From the Principal:

Hello Wildcat families! We were so happy to see our precious Wildcats back in the building at Open House this past Thursday. The excitement of a new school year has begun!

Every Sunday evening, the Principal Prowl Newsletter will be emailed to all parents and also posted on the school website. The newsletter will contain the most up to date information and calendar dates. Be sure to check your email weekly to stay informed of all things Weddington.

Tomorrow is the first day of school and we can’t wait to have the building filled with children! If you are the parent of a car rider, students may enter the building at 7:00 a.m. Parents may walk students to the classroom until Monday, September 9th. September 9th is our WDES “Independence Day”. This is the day all students must exit the car and walk to class independently.

If you are the parent of a bus rider, delays should be expected this week. We encourage you to download the “Here Comes the Bus” app for real time information. Also, be sure your child knows exactly how he/she is getting home from school. Administration and staff will practice due diligence to ensure all students dismiss

Calendar of Events:

August:
8/26/19 – *First Day of School for grades 1-5
8/26/19 – 8/30/19 – Staggered entry for Kindergarten students
8/30/19 – WDES Spirit Wear Day – all Wildcats sport your spirit wear for school!

September:
9/2/19 – Labor Day Holiday – No School
9/9/19 – WDES Independence Day – all students walk to class independently
9/26/19 – Grandparents/Grandfriends Day – K-2
9/27/19 – Grandparents/Grandfriends Day – 3-5
9/27/19 – Elementary Cluster Night at WHS game
9/27/19 – WDES Spirit Wear Day – all Wildcats sport your spirit wear for school!
9/30/19 – Teacher Workday – No School for Students

*Please see the school calendar on the WDES webpage for additional dates of events.
safely and correctly. If you have any questions, please email your teacher and Mrs. Michele McKenna in the front office; michele.mckenna@ucps.k12.nc.us.

Our first day of school with our Wildcats will consist of grade level assemblies with the WDES administration and our School Resource Officer. We will be reviewing safety information, technology policies, and school expectations for the year.

As you prepare for back to school tomorrow, Kids Health provides some wonderful tips to help ease the transition: [https://kidshealth.org/en/kids/back-to-school.html](https://kidshealth.org/en/kids/back-to-school.html)

On behalf of the entire WDES staff, welcome back to school. It is going to be another fantastic school year!

With gratitude,
Mrs. Klein

### 2019-2020 Student Handbook:

The 2019-2020 Student Handbook will be sent via email from your child’s teacher and posted on the school website. All students and parents are required to review this information. A form will be sent home by the classroom teacher for all students and parents to sign confirming they have reviewed and understand the policies as written in the WDES Student Handbook and well as the UCPS Board Policy handbook. The signed form is due to the classroom teacher by **Friday, September 20th**.

### Cafeteria:

Students should bring money to school in a sealed envelope with the student’s name, cafeteria number, and teacher’s name on the outside of the envelope. Checks must be made out to the Weddington Elementary School Cafeteria. Accounts may be verified or paid in the cafeteria only during the hours of 7:00 a.m. - 7:30 a.m. during school days. You may monitor or make payments to your child’s account by going to [http://www.lunchprepay.com](http://www.lunchprepay.com) and entering your child’s lunch number.

### New this year - STEAM Lab!

We are thrilled to announce that our Wildcats will now participate in once a week instruction in our new STEAM Lab! The lab will be run by Ms. Jessi Wright and she is so excited to build our STEAM program. Right now, Ms. Wright has a WISH LIST we are hoping our families can help with. Please see the items below. Thank you in advance!

**Wish List Items:**
- Plastic Straws
- Pipe Cleaners
- Popsicle Sticks
- Marbles
- Q-tips
- Paper Plates
- Plastic Cups
- Yarn/String
- Cotton Balls
- Toothpicks

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### Parent Input Needed for the Media Center:

Parents, your input is needed! As we plan to convert our Media Center to a future focused learning space, we would like your input! Please take a moment to complete a 1 question survey using the link below on what additions you would like to see in our WDES Media Center. Thank you for your feedback!

[https://forms.gle/Bnqm9BkUQYTKEDq87](https://forms.gle/Bnqm9BkUQYTKEDq87)

Do you have a business or know a company interesting in donating to our school? We are currently looking for donations for our “Media Center Makeover” campaign. Be sure to go to our WDES website under Announcements for full details. There, you can click on the “Donate” button for your opportunity to help our cause. Our Wildcats deserve a 21st Century Media Center. Let’s continue our partnership and help us create a future focused learning environment.

[https://www.ucps.k12.nc.us/Domain/54](https://www.ucps.k12.nc.us/Domain/54)

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### From the WDES PTO:

The PTO Board would like to take a moment to welcome each and every one of you back to school. Open House has us off to a great start!

We currently have 300 families at Weddington Elementary; however, only 90 families have signed up to be a part of
From Mrs. Spicer:

As we gear back up for student drop off and pick up, please review these important safety reminders!

A note for car riders:
* Children should not be let out of the vehicle until our teachers are outside to supervise arrival.
* Students should exit all vehicles from the passenger side.
* Car seats for students should also be on the passenger side.

Afternoon pick up:
New for this year! To help with increasing the traffic flow, 4 more pick-up stations have been added to dismissal in the car rider line. Please be sure to follow the directions of the WDES staff on the sidewalk.

Adhering to these safety regulations will ensure a smooth carpool line and the safety of all of our students!

Mrs. Spicer

School Hours:
The Weddington Elementary School hours are listed below. **The WDES office will close at 3:30 p.m. each day.** The doors will be locked at 3:30 p.m. and telephone calls will not be answered after 3:30 p.m. Messages can be left on the answering system with all calls being returned the next school day.

School Office Hours:
7:00 a.m. – 3:30 a.m.

Student Instructional Hours:
7:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Staff Hours:
7:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Office Staff Contacts:

PTO. Signing up doesn’t mean you have to volunteer. The membership fee goes back to the school to purchase communication folders, agendas, canvas bags, and much more.

Membership is only $15 per family and can be purchased online at [www.weddingtonpto.com](http://www.weddingtonpto.com). Thanks to all the families who have already joined the PTO at Open House. In addition to membership, we hope you will join us in helping to make our school events a huge success! Getting involved is easy. If you would like to assist and help serve our school, please consider signing up to volunteer for a committee. We have a wide range of positions to choose from so one is bound to fit your talents and availability. Please contact Ashley Espinosa for available committees at wdesptosecretary@gmail.com

Our Media Center has already started signing up volunteers for the year and is a great volunteer role to get to know the school and students. Visit the following link for additional details and to sign up: [https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050848abad2aa6f49-wdes](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050848abad2aa6f49-wdes)

The PTO would like to thank our sponsors who have kicked off the 2019-2020 school year with an amazing start. Thank you to our Diamond Level Sponsors, Brocon Inc., Misocky Consulting, MTB Mechanical. Our Silver Level Sponsors, Weddington Animal Hospital, Kumon of Wesley Chapel, and Jersey Mike’s Weddington. Our Bronze Level Sponsor Indian Trail Animal Hospital.

Thanks to the generous support of our sponsors the WDES PTO is able to provide:

- Educational materials for all students such as daily agendas, canvas book bags, and communication folders.
- Classroom vouchers for all teachers, so they don’t have to spend their own money to buy the things they need for their classroom and students.
- Books and improvements to our media center.
- Service projects and community outreach.
- Support for the underfunded departments of art, music, and physical education.
- Campus beautification that focuses on outdoor learning and community service.

If you’re interested in becoming a sponsor of Weddington Elementary School PTO, please contact Joy Misocky at wdesptovpsponsorship@gmail.com
Want to know who to contact in the office with your questions? Just refer to the list below:

**Mrs. Michele McKenna** – telephone calls, school visitors, transportation changes, after-school clubs, volunteers, school website; michele.mckenna@ucps.k12.nc.us

**Mrs. Dawn Bulla** – school monies and receipts, field trips monies; dawn.bulla@ucps.k12.nc.us

**Mrs. Norma Felipe** – student records, student attendance, student registration, Powerschool, yearbook; norma.felipe@ucps.k12.nc.us

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**From the School Counselor**

Welcome back Wildcat Families! I am so excited to start the 2019-2020 school year with you. Please be on the lookout for the School Counselor Beginning of the Year Newsletter to learn more about what counseling activities your student will be participating in this year. I am happy to announce that this year we have expanded our student support team! We now have a School Social Worker, Stacey Lopez, and Mental Health Therapist, Joseph Walker, here at Weddington one day a week to help meet the social and emotional needs of our students. Together, we look forward to supporting your students with whatever they may need.

Group counseling sessions will begin on September 9th. This year, students in grades 1, 2, 3, and 4 will participate in self-assessment surveys to better identify those students who may benefit from group counseling. These surveys are very short in length and will take the place the first week of school, with a few basic questions on how your student feels about themselves, their school experience and their interaction with peers. If your student is selected to participate, you will be notified and asked to give consent for participate in group sessions. In addition to these surveys, you will also be able to sign your students up for group counseling sessions. Please be on the lookout for the sign up link in next week’s newsletter!

As we gear up for the new school year, also remember to link your VIC Cards, Publix Cards and Amazon accounts to our school! This is a simple way we can earn money for our school with each purchase you make at these retailers! (Please note: ALL cards need to be relinked at the beginning of each school year. Links can be found on PTO website.)

Thank you,

Ashley Espinosa, Secretary

Weddington Elementary School PTO

wdesptosecretary@gmail.com

For up to date PTO reminders and information about WDES, please like us on Facebook at Weddington Elementary School PTO.

Thank you,
Your WDES PTO Board
Be sure to visit the School Counseling webpage for more information about Weddington’s counseling program!

As always, do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

Best,
Mrs. Jewell

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Principal Prowl Newsletters:

Have you missed one of our newsletters? You can access all Principal Prowl Newsletters on our school website. Just click on our school website link, https://www.ucps.k12.nc.us/Domain/54.

WELCOME BACK!
Mrs. Klein