

Important Information and Dates for Walter Johnson High School

August 10: **Fall Sports** - Try-outs and Practices Begin. County Information for athletes and parents may be found here:

<https://www2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/athletics/parent/>

August 24: **New Student Cookout and WJ Club Information Night** – 6:00 p.m. Held in the bus loop area in front of the school. This event is for the entire family and free of charge. Rising 9th grade students, ALL other new students and their families are welcome to join us for free food, club information entertainment and fun!

August 25: **New Student Orientation** – 7:45 a.m. in the auditorium-This is a new student only event. Bus transportation is provided. Bus schedules can be found on the WJ website at: www.walterjohnson.com

August 25: **Senior Picnic and Shed Painting** – 3:00 p.m. behind the school near the baseball field.

August 29: **First Day of School** - Welcome Back, classes begin promptly at 7:45 in Homerooms! Posters indicating grade level homerooms are posted in halls.

September 8: **Back-To-School Night** – 7:00 p.m. Meet the staff and tour the school.

September 9: **Fall Pep Rally** - Students get ready to cheer for the Wildcats in our stadium!

September 24: **Kensington 8K** - Run, run, run to raise \$ for WJ.

Oct 24 - Oct 29: **Spirit Week/Homecoming Game/Homecoming Dance** – Don't miss this great WJ tradition. Students should prepare for the hall decorations after school (10/27), The Movie (10/28), The Game (10/28) and The Dance (10/29)

Attendance

Attendance is a crucial part of student success. If students are not in class, then grades and other important aspects of student achievement are negatively impacted. At Walter Johnson, regular attendance is expected of all students. **Students who have unexcused absences and tardies may not be able to make up the missed work. This could result in low grades and failure for the course. Please talk to your child about the importance of being on time to class.**

Reporting Excused Absences

Maia Lawn is the Walter Johnson Attendance secretary. If you need to report an absence, please use this link: WJHSattendance@mcpsmd.org The attendance office phone number is: 240-740-6901. More important information regarding attendance may be found at:

<https://www2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/wjhs/studserve/attendance/>

Cell Phone Policy

Students are not allowed to use their cell phones during class unless the teacher has planned a lesson involving portable devices. They should remain off and out of sight during all class periods. Cell phones may be used before school, after school and between classes. **Please do not text or call your child on their personal cell phones during their classes. Students who do not comply will have their phones confiscated.** This is very disruptive to instruction and may result in disciplinary action.

What to Bring on the First Day of School or Before

There is no list of items needed for school. Please bring a simple notebook, paper, pen, and pencil. The teachers will let you know what else you may need during class on the first day of school.

Athletics

If you plan to participate in athletics on August 10th, then you must have a **current physical on file**. Please check the athletics website:

<https://www2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/athletics/parent/>

for specific tryout dates and concussion baseline testing dates and times.

A Note on Military Recruiting and Directory Information

If a parent does not wish to have their child's name made available to military recruiters and/or does not wish to have their child's directory information included in the student directory, *The Lineup*, then they should fill out the Withholding Directory Information in Synergy when updating their information on the Annual Verification tab.

Testing Accommodations for College Board Tests (AP, SAT, PSAT)

In order to receive accommodations on these tests, a Student Eligibility Form must be submitted. The form must be completed by parents and school officials and then mailed to the College Board **at least seven weeks in advance of the student taking the first test**. The criteria established by the College Board for granting testing accommodations varies significantly from the school system. Having an IEP or a 504 plan does **not** guarantee that the College Board will provide accommodations. Currently, the College Board requires up-to-date (meaning within the last three years) neuro-psychological testing that documents the specific need for each requested accommodation. Please contact the Academic Support Center (240-740-6840) or the Counseling Office (240-740-6840) in order to obtain the forms and to ask questions about this process.

WJ Website/Important Forms

On our website (www.walterjohnson.com), we maintain links to several important Montgomery County Public Schools and Walter Johnson High School forms. Go to the WJ homepage and click on "Parents" located in the left margin of the homepage. The "Forms" link is located on the left under the "Parents" box.

Please review these important documents which include the following:

WJ Bus Routes

Asbestos Mgmt. Plan Notice

SNAP Cafeteria News

Protection of Pupil Rights

Integrated Pest Mgmt. Notice

MCPS Community Forums

Information on Grading

During the 2022-2023 school year, all high schools will continue to report grades based on individual student achievement, or what students know and can do in relation to course expectations. We will continue to use countywide standard procedures for reteaching/reassessment, homework, and grading. A full copy of the procedures is available at:

www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/grading/

More information will be provided later in the summer regarding checking your child's grades online. For class-specific grading issues, teachers will address these procedures in the syllabi for their classes. These course-specific procedures have been developed by subject teams (Algebra team, Biology team, etc.). In early September, teachers' syllabi will be available. **If you**

have a specific question about grading in a particular class, please talk to your child's teacher.

Counseling Office

Your counselor will stay with you throughout your high school experience. It is important that you get to know your counselor and the valuable resources they provide. If you have questions about your schedule, a course, college applications or anything you may need, then please contact your counselor at: 240-740-6920. Counseling assignments may be found on our website at: <https://www2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/wjhs/counseling/>

Note on Getting Involved

Walter Johnson has an incredible number of extracurricular activities (sports and clubs). ALL students are encouraged to involve themselves in life beyond the classroom at WJ. These activities foster new friendships, leadership opportunities, unique experiences and much more. Here is the student activity page:

<https://www2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/wjhs/students/>

Everyone benefits from becoming an active member of the WJ community. Get involved!

Parent Organizations and Listservs

Similarly, parents are encouraged to involve themselves in the organizations that advocate for and support Walter Johnson High School and its student programs. Join the PTSA, Join the Booster Club and donate to the WJ Education Foundation. Volunteer at their fundraising events. All of these parent groups support our school, staff and students in a variety of ways. Directions for joining the listserv are available online at: Important information regarding school events and news are shared through this moderated listserv. Please make sure to join! There are also directions for joining our discussion listserv. This is a venue for parents to discuss many items in a more open and unmoderated format. Here is the link to the WJHS parent organizations:

<https://www2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/wjhs/parents/parentsorg/>

Calendar

The WJ event calendar is posted on our website. Please consult it for a comprehensive list of activities, meetings, sports, etc. at:

<https://www2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/wjhs/calendar/>

Please note that this calendar is updated often and should be checked regularly for upcoming events.

Go Wildcats!

