

West Meade Early Education Center



2021



7722 Ray Street
Fort Meade, Maryland 20755
Phone: 410-222-6545
Fax: 410-222-6518

Office Hours:

8:15 AM–3:45 PM

School Hours (in person instruction):

8:45 am—doors open

9:05 am—instruction begins

3:30 pm—dismissal

AM PreK/ECI -9:05-11:40 AM

PM PreK/ECI- 12:55-3:30 PM

Administration

Jessica Kallon, Principal

jkallon@aacps.org

Counselor

Theresa Lacovara, School Counselor

tlacovara@aacps.org

Office Staff

Linda Best-Hazan, Principal Secretary

lbest-hazan@aacps.org

Renee Puhl, Registration & Attendance

rpuhl@aacps.org

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WestMeadeAACPS

May

3-7 Teacher Appreciation Week

10 & 13 Hybrid Hearing/Vision
Screening

17-21 i-Ready Diagnostic #3

27 & 28 Conferences-School closed

31 Memorial Day-School closed

Dear West Meade Families,

We are excited to welcome additional students into our building this week and soon we will welcome some students four days a week. With these changes, please be sure to review mask wearing with your child and exercise patience as our new students learn their routines. Please continue to be vigilant and check your child for symptoms daily. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Kim VerMerris

Acting Principal

Teacher of the Year!

Congratulations to Mr. Mueller who was nominated for AACPS Teacher of the Year! We are so proud of his efforts and contributions to this school and community.



Media connection and your child

Our children's connection to media is all around them, coming from more sources and more screens than once thought possible when we were kids: TV, movies, video games, handheld games, computers, cellphones, ipads, ipods, watches, etc.

There are many wonderful uses for media that provide conveniences and education for our families. There are also dangers that as parents and educators, we are tasked to protect our children from. With all the amazing advances in technology, we cannot forget to make advances in how we protect our children from media that is not age appropriate.

It is important to remember that children's brains are not fully developed, specifically the part of the brain (pre-frontal cortex) responsible for critical thinking, judgement, problem-solving, and impulse control. When a child or adolescent views media showing violence, sexual content, or harmful stereotypes, their own ideas, feelings, and behaviors are impacted. Without some guidance from a trusted grown-up, repeated exposure to these kinds of media may lead to an increase in aggression and a decrease in empathy.

For more information and research about media use and children, please visit: <https://www.commonsensemedia.org/research>.

Quick tips for setting media guidelines:

- **Limit the amount of screen time to 1-2 hours a day (or less if you notice it is negatively impacting your child).**
- **Model screen-free times/activities (like dinner time, for example).**
- **Keep children's bedrooms free of screen media (no TV, game systems, laptops, ipads, cell phones, etc).**
- **Preview media that your child is interested in before you allow them to view/play it.**
- **Co-view media (if appropriate) with your child and discuss the content - this will help them develop critical thinking skills.**
- **Do your research about social media websites (like Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram) and closely monitor their usage. Remember, these sites are typically for ages 13 and up.**
- **Stick to rating recommendations. They exist for a reason.**
- **Use your parental judgement. Your children are counting on you to set their limits!**



Reading Fun With Digital Books

Shared by Literacy Teacher Katie Saxe



Our students have been working hard to learn their letters, sounds, and high-frequency words. We want to provide them with as many opportunities as we can to apply these skills to read books. We are happy to share our leveled digital books with you! Please explore the leveled book opportunities available on our WMEEC Reading site [link](#).

On the WMEEC Reading site you will see **Scholastic Literacy Pro** under **Student Portal - Digital Books**. You can also find it on your child's **AACPS Class Links Page**. Click **Book Search** on the left, then click **Reading Level-Select Level A for Prekindergarten** and **Levels A-D for Kindergarten (E-G for advanced readers)**. You can also select by Keyword, Author, and Title. Level A is the easiest and the levels get progressively more challenging as you move through the alphabet. Our goal for Kindergarten students is to reach level D by the end of Kindergarten. Practice reading helps our young readers grow and develop into successful readers.

On the WMEEC Reading site you will also see **MackinVIA** eBooks under **Student Portal-Digital Books**. Click **MackinVIA-eBooks-Advanced Search-Select Fountas and Pinnell- Select level A, B, C, or D (E-G for advanced students)**. You will also find it on your child's **AACPS Class Links**. Click **MackinVIA**. Explore and **enjoy** these reading opportunities!

FUN FACT! Research shows that students who read 20 minutes per day score in the 90%ile on standardized tests. Thank you for supporting literacy at home!

Please contact me by email ksaxe@aacps.org or phone (410) 222-6545 if you have any questions about accessing these resources.



Don't forget to email your completed **April Showers Reading Calendar** by **May 7th** to ksaxe@aacps.org to receive an awesome prize! It is in the **April Newsletter** which can be located on the **AACPS Homepage** under **Schools - West Meade Early Education Center – Newsletter – April. HAPPY READING!** 😊

STAFF SHOUT OUTS



Ms. Lepore is a phenomenal teacher. She engages the students in many creative ways even during a virtual learning environment. We highly recommend her!
Benjamin Zabler's family

Our family loves Miss Kirby. Emily, Teddy, and now Charlotte have all had her for preschool. She has taught each child to read with unending patience and a smile. She will always be a family favorite.
The Hunsakers

Ms. Washington's team is doing great things in kindergarten. So thankful for them!
The Rizzuto Family

Have your own staff shout out? Use this link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1DdRiL28D0ZtJIM1riS-DeQoB2UauB_urs4K2s0x03Yg/edit

Literacy Games

Hello parents,

Here are some helpful literacy games that students can play independently on the computer to help support their practice with identifying ending sounds in words, identifying real words vs. Nonsense words and blending and segmenting CVC words. CVC words are words that when spelled have consonant, vowel and then another consonant.

<https://www.starfall.com/h/word-machines/> offers CVC word practice with a game called "word machines". Readers can explore different CVC words that have different short vowel sounds in the middle.

<https://www.education.com/games/hearing-ending-sounds/> has a few games that help your young reader work on hearing and identifying the ending sounds in words. Some recommended games include: "Ending Sounds Hopper" and "Ending Sounds Cloud Match". This website also offers a game called "Blending Sounds Hopper", that help your reader to work on blending and segmenting CVC words.

<https://www.spellingcity.com/which-final-sound-game.html?listId=18535883> offers a game called "Which final sound" to help your reader identifying ending sounds in words.

<https://www.phonicsbloom.com/uk/game/odd-and-bob?phase=2> and <https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/resources/phase/2/picnic-on-pluto> offer a game called " Odd and Blob" and "Picnic on Pluto" where students practice identifying real words and nonsense words.

If families are looking for a game they can play together: Going on "CVC Word Scavenger Hunts" are a fun way to have your student practice sounding out CVC words. They can even tell you if it's a real word or nonsense word too! For example, you can use index cards to write the words on and place them around your house. Readers when then go on a hunt to find the words. To make it even more fun, you can add a timer so that they can race against the clock!

We hope that your student and your family have fun playing these games while developing their literacy skills.