

Principal's Prowl Newsletter



August 12th, 2018

Kristen Sebek, Principal
Banks Spicer, Assistant Principal

Weddington Elementary School

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From the Principal:

We are quickly approaching the start of the 2018-2019 school year! We are so excited to have our Wildcat students and families return to the hallways. Our Weddington custodians have done an amazing job preparing our building for the return of our Wildcats and their families. Please be sure to thank them for their efforts when you see them in the building.

Once again, the Weddington administration, staff, and PTO Board have planned for what promises to be another school year filled with high level learning and empowering our students to take charge of their own learning. Our teachers and students will be focusing on **"The 3 C's: Connect. Collaborate. Create"**

Students will be engaged in additional STEM and problem solving activities. Our Wildcats will increase their work in collaborative groups and goal setting. Be sure to talk with your Wildcat throughout the school year about "The 3 C's".

This letter contains important information about upcoming Open House dates as well as the back to school information for students. We hope you enjoy the last few weeks of summer and are gearing up for the return to school! We look forward to seeing our Kindergarten Wildcat parents on August 22nd and all of our Wildcat families on August 23rd.

Yours in Education,
Ms. Sebek

From the Assistant Principal:

Weddington families, I am so proud to be serving as your WDES Assistant Principal! Our school and community is one of the best in the state. I look forward to maintaining our partnership and continuing the excellence at Weddington.

As we progress throughout the school year, please know your Weddington Elementary teachers, administration, and Guidance Counselor are here to assist. Should you have questions or concerns, feel free to contact us. Our partnership is crucial to the success of our Wildcats. Thank you for your support as we work to ensure our students are the best they can be.

Have a great year!

Mrs. Spicer

<p>2018 WDES Open House Dates</p> <p><u>Kindergarten Open House</u> August 22nd, 6:00 p.m. <i>*This is for parents only</i></p> <p><u>WDES Open House</u> August 23rd, 2018 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. <i>*This is a drop in for parents and students to meet the teacher</i></p> <p><u>New Family Welcome</u> <i>*Change in time*</i> The New Family Welcome has been changed from 2:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the WDES gym. This is an information session for families new to Weddington.</p>	<p>attendance zone. If your child is new to Weddington, is a Kindergarten student, or was not a bus rider during the 2017-2018 school year, you must complete a “New Bus Ridership” form. “New Bus Ridership” forms may be obtained from your child’s teacher while in the classroom during Open House. If your child was a bus rider during the 2017-2018 school year, you do <i>not</i> need to complete a bus ridership form. Bus passes, which contain bus numbers and route times, will be provided at Open House on August 23rd. <u>Bus transportation letters/passes will not be mailed. The classroom teacher will have the pass on your child’s desk at Open House.</u> If you have further questions, please see the Weddington Transportation Department table at our Open House located in the cafeteria. You may also contact Patrick Hoagland, our Transportation Specialist, at Patrick.hoagland@ucps.k12.nc.us.</p> <p><u>WDES Car Rider</u> - If your child is going to be an afternoon Car Rider, be sure to stop by the cafeteria to obtain an official 2018-2019 “Weddington Elementary Car Rider” sign. Each parent/guardian who plans to pick up his/her child in the car pool line must present photo identification to receive the sign. There is a limit of two signs per family. WDES students will not be dismissed to an adult who does not display the 2018-2019 Car Rider sign. After August 23rd, the official car rider signs will be available in the front office. We also have official “Weddington Student Walker” tags. Parents/guardians who wish to walk their child to school will need to secure a tag(s) as well.</p>	<p><u>During Open House:</u></p> <p>WDES Parent Communication - Every Sunday evening at 6:00 p.m., an email will be sent containing the Principal’s Prowl Newsletter. The newsletter will contain weekly updates for all parents. On special occasions and/or in the case of an emergency, telephone calls or text messages will be sent in lieu of an email. <i>*Please note, parents must sign up to receive the emails and telephone calls from school administration and UCPS officials.</i> If you are new to Weddington for the 2018-2019 school year and you have not signed up to receive the messages, please complete the “Principal’s Communication Form” that will be in your child’s classroom at Open House. If you are returning to Weddington for the 2018-2019 school year, please be sure to submit your updated telephone number and/or email address if it has changed. If you have additional questions, you may contact our student Data Manager, Norma Felipe, at norma.felipe@ucps.k12.nc.us.</p>
<p><u>During Open House:</u></p> <p>The Transportation/Car Rider information table will be stationed in the school cafeteria during Open House. Please note the following information if your child is a Bus Rider or a Car Rider.</p> <p><u>UCPS Bus Rider</u> - Union County Public Schools Transportation Department provides transportation for all students living in the Weddington</p>		

<p><u>Teacher Assignments</u></p> <p>All Weddington teachers will receive their student rosters the week of August 20th. The procedure for communicating teacher assignments will remain the same as last year. Class rosters with student assignments will be posted at the front of the school at 12:00 p.m. on the day of Open House, August 23rd. The rosters will be listed by grade level. Posting the class lists will ensure all families receive the teacher assignment information at the same time. If you do not see your child's name listed on a roster, please report to the "Class Roster" table located in the front office during Open House. <i>*Please note, classroom teacher assignments will not be provided over the telephone. Parents must report to the school.</i></p> <p><u>School Supplies to Open House</u></p> <p>Students are welcome to bring school supplies to Open House or on the first day of school. <i>*If you ordered a school supply kit from the Weddington PTO, the kits will be delivered directly to your child's classroom prior to Open House.</i></p>	<p><u>North Carolina Honors Choir</u></p> <p>Attention parents of 4th and 5th grade students. Your children have the opportunity to audition for the North Carolina Honors Choir.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Do you want your child to audition for the North Carolina Elementary Honors Choir? 2. Is your child in 4th or 5th Grade? 3. Does your child take private voice lessons? 4. Are you willing to pay \$11 for your child to audition? 5. Are you willing to pay \$35 if your child is accepted? 6. Are you willing and able to make hotel reservations for November 10th in Winston-Salem and attend on November 10th and 11th? <p>If you answered YES to <u>ALL</u> of these questions, please e-mail our Music Teacher, Mr. Becker at bruce.becker@ucps.k12.nc.us. Be sure to include your name and phone number so he is able to forward the audition song details. Good luck!</p>	<p><u>Calendar Events</u></p> <p>August 22nd, - Kindergarten Open House – 6:00 p.m. August 23rd – WDES Open House – 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. August 23rd – 5:00 p.m. – New Family Welcome September 3rd – Labor Day Holiday – No School September 4th – First Day for all Kindergarten September 10th – "Independence Day" – all students walk to class independently September 18th – UCPS Early Release Day – students dismiss at 11:00 a.m. September 19th – Teacher Workday – No school for students September 21st – Summer Reading Celebration – Media Center September 27th – Grandparents/Grandfriends' Day – K-2 students September 28th – Grandparents/Grandfriends' Day - 3-5 students</p>
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First Day of School

The first official day for 1st-5th grade students is Monday, August 27th, 2018. Our instructional day begins at 7:30 a.m. and ends at 2:00 p.m. We encourage all students to utilize our UCPS transportation and ride the bus. If you plan to drive your child to school, we respectfully request that you proceed through our carpool line. If you wish to walk your child to class, you must park in our parking lot and report to the office to sign in as a visitor. Please note, parents are permitted to walk students to class prior to September 10th. Monday, September 10th is our official "Weddington Independence Day" and all students will exit their vehicle in the carpool line and walk to class independently. *We also ask that all parents of students in 1st – 5th grades refrain from coming to lunch prior to September 10th.* Our teachers will be working hard to assimilate the students with their school and classroom procedures. All parents are welcome to join your child for lunch after September 1.

Parents of Kindergarten students – we ask that you refrain from having lunch with your child until the end of the first grading period, **October 10th. It is important for your young Wildcat to become acclimated with school and establish independence prior to parent visits.*

***An exception is made for any student who celebrates a birthday prior to September 10th. Please see your child's teacher if this is the case. Thank you for your support of this important safety procedure.*

Stakeholder Input Needed

Global Learning is part of the school identity at Weddington Elementary School! We are honored to be part of a community that is represented by a variety of cultures and countries. Over the next few years, it is our goal to highlight those cultures and country of origin by including them in our school's global curriculum. In order to best design a curriculum with that in mind, we need your help. Please complete the survey listed in the link below. Our goal is to identify our diverse school cultures to focus our learning on those cultures. Thank you for your input!

Link: <https://goo.gl/forms/93rduuGztq9KjPqs2>

WDES Cafeteria

All students will have a student identification number they will use in the cafeteria. Parents may deposit breakfast and lunch money in the child's account using the following link: www.k12paymentcenter.com. If your child has a food allergy and/or health plan, please speak to your child's teacher and our school nurse during the Open House. Additional information on school breakfast and lunch can be found on the WDES webpage. If you have questions about your child's account, please contact the WDES Cafeteria Manager, Scott Baldwin, scott.baldwin@ucps.k12.nc.us. To access the UCPS school menu, go to <https://www.ucps.k12.nc.us/Domain/54>, click on the "Parents and Students" tab, then "School Nutrition Services".

Staff Highlights

We are excited to announce a few changes to our wonderful WDES staff. Our new Music Teacher, Mr. Bruce Becker, is thrilled to be part of our WDES family. Mr. Becker comes to Weddington after serving as the K-5 General Music Teacher and the 6th-8th Musical Theatre and Band teacher at Queen's Grant Community School. Mrs. Charlotte Hancock will serve as our WDES Dual Language Literacy Teacher and School Coordinator. Mrs. Hancock previously served as our part-time English Literacy Teacher for our Dual Language students. We are thrilled to have secured Mrs. Hancock to enhance our Dual Language Program. Mrs. Rebecca Grant, former 2nd Grade teacher, will serve as the WDES EC Resource Teacher. Mrs. Grant is thrilled with her new role and looks forward to serving our students, staff, and families in a new capacity. Parents of EC students are invited to stop by Mrs. Grant's classroom to during the WDES Open House to meet Mrs. Grant. It is going to be a great year for our new staff!

AIG Information Meeting

Parents of newly qualified AIG students are invited to an AIG information session being held on August 23rd, during the WDES Open House. The meeting is being facilitated by our WDES AIG teachers, Mrs. Dana Best and Mr. Randy Manus. The meeting will take place in Mrs. Best's AIG mobile unit. Parents have the opportunity to choose one of two sessions being conducted. The first session is at 3:15 p.m. and the second session is at 4:00 p.m. Parents of current AIG students are not required to attend this meeting. This is not a drop-in so parents should report promptly at 3:15 p.m. or at 4:00 p.m.

WDES PTO

Attention parents!

The PTO is still in need of filling the VP of Sponsorship/Fundraising position. We want you to know when you decide to join a committee or the board you are not alone. We help each other figure things out, we have resources/binders and we have FUN! Please read below for the description if you are interested. We also have many committee positions open and will have sign-up sheets at Open House for all that are interested!

VP of Sponsorship/Fundraising: Do you have strong people and marketing skills? We need someone who can create relationships with our corporate sponsors in order to receive monetary donations. You will also communicate with local businesses to participate in school events.

If you have any questions, please email Erin Bonsall at wdesptopresident@gmail.com.

Open House Volunteers Needed

Open House is quickly approaching and our Spirit Wear committee is in need of volunteers. Spirit Wear is a large fundraiser for our school and it allows our wildcats to show their school spirit. Please consider volunteering. You will still have plenty of time to visit your child's teacher during Open House. Volunteers are needed for setup, cashier, customer help, bagging, and cleanup! The Sign-Up Genius is below. Thank you in advance!

www.SignUpGenius.com/go/20F084EA8A72DA6FC1-open

Come join the PTO in giving our children some encouragement for the first day of school!

Everyone please come join the PTO on August 26th at 3pm in the front of the school. We will be covering the sidewalks with encouraging and inspirational quotes for the children to read while walking into school on the first day!



**ENJOY THE REMAINDER OF YOUR SUMMER!
SEE YOU AT OPEN HOUSE ON AUGUST 23RD!**

**MS.SEBEK
MRS. SPICER**

