to be part of the school's parent teacher association.



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To volunteer or chaperone a field in a Broward County School, you must be a cleared volunteer. Please complete an application online. The application can be located at

<https://apps.raptortech.com/Apply/NDgyMDplbi1VUw==>

For more information and to sign up to volunteer for different activities, visit WestchesterPTA.com

follow us

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ptawestchester

Email: westchesterpta.main@gmail.com

Website: www.westchesterpta.com



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**JOIN OUR
PTA TODAY!**

YOUR \$10 DONATION GOES A LONG WAY!

Want to get more involved? Great!

You aren't able to make the meetings? Still OK!

Just joining the PTA helps in various ways!

The \$10 donation when you join goes right back to putting on various events throughout the year for our students!

The class with the most sign ups wins an ice cream party!



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See Something. Hear Something. Say Something.

In an emergency, call 911 immediately. To submit a safety concern that is not urgent, you can do so anonymously. Help identify and intervene with safety incidents **BEFORE** they hurt themselves or others by reporting non-urgent threats, harassing behaviors, illegal activity (vandalism, theft, the sale of drugs), as well as information about planned crimes.

How do you make an anonymous report? There are many ways to provide a tip, just follow the directions below:



Download and Use the SaferWatch App

Download the SaferWatch App at saferwatch.com/download. The app is available in Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) and from numerous other law enforcement entities (CPL) (such as Broward County Sheriff's Office and Florida State Police).



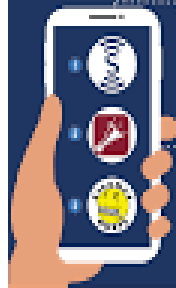
Download and Use the FortifyFL App

Download the FortifyFL App at getfortifyfl.com. Users include school district, law enforcement, and other community partners. Report suspicious or concerning activities in the home or other activities to law enforcement agencies and school staff.



Contact Silence Harts

Anonymous tips can be made to the 800-844-4444. Call 754-322-8900. Text 754-322-8900, enter 5882 (open with your text message) or visit www.browardschools.com.



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