

TO: WLA Parents/Guardians
DA: August 4, 2022
FR: Dr. Mortensen
RE: **Welcome Back!**

Greetings,

I hope that all of you have been enjoying summer break, and I can't believe it's already August! At WLA, we are looking forward to seeing our students, families, and each other again! In the meantime, here is a quick update regarding some central topics.

WE ARE OPEN FOR TOURS! We are so excited to have the new spaces which include a gym, walking track, stage area, music rooms, science rooms, and even a concession stand area! Also, please *spread the word that we are a tuition-free, public school setting and we would love to increase our enrollment numbers.* Please call or email WLA to set-up a time to tour the new facility.

BACK IN SESSION

The first day of school for students in grades 3-8 will be on Thursday, September 1st. Students in grades K-2 will have individual appointments with students on September 1-2, and their 1st day of school will be on Tuesday, September 6th. Also, *Friday, September 2nd is an early dismissal day and WLA will release students at 1:00 p.m.* for the Labor Day weekend holiday.

OPEN HOUSE

Open House will be held on Thursday evening, August 25th from 4:00-7:00 p.m. Do to parking space constraints, we are encouraging families with last names beginning in A-L attend from 4:00-5:30, and families with last names beginning with M-Z attend from 5:30-7:00. Please bring in your school supplies (which are now listed on the WLA website) at that time. There will be a variety of vendors and informational tables set-up during the Open House event including but not limited to: uniform swap, uniform embroidery, spirit wear clothing, milk and pizza money collection, busing, Drive-Line numbers, band sign-up, special education information, remedial information, Scouts, YMCA services, and others!

SCHOOL SAFETY PRACTICES

School safety is paramount and WLA has increased security measures across several areas including adding surveillance cameras, improved PA and communication systems, lock-down procedures, and supervision duties. We will be limiting access to the building and we are working with law enforcement to continually analyze our site and procedures, as well as having a security presence at some events. *All stakeholders will need to be patient and remember that safety isn't a matter of convenience.*

ONGOING HEALTH MITIGATION

Although we are all still hearing about COVID, let's remember to keep our guard up. Wash hands, cover coughs, and keep your child home if they are not feeling well. Thank you so much for partnering with WLA to remain vigilant in keeping the school community as healthy as possible.

CLEANING AND MOVING

We have done a lot of re-arranging, cleaning, polishing, and prepping for the new school year. We have added daytime custodial staff as well as retaining our evening cleaning crew. Lockers have been

disinfected, paint has been touched-up, carpets cleaned, and floors waxed. It will be nice to come back to a refreshed building!

DRIVELINE, BUSING, AND TRANSPORTATION

Andy Sharp will continue to manage this area and he will be sending out information in regard to new traffic procedures now that our expansion is complete and our property is fully accessible. Watch for his messages to come out through School Messenger and the website. You can also email him or reach him through the front office.

NEW STAFF

As we continue to grow we are again adding some new staff members. Also, some of our staff members have taken the opportunity to move into other areas of need at WLA. At this point we would like to welcome the following new staff members and/or staff changes:

- Jess Graff is moving from the Main Office to building "B" to assist administration
- Nicole Suyak is newly hired to fill the Main Office position
- Casidee Schrandt is moving from her 4th grade teaching position to Office Manager
- Maddie Knutson is a new 4th grade teacher
- Megan Nafe is moving from here 4th grade teaching position to Curriculum Coordinator
- Amanda McKinnon is a new 4th grade teacher
- Nancy Baumann is scaling back to a .80 FTE position
- Ben Broderick is moving from Assistant Principal to Principal
- Dr. Mortensen will remain in her position as WLA Executive Director
- Madi Goodman is moving from a para professional to a 1st grade teaching position
- Claudia Irina is moving from a 1st grade teaching position, to a remedial position
- Ashlee Koerner is moving from a 3rd grade teaching position, to a remedial position
- Amanda McGrane is a new 3rd grade teacher
- Jess Erickson is moving from a 6th grade teacher, to a Dean of Students position
- Samantha Olson has been hired for 6th grade science and math
- Cody Bloomer is our new middle school math teacher
- Harley Hazel is our new Physical Education teacher
- Caden Hunt is one of our new para professionals
- Haley Thompson is one of our new para professionals/substitute teachers
- Brian Meyer is moving from a support and sub position to a Leadership teacher position

In addition to administrative duties, Andy Sharp will be teaching Leadership classes

TEACHER ASSIGNMENTS

We will be sending out classroom/teacher assignments on Monday, August 22nd

UNIFORMS

WLA has made some changes with our uniform policy. Students in grades K-5 now have the added option of dark gray shirts, with grades 6-8 having the added option of light gray shirts. Students in grades 6-8 can also wear athletic clothing on the days they have physical education. The athletic clothing is a specific WLA shirt, and jogger pants.

See you soon~

Dr. Mortensen

