

# WASHINGTON HEIGHTS EAGLES

SUMMER 2018, ISSUE 1

## The Eagle's Way Pledge

### In order to learn...

- I will follow directions the first time they are given.
- I will celebrate the differences in others and treat others as I want to be treated.
- I will do my part to keep my school orderly, safe, and clean.
- I will be responsible for myself. No one else is responsible for my actions.



**I am here to learn!**

Hello, Washington Heights families! I hope everyone is enjoying a happy and safe summer filled with lots of great memories. It has been great seeing so many of our students participating in Extended School Year, Cool School, and ESL tutoring. Now is the time to start getting students ready for school by reading every day, practicing math facts, and easing toward a daily schedule similar to the one you use for school days. This helps make coming back to school a much smoother transition for adults and children.

We still have many student report cards here in the office. If you have not yet made it over to pick it up, please stop in. We are in the office Monday-Friday from 8:00 – 4:00.

If your family has moved, please be sure to contact our office to either find out how to change your address or withdraw your student.

If you are having difficulty affording a backpack for your child or need some assistance with purchasing school clothes, please don't hesitate to call or stop in the office. We may be able to help.

## WHAT'S NEW FOR 2018-2019

We are excited to welcome several new staff to Washington Heights this year:

Grade 1 – **Mrs. Laura Young**  
Kindergarten – **Miss Amanda Xhiloné**  
Multiple Disabilities – **Mrs. Joan Schnur**

Grades K-5 will continue using the Benchmark Literacy series for Language Arts this year. We saw great success in all grades last year.

Grades 3, 4, 5 will be getting a new science program, Science Fusion. This is the same program used in the middle

schools and it offers a wealth of hands on opportunities.

We continue to receive additional technology to assist our children as 21<sup>st</sup> century learners. Our aging PolyVision boards are being replaced, and iPads have been added to upper grade classrooms. We have also added additional carts of Chromebooks for student use.

Grades 1-2 will begin an online program called Reading Eggs to track their progress and offer practice in literacy this year. Grades 3-5 will

continue using Study Island. Grade 5 will also be introducing Exact Path as we work to develop a Personalized Learning program.

We continue to have the School Gate Guardian system to check volunteers and school visitors. Every time you come to visit or volunteer, please bring your driver's license so Mrs. Deremer can scan you into the system.

And, Back to School Night will happen BEFORE school starts this year. This is a change from previous years, so please mark your calendars.

## Back to School Nights

Please make plans to attend Back to School Night this year. This is your opportunity to hear about any school-wide changes, to meet your child's teachers, and to hear about his/her plans for the year. This is a night for parents. We have made a change and will hold both dates BEFORE school starts. This year's dates are as follows:

**Kindergarten August 23, 2018 6:00 pm**

We will start in the cafeteria and then split into rooms by teacher.

**Grades 1-5 August 22, 2018 6:00 pm**

We will start right in classrooms at 6:00. There will be a 15 (or so) minute introduction. Then, we will run 2 - 25 minute sessions, with a 5-minute room change in between for parents with multiple children.

Please consider becoming an approved school volunteer. We will have packets of information these nights to explain the process.

## Teacher and Bus Information

**Monday, August 13** an email will be sent to parents of students in kindergarten through fifth grade with detailed bus information, including stop location and pick-up/drop-off times. This email will also contain each student's grade and teacher's name. Please check your spam/junk mail folders if you do not see this email in your inbox. Information will also be available for parents in PowerSchool on Monday, August 14.

## ATTENDANCE REMINDERS

Please remember to always call your child off school by 9:00 AM. You must then also submit a written excuse or doctor's excuse within 3 days of the absence. If we do not receive an excuse we are obligated by law to record the absence as unlawful. After 3 unlawful absences, you may receive a citation from the district justice. Any families planning Education Field Trips are reminded to complete the proper form at least 5 days before the trip.

## ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL

One item we will continue to focus on is student safety. Here are some reminders about our arrival and dismissal procedures.

**ARRIVAL** – Students are permitted to enter the building starting at 8:30 am and that is the time our staff reports for duty to supervise students. **Students should NOT be arriving at school prior to 8:30 am.** This has been an increasing problem over the past few years. There is a Before/After School program here every day. We can put you in touch with them to register and learn more about how much it costs.

Parents who are dropping students off are asked to stop along the curb and have the student quickly exit the car. If a parent needs to come inside, please park in a **lined space in the parking lot** and walk your child over to the building. Adults may come into the office but will not be permitted to freely enter the building. ***This includes the first day of school.*** Always follow the signs posted in the lot and yield to pedestrians in the crosswalk. The stop sign by the playground is frequently disregarded.

**DISMISSAL** – Students start to be dismissed at 3:30 pm. Our walkers come out first via the door by our conference room. (If you are picking your student up, please park your vehicle in the parking lot, come inside, and sign them out as a pick-up rather than have them be a walker.)

All adults are asked to wait in the foyer or outside the building at dismissal. **We will continue to use a sign out process and students will be waiting in the main lobby. We will be changing this procedure slightly and asking each adult to sign AS THEIR STUDENTS ARE GIVEN TO THEM rather than before hand.**

With the number of students being picked up, there was much confusion and we need to ensure we are giving students to adults who are permitted to pick them up.

We ask that you **park in a lined space when possible or use the overflow by the playground (basketball area).** This should be your first choice. If neither is available, please park in a single file along the curb. Double parking will block the flow of traffic and our special buses.

For students who are walking, we have a "walking train" that is led by a Crossing Guard and it travels down and across Market Street. Parents are invited to walk along as well. We will also have someone to cross students here in the parking lot.

Please be sure to send a note with your child the first day of school letting us know if they will be picked up every day by a parent. And, any day a student's transportation changes, please send a note so we know how to get them home to you.

**DURING THE SCHOOL DAY** – If coming to school during the school day, please be cautious and observe the speed limit and stop signs. Always watch for children in the crosswalks. You never know what time a class may be using the playground or are outside for class. Always park in a lined space in the lot and turn off your car. Leaving a car running along the curb is never acceptable.

*Together we can protect our  
precious children!*

### 2018-2019 Meal Prices -

Elementary Breakfast - \$1.60  
Reduced Price Breakfast - \$0.30

Elementary Lunch - \$2.75  
Reduced Price Lunch - \$0.40

Student purchase history and meal account balance can be viewed online through [K12PaymentCenter.com](http://K12PaymentCenter.com). Parents choosing to utilize K12PaymentCenter will need a valid email address and their student's identification number. A minimal fee is charged to deposit funds through K12PaymentCenter; however there is no cost to parents for creating an account to view their student's general account information.

If parents prefer not to use K12PaymentCenter to deposit funds, money may be added to student accounts by sending cash or checks made payable to "West Shore Cafeteria Fund" to school in an envelope with the student's name, class, and the amount of the deposit written on the front.

Families who have children attending a public school district may apply for free or reduced price school meals through the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Access to Social Services (COMPASS). COMPASS allows Pennsylvanian's to apply online for social service programs, such as Food Stamps (FS), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Energy Assistance, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), etc. Families may use COMPASS to apply for free or reduced price school meals only, or they can apply for other services at the same time (FS, TANF, etc.).

You may apply for free or reduced price school meals online by going to the COMPASS website at [www.compass.state.pa.us](http://www.compass.state.pa.us) or you can continue to use the paper "Household Meal Benefit Application" if you prefer. If you apply for free or reduced price school meals through COMPASS, you do not need to submit a paper application. Paper applications are available as related files below, in Food Services Department at the Administration Center, or at any of the schools. **Please note, families are responsible for the full cost of meals until their application has been approved.**



### PTO Officers for 2018-2019

**Co-Presidents:** Jessica Orndorf  
Kim Barbour  
**Treasurer:** Heather Hardy  
**Secretary:** Lisa Trogner

Contact us at [whpto1@gmail.com](mailto:whpto1@gmail.com) or check out our Washington Heights PTO Facebook page.

### Fall Family Picnic

This year's Fall Family Picnic will be held on **Tuesday, September 18** at 6:30 pm here at Washington Heights. Mark your calendars and watch for information to come home regarding this fun event.

### Room Parents

We will again be looking for parents from each classroom to help with class parties and other PTO events. Please consider donating your time and talents to this venture. Please sign up at Back to School Night if interested. You must also complete the process to become an approved volunteer.

### Next WH PTO Meeting

Please join us for our next meeting, **Monday, September 7, 2018 at 7:00 pm** in the Washington Heights library.

## Important Events

<b>Kindergarten Open House</b>	<b>Aug. 21 @</b> <b>10:00 – 11:30</b>
<b>New Family Orientation</b>	<b>August 15 @ 6:00 pm</b>
<b>First Day of School</b>	<b>August 27, 2018</b>
<b>NO SCHOOL</b>	<b>September 3, 2018</b>
<b>Picture day</b>	<b>September 7, 2018</b>
<b>PTO Fall Family Picnic</b>	<b>Sept. 18 @ 6:30 pm</b>