

Important Information for the Opening of School

Calendar

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

August 11: Fall Sports Try-outs and Practices Begin

August 25: New Student Cookout – 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.

August 26: New Student Orientation – 7:45 a.m. homeroom begins. Bus transportation is provided. Bus schedules can be found on the WJ website.

August 26: Senior Picnic and Shed Painting – 5:00 p.m. behind the school.

August 30: First Day of School - Welcome Back!

September 9: Back-To-School Night – 7:00 p.m. Meet the staff and tour the school.

September 13: Parent Information Meeting Seniors - 7:00 PM

September 20: Parent Information Meeting - Freshmen - 7:00 PM

September 27: Parent information Meeting - Sophomores - 7:00 PM

October 4: Parent Information Meeting - Juniors - 7:00 PM

September 17: Fall Pep Rally -Students get ready to cheer for the Wildcats!

September 26: Kensington 8K - Run, run, run to raise \$ for WJ.

Oct 4 - Oct 9: Spirit Week/Homecoming Game/Homecoming Dance – Students should prepare for hall decorating (10/7), the Movie, the game (10/8), and the dance (10/9).

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. **Please note that excessive unexcused tardies and/or unexcused absences may result in the failure of a course regardless of the student's achievement in the class.**

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 cell phones during their classes.** 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, a pen, and a pencil. The teachers will let you know what else you will need on the first day of school. If you have a **financial obligation** to the school, please help us by paying immediately. You should contact Ms. Virginia Howard in the school bank at 240-740-6913. If you have financial difficulty in paying, please contact your assistant principal:

Ms. Vernitta Tucker (A-Ch), Ms. Gail Samuels (Ci- Greg); Ms. Nicole Morgan (Greh-Leu), Mr. Jeff Leaman (Lev-Or), Mr. James Heintze (Os-Shil), Ms. Regina Rodriguez (Shim-Z)

Athletics

If you plan to participate in athletics on August 11th, you must have a **current physical on file**. Please check out the athletics website: <https://wjathletics.org/> 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 Annual Verification Tab.

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

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 (240-740-6920) 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” which is located in the left margin of the homepage. The “Forms” is located on the left under the “Parents” box.

Please review these important documents which include the following:

WJ Bus Routes

Protection of Pupil Rights

Asbestos Mgmt. Plan Notice

Integrated Pest Mgmt. Notice

SNAP Cafeteria News

MCPS Community Forums

Information on Grading

During the 2021-2022 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 student’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.

Join the PTSA Listserv

Directions for joining the listserv are available online at: www.walterjohnson.com

Important information regarding school events is shared through this moderated listserv. There are also directions for joining our discussion listserv. This is a venue for parents to discuss many items in a more open format.

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. From new friendships to opportunities to experience leadership, you will benefit from becoming an active member of the WJ community. Get involved!

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. All of these parent groups support our school, staff, and students in a variety of ways. Thank you.