

Wood Acres Elementary School

Lunch and Recess Handbook

2019-2020 (updated October 2019)



Wood Acres Elementary School
5800 Cromwell Drive
Bethesda, MD 20816

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We welcome your assistance at Wood Acres ES (WAES). We are fortunate at WAES to have such an interested, committed and involved parent community. Our active volunteer program not only provides valuable hands-on assistance throughout many areas of the school, but also benefits the children by reinforcing ties between the children's individual homes as well as the community at large, and the school. In order to ensure a successful volunteer program, each volunteer must understand the responsibilities inherent in working with the children of WAES.

Positive Encouragement

As an adult on the premises of WAES, your behavior toward the children and adults will set a tone for the children and will directly impact their view of school and confidence in themselves. Interaction that is firm but gentle, along with plenty of positive reinforcement, is the order of the day.

Important Points:

Please remember that when you are volunteering that it is not a time for a personal conference with your child's teacher. If you would like to set up a conference to meet with your child's teacher, please call or email him or her directly.

Confidentiality- You must respect the confidentiality of your relationship with the school. Your knowledge of WAES students is privileged information and many only be shared with responsible staff at WAES.

Safety- If a child shares anything that involves concerns about personal safety, please see a teacher or administrator at once.

Discipline- You may not discipline. If needed, get assistance from a staff member. If you cannot leave the situation, ask a nearby child to bring a staff member to you.

Fairness- You are here for all of the students and must treat them equitably.

Follow the Rules Yourself- Ex: If it is quiet time, please do not talk.

Injury- If a student falls and is lying on the ground, do not move the child. Get help from a staff member.

We thank you for your participation. Parents are a valuable asset to WAES and we appreciate your assistance and support! We look forward to seeing you often. Thank you!!

Lunch and Recess Schedule

Regular Lunch/ Recess Schedule		
Grade	Lunch	Recess
K	11:30 - 12:00	11:00 - 11:30
3	11:00 - 11:30	11:30 - 12:00
2	12:00 - 12:30	12:30 - 1:00
4	12:30 - 1:00	12:00 - 12:30
1	1:00 - 1:30	1:30 - 2:00
*5	1:30 - 2:00	1:00 - 1:30
Early Dismissal Lunch Schedule		
Grade	Lunch	
K	11:05 - 11:30	
3	10:35 - 11:00	
4	11:50 - 12:15	
1	11:35 - 12:00	
2	11:20 - 11:45	
5	10:50 - 11:15	
2- Hour Delay Opening Schedule		
Grade	Lunch	
4	11:15 - 11:45	
3	11:30 - 12:00	
2	12:00 - 12:30	
K	12:10 - 12:40	
5	12:40 - 1:10	
1	12:50 - 1:20	

Signs of an Allergic Reaction

(Anaphylaxis / Severe Allergic Reaction)

Definition:

Anaphylaxis is an acute, systemic reaction which can occur in a person who has a hypersensitivity to insect venom, nuts or other allergens. This reaction may occur within seconds after a previously sensitized person is exposed to the allergen. However, onset of symptoms may also be delayed for more than an hour after exposure.

THIS IS A LIFE-THREATENING EVENT

Signs/Symptoms of anaphylaxis

Symptoms may appear and progress rapidly:

- Generalized tingling / itching
- Apprehension
- Rapid Pulse
- Facial Flush
- Hives
- Acute Coughing / Sneezing
- Throbbing in Ears
- Difficulty Breathing / Wheezing Lightheaded / Dizzy
- Swelling of Lips / Eyelids
- Vomiting

Information obtained from the Montgomery County Health Department 12/04

Anaphylaxis Reaction - Steps to Take

1. Stay with the student.
2. Alert the recess/lunch aide on duty that a possible allergic reaction is occurring (**immediate attention is vital**). If you cannot get the attention of a staff member, send another student to get the staff member. The staff member will alert the health room of the situation.
3. Monitor the other students and help them remain calm as the staff member alerts the office that there is a possible allergic reaction. The staff member will escort the student to the health room.
4. Office staff will notify health tech, administrator, and classroom teacher and follow the appropriate emergency procedures.

Discipline

- Please facilitate problem resolution, encourage and model constructive and respectful behavior. Model and remind students of the 4 Lunchroom Expectations.
- Be firm, but kind and friendly at all times. Please refrain from disciplining students. This includes grabbing or restraining. If you need help, inform a staff member of the issue, and they will take the appropriate steps. If the student will not walk on his or her own to a staff member, ask a child to get a staff member for you.

Key Points to Remember when Working with Students

What you focus on, you get more of

- Tell children what you want them to do instead of what you don't want them to do.
- Example: Student keeps getting up from cafeteria table - "Please sit at the table."

The only person you can MAKE change is yourself

- Help children be more successful instead of attempting to make or get them to behave.
- Example: Instead of asking yourself, "How am I going to get these children to act appropriately during lunch?" ask yourself, "How am I going to help these children to more likely to make the right choices?"

Allow children the chance to solve their own problems

- Have children identify what making a good choice "looks like."
- Example: "Show me what sitting appropriately at lunch looks like."

Conflict is an opportunity to teach

- Teach children how to handle conflicts. And re-teach, and re-teach some more!
- Example: Have students work through conflict with Win-Win or Debug strategies with your guidance.

Remain Positive and Calm

- When you address an issue with students in a calm manner, they are more likely to hear your message rather than react to your emotionality.

Consistency and Predictability are critically important

- Children often look for the "loopholes" in the rules.
- Inconsistent consequences and enforcement of the rules creates such loopholes.
- Make sure you follow through with consequences.

Character Education Information

WAVE Character Education Program - Wood Acres Values for Everyone

- The WAVE program serves as the foundation of Wood Acres character education program. This program is a comprehensive program in which Students learn that character counts through the character education program that focuses on 9 character values: RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY, CARING, FAIRNESS, HONESTY, MORAL COURAGE, PRIDE, PERSEVERANCE. AND SELF -CONTROL.
- Encourage the students to use the 9 character values during recess. When students do not demonstrate the values, use the language so that they can correct their own behavior.
- Bullying and intimidation are not acceptable behaviors and should be addressed. As part of the character education program at Wood Acres, students understand that "Put Downs" are not appropriate. As part of the "No Put Down" program, students learn:
If someone gives someone a put-down, they can:
 1. Think About Why
 2. Stay Cool
 3. Shield Myself
 4. Choose a Response
 5. Build Up
- As part of the over-arching WAVE program, students are taught conflict resolution skills. Primary students are taught DEBUG.



DEBUG

Problem solving strategies for Conflict Resolution

The students are encouraged to follow the steps below in order to solve their own problems. They come for adult help after the first three steps have not worked.

1. IGNORE
2. MOVE AWAY
3. "I" MESSAGE - Use your words
4. Get ADULT Help

When a student comes to you with a concern during recess, walk them through the DEBUG steps:

"Did you ignore?"

"Did you move away?"

"Did you give "I" messages?"

"Thank you for coming to me for help."

- Talk to the other student about responding to someone else using their WAVE values

In addition to using the Debug strategies, students in grades 3-5 are taught to utilize the Win-Win conflict resolution strategies.

WIN/WIN GUIDELINES

1. Cool Off
2. "I Message"
3. Brainstorm solutions
4. Affirm, forgive and/or thank

Recess Guidelines

Classes will be dismissed to recess when they demonstrate that they are ready to exit the All-Purpose Room

- Students are quiet
- Tables/floor has been cleaned of all trash and other items (classes will be prompted to throw trash away and recycle milk/water bottles 5-10 minutes before exiting for recess)
- When dismissed students must walk to door, following class in front of them, and walk out to recess

How you can help on the playground

- Monitor recess for safe play. While supervising recess, think of your role as a "lifeguard." Keep alert at all times - attempt to anticipate potential issues (see attached Appropriate Recess Play). NOTE - digging on the hill area has led to erosion and exposure of rocks. Redirect students who are engaged in digging. Students should be reminded of the potential dangers when they throw rocks.
- Encourage and coach conflict resolution steps when students disagree (see Debug and Win-Win strategies).
- Refer to a recess staff member when a student will not follow your directions.
- Help staff members gather students when it is time for them to line up for dismissal from recess.
- With Primary Grades - Please lead students to play age appropriate games (e.g. Duck-Duck-Goose and Snake in the Grass). Many students at this age find it difficult to initiate games on their own and do not know the rules of many games. Your support will enhance their playtime!
- With ball games (primarily older students) - It is extremely helpful to have a volunteer serve as a referee for ball games such as, soccer, basketball, and kickball. Our students can become quite competitive and also have difficulty interpreting the set rules in a fair manner. Student often need to be reminded to use an appropriate level of competitive spirit which is consistent with recess. This is a time for fun and play!

Recess Responsibilities

For Students

1. Remain outside the entire recess, unless permission is given to come inside.
2. Use WAVE values during recess.
3. Use conflict resolution steps to resolve disagreements (see Debug and Win-Win strategies).
4. Ask for help from an adult when a conflict cannot be resolved by using Debug or Win-Win strategies.
5. Follow adult directions the first time.
6. Use all equipment for the intended purpose. This includes refraining from digging on the hill area or throwing rocks.
7. Promptly move towards the lower blacktop when a staff member blows her whistle for line up and put away any equipment that was used.

For Staff

1. Monitor recess for safe play. While supervising recess, think of your role as a "lifeguard." Keep alert at all times - attempt to anticipate potential issues (see attached Appropriate Recess Play). NOTE - digging on the hill area has led to erosion and exposure of rocks. Redirect students who are engaged in digging. Students should be reminded of the potential dangers when they throw rocks.
2. Encourage and coach conflict resolution steps when students disagree. (see Debug and Win-Win strategies)
3. Encourage students to ask help from a Peace Mediator if students cannot resolve conflict by using their Debug or Win-Win strategies.
4. Collaborate with parent volunteers to ensure that all zones are supervised
5. Be aware of the time. With our rolling schedule, it is critical that we are mindful of the time. Blow your whistle when it is time to call students to the blacktop for dismissal from recess.

Outdoor Classroom

- A beautiful Outdoor Classroom space was constructed in our upper playground area. This a terrific place for students to read, talk with friends, play games, and stay in the shade.
- Please encourage the students to use the benches, tables, landscaping, and shade structure in appropriate and respectful ways. This will ensure that the Outdoor Classroom remains beautiful for the years to come.

Restroom Use

- Use cafeteria restroom
- The adult who is supervising will be in charge of handing out the 3 "girl" and 3 "boy" passes for restroom use. If all passes are in use, students must wait for another student to return.
- Encourage students to return to the playground as quickly as possible and remind them of the expectations for restroom use

Injuries

- Bring all matters of injury to a staff member. Staff members can provide Band-Aids. More significant first aid must be delivered in the Health Room.
- If a student cannot get up by themselves, stay with the student and send another student to get a staff member for you. DO NOT move the student yourself.

Recess Play Area & Supervision Zones



Appropriate Recess Play

Appropriate Play	Inappropriate Play
Blacktop games - individual or small groups Four Square, Hopscotch, Walking relay races	Running with ropes around someone else's waist
Children must have a grip when climbing on the bars	Standing at the top of the jungle gym without holding onto part of it
Games on the field Soccer, Kickball, Capture the Flag, Relay Races	Wrestling / play fighting
	Digging in the dirt on the hill
Slide down slide - feet first, on bottom on slide	Walking or running up or down slide; going down slide head first
Appropriate Play	Inappropriate Play
Basketball (half-court)	Tackle football with any kind of ball/ Wall Ball/ Lacrosse, etc.
Reading, talking with friends on benches or in outdoor classroom space	Playing with sharp objects
	Playing in the tree covered hill
	Throwing rocks

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: What are the “Top Ten” things a volunteer should know before going in for lunch and recess duty?

1. Sign in at the office upon arrival.
2. Work with the recess staff for your recess location.
3. Watch all children in your area and monitor for safe play.
4. Encourage children to resolve their own conflicts, but step in immediately if the encounter is physical.
5. Use your judgment to limit bathroom and water fountain visits.
6. Seek guidance from staff if questions arise.

Q: Some children seem unable to find something fun to do during recess. Are there games or activities volunteers can suggest to those children looking for something to do?

A: Ms. Stempel is teaching each grade appropriate recess games. Also, there have been recess assemblies where games have been demonstrated to the students.

Q: When volunteering for recess, where should volunteers go first, should they check in with the aides, is there a way to help children get more involved in playing with other children, etc. How will these questions get answered?

A: Volunteers should first sign in at the office when arriving at school and get a green lanyard. Next, they should go to the cafeteria. Volunteers should introduce themselves to at least one of the aides and ask what type of help is needed.

Q: There seems to be an unending need for parent volunteers to support recess. Why aren't teachers available to watch the children, at least during recess?

A: MCPS teachers belong to a union and, under the union rules, are not required to provide coverage for lunch and recess, so it is up to the parents to provide the extra coverage for lunch and recess. By volunteering, parents provide additional adult supervision of the children, which is particularly helpful during recess when the children tend to go all over the fields and play areas. By reducing the adult to child ratio, we can ensure that the children are receiving the adult supervision they need.

Q: How many volunteers are needed for each grade? Do we have enough volunteers providing coverage?

A: The goal is to have three parent volunteers every day for each grade, with more if possible for Kindergarten. Some grades meet this goal on most days, other grades rarely meet this goal. With fewer

volunteers, the ratio of children to adults increases and results in each adult being responsible for more children.

Q: Are there specific rules about bathroom usage, such as how many students may go at one time?

A: The children are encouraged to use the bathroom before the lunch and recess break. No more than three children per gender should be permitted to use the restroom at the same time. When a child asks to use the bathroom, the child should be directed to staff. This way, in the case of an emergency and the children need to be assembled, it will be easier to locate unaccounted for children.

Q: What should a volunteer do if he/she witnesses inappropriate behavior by a student during recess?

A: Depending on the circumstances and the severity of the situation, the volunteer should consider reporting the incident to a staff member. Staff have a form that they can complete to convey important information to teachers about their students' behavior at lunch/recess - please contact a staff member if you would like something conveyed to a student's teacher.

Q: What should a volunteer do if students have forgotten their coats for recess and it is cold outside or their lunchboxes?

A: The lunch and recess period goes by quickly. While a volunteer or a staff member may take children back to their lockers to retrieve their coats and/or lunchboxes, students should be reminded to bring what they need to lunch or recess in the future.