

# Wildcat News

## West Meade Early Education Center

### October 2020

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



#### 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](mailto:jkallon@aacps.org)

#### Counselor

**Theresa Lacovara, School Counselor**

[tlacovara@aacps.org](mailto:tlacovara@aacps.org)

#### Office Staff

**Linda Best-Hazan, Principal Secretary**

[lbest-hazan@AACPS.org](mailto:lbest-hazan@AACPS.org)

**Renee Puhl, Registration & Attendance**

[rpuhl@AACPS.org](mailto:rpuhl@AACPS.org)

Follow us on Twitter @

**WestMeadeAACPS**

or visit our School Website -

<https://www.aacps.org>

#### Important Dates For October

1–31	Pumpkin Decorating Contest
12–13	Schools Closed for students Parent/Teacher Conferences
12–25	Online Scholastic Book Fair
21	Professional Development: 2-hr. Early Dismissal for all students. No PM Pre-K and ECI
26–30	Spirit Week

#### Principal's Monthly Message

Dear West Meade families,

I cannot believe it is October of the 2020-2021 school year! We have had a very busy and exciting few months preparing for engaging eLearning and now, the hybrid model. Our goal is to make eLearning and hybrid learning exciting and fun.

We look forward to meeting your child's academic, social, and emotional needs at WMEEC. At this time, we are preparing for our hybrid opening to support in person and virtual learning. As of now, we plan to open our doors for hybrid learning on Monday, November 16<sup>th</sup> for ECI, Prekindergarten and Kindergarten.

To prepare for the first weeks of hybrid learning here are some helpful reminders:

- The bus loop/car rider drop off and pick up procedures have slightly changed. We ask for your flexibility to help this transition run smoothly.
- Doors open for students between 9:00 am to 9:15 am. No adult supervision is available prior to 9:00 am. Students should not be left outside unattended.

At West Meade Early Childhood Center, we firmly believe that every child and every adult has a responsibility to treat others respectfully and with kindness. If we all go out of our way to be kind, positive and equitable, our school will be welcoming for all! Thank you for your dedication and support during eLearning. We could not do this without the support of our awesome families.

If I can support your child in any way, please feel free to contact me at 410-222-6545 or [jkallon@aacps.org](mailto:jkallon@aacps.org).

Thank You,  
Jessica Kallon  
Principal

#### Math Resources

Here are some helpful math games that students can play independently on the computer to help support the skills we are currently working on; counting "how many" to 10 and recognizing numerals 0 to 10. [www.abcy.com](http://www.abcy.com) has many wonderful number games under the number heading of the K section. Some games we would recommend that support learners are Monster Mansion Match Number Match along with Number Bingo. If your child needs a little more of a challenge the game First to Five works with numbers from 2-12. Also, for a challenge players on Number Bingo can select numbers 0-100 to play with as well as selecting a group of numbers like the 20's, 30's, 40's and on up.

If families are looking for games they can play together: Board games like Chutes and Ladders help students with counting out-load. Also Playing card games like Go Fish are good games for number recognition. The card game WAR (without face cards) is a good game to start if your student needs a challenge. This game will help them to develop a concept of greater than and less than.

We hope that your student and your family have fun playing these games while developing your student's math skills.

Greg Mueller  
Kindergarten Teacher & Lead Teacher



### News from the School Nurse

As we make preparations for those students returning to the building I wanted to remind you of a few things related to the health room. Your child must be up to date with all required immunizations and screenings needed for entry into the building. If the health room has reached out to you, please be sure to get everything in before your child returns to school. Also, if your child is planning to return to school, this may be a good time to start practicing wearing a mask. They will need to wear a mask while they are in school, so start practicing now. You can gradually increase the amount of time they wear it each day so they are used to wearing it for long periods of time. Also, it is a good idea to send in an extra mask with your child in case it gets dirty or lost.

Finally, while everyone is focused on COVID-19, lets not forget about the flu. The Anne Arundel County Department of Health strongly recommends getting the 2020-21 seasonal flu vaccine by the end of October. The vaccine is available from local health care providers and pharmacists.

The flu vaccine is the most effective way to prevent the flu. A flu vaccine is needed annually, because flu viruses are constantly changing. The flu vaccine is formulated each year to keep up with the flu viruses as they change.

If you have any questions or concerns please reach out to me in the health room at 410-222-0962 or via email at [nurse3232@aacps.org](mailto:nurse3232@aacps.org)

Stay well,

Bernadette Rogers, RN

### PTO Message

We are so excited that you are here at West Meade EEC and we can not wait for all the fun and exciting things that this school year will bring! If you have any questions, comments and/or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to us on the 'Parents of West Meade' Facebook page or email us at [ptowestmeade@gmail.com](mailto:ptowestmeade@gmail.com)

Happy October and we can't wait to see you an all the amazing things you are going to accomplish this year as Wildcats!

- West Meade PTO



### Ready for i-Ready Diagnostic!

Our Kindergarten students have completed the Math portion of the i-Ready diagnostic and will be **working to complete the Reading portion of the i-Ready diagnostic during the week of October 26<sup>th</sup>.**

**You may be wondering...What is the i-Ready is and why is my child completing this diagnostic?** MSDE requires that we administer a diagnostic to all students to help guide our instruction this year. This information will help teachers plan instruction, group students, and provide supports. The information from the diagnostic including areas of strength and growth will be shared with parents and guardians when the county has completed the diagnostic. **What does it mean when we say that the i-Ready is a computer adaptive tool?** It is like Goldilocks and the Three Bears - trying to find the "just right" learning spot for your child. This means that the questions and activities are designed to challenge your child and may go up to three grade levels above a student's current grade level in reading and up to one grade level above in math. Students, by design will get about 50% of the items incorrect. This diagnostic is not a test. It is a diagnostic tool that will help us create personalized learning paths for students. **Should I assist my child with the diagnostic administration?** **Yes, you should support them with the technology, but no, you should not assist or coach them in any way with completing the passages, questions, and activities that they do not know the answers to or are unsure of. Instead you can suggest that they try to do their best and make their best guess when unsure of themselves.** For more information about the i-Ready please visit [www.aacps.org/i-ready](http://www.aacps.org/i-ready).

Katie Saxe  
Elementary Literacy Teacher & School Test Coordinator



### Welcome to Basecamp YET! Where we learn skills, enjoy mistakes and explore.

Throughout this year Wildcats will learn self-regulation strategies that will build a foundation for a lifetime. "Early childhood is a period of rapid brain development that paves the way for growth of self-regulation skills" (DukeU). Self-regulation has an important role in fostering wellbeing across the lifespan, including physical, social, emotional health and educational achievement. Self-regulation is the ability to manage thoughts and feelings to promote a desired outcome. We can do this by learning strategies that help us focus our attention such as breathing exercises and using our 5 senses to ground us to the environment that surrounds us. By doing so we can learn to stay in the moment, understand our physiological responses, calm our racing thoughts and choose how we respond.

This month as Wildcats build self-regulation skills we will also learn about social justice. Social justice means everyone has the right to be treated fairly and have access to equal opportunities. Psychologist Stuart Shanker advocates that when communities encourage children to self-regulate, behaviors like stress management and good habits are more likely to be established for life. Dr. Shanker further suggests self-regulation can help create positive feelings towards social justice and democracy at a young age; "[to] create a just society isn't simply a matter of 'permitting' individuals to fulfill themselves. [It] has to be psychologically possible as well as politically possible." The benefit of self-regulation in and of itself is when an individual makes the choice to not react to a feeling, situation or environmental stressor instead relies on and demonstrates the ability to regulate oneself and respond. Ultimately controlling the fight, flight or freeze reaction and creating new response patterns in the brain. In the global environment where social equity can call upon those very skills, we are outfitting our children to be effective leaders and agents of change when we teach and support self-regulation in early childhood. We are investing in our children's future success and wellbeing!

~ Mrs. Lacovara ~ WMEEC School Counselor ~

For more information visit the WMEEC counselor website:

<https://sites.google.com/aacps.org/mrslacovara/home>

### WMEEC Café

I am thankful for this opportunity to introduce myself to all of you as the new Food Services Manager here at West Meade. My name is Michele Fuhrman-eck and although this is my first year here, I have been working in AACPS cafeteria's since 2017.

I am looking forward to meeting you and your children during this school year. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns about the meal service program at West Meade EEC.

### Lunch Prices:

Lunch (Full Prices) \$2.75  
Milk- 1/2 pint (A La Carte) \$ .55



**Please Apply for free/reduce meals:**

<http://aacpschools.org/nutrition/apply-for-free-or-reduced-price-meals/>