



WINCHESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Superintendent

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2017 - 2018 Back to School Welcome Letter

August 1, 2017

Dear WPS Families,

It is with great excitement that I welcome you back to a new school year! Our administrators and support staff have been working diligently to develop a great plan for the school year. The floors have been waxed, new teachers have been hired and we're ready to go! The first day of school for students is **Thursday, August 10, 2017**.

Some of the exciting changes for our WPS community include the following:

- Elementary school themes! Each elementary school has chosen a school theme to focus on this year through their curriculum. Our school themes provide the context for learning so that traditional subjects have meaning for kids. Be sure to ask your teachers how the school theme will spark your child's learning this year. School themes are below:
 - **John Kerr:** STEAM with a focus on the arts
 - **Garland Quarles:** STEM with a focus on engineering
 - **Virginia Avenue Charlotte DeHart:** Global Leadership
 - **Frederick Douglass:** Global Language Immersion
- New [curriculum for our gifted program](#) in grades K-4 through the College of William and Mary. This curriculum will be facilitated through our gifted cluster model and includes extension in English and Math.
- A new playground at Virginia Avenue Charlotte DeHart.
- A new "Maker Space" in the DMIS and DMMS Library. This new space will be a creativity hub for students. From sewing machines to robotics, this space promises to be a favorite. A big thank you to the Handley Trust for providing \$20,000 to purchase new equipment! If you don't know what a "makerspace" is, be sure to ask! (or Google)

- A new Career Technical classroom at DMMS. This classroom takes the maker space idea to a whole new level with cutting edge tools and equipment for building things out of wood, metal and industrial plastics. This is NOT just for the boys, so girls, make sure you engage in this new curriculum that will prepare you to be the future engineers and industry leaders!
- A new cafeteria at JHHS that includes flat screen TVs, lounge areas, and plenty of outlets to support all the Google Chromebooks!
- Full [1:1 student Google Chromebook](#) implementation for students in grades 6 - 12. Each student will be issued a personal Chromebook to engage his/her learning, increase research capacity, and prepare for life in the 21st Century.

These are just a few of the exciting projects in preparation for the 2017 - 2018 school year.

In addition to these projects, we are pleased to welcome a new school community into the WPS family. The Daniel Morgan Campus will now hold two schools - [Daniel Morgan Intermediate School](#) (grades 5 and 6) and [Daniel Morgan Middle School](#) (grades 7 and 8). This shift is important to bring dedicated leadership to each of these age groups while also creating smaller communities. The middle years (ages 10 - 14) are crucial development years for our young people and providing a smaller community and dedicated leadership will bring a more personalized approach to the school experience at this crucial age. Please join me in welcoming the DMIS Generals!

Finally, I want to discuss the future of education in Winchester. We are fortunate to have an innovative School Board that is dedicated to developing a cutting-edge school division for the children of Winchester through our [strategic plan](#). Part of that is creating a learning environment that focuses on the whole child. From the Fine Arts to Career Technical education, WPS is moving toward an educational framework that is hands-on, experiential, and integrated for all students. To support this vision, we are working toward reimagining the “old” John Kerr Elementary School, located above JHHS, to be an Innovation Center that would house a Trades Academy, a Health Sciences Academy and a STEM Academy as an extension of our high school programming. This is an exciting opportunity for our students and our community as we seek to prepare a new generation for adult life in the 21st century.

I hope you have a great school year in WPS. Welcome back! I hope you will join me in supporting our educators this year as we strive for “Learning for all, Whatever it takes!”

Sincerely,

Jason Van Heukelum
Superintendent

Back to School Events

All Elementary Schools	<u>Open House</u> August 8: 2 - 6 pm
Daniel Morgan Intermediate School	<u>Schedule pick up</u> August 1: 2 - 6 pm <u>Open House</u> August 8 : 2 - 6 pm
Daniel Morgan Middle School	<u>Schedule pick up</u> August 2: 2 - 6 pm <u>Open House</u> August 7: 2 - 6 pm
John Handley High School	<u>Schedule Pick Up & Open House</u> August 9: 12 - 7:30 pm

Important Communication Tools for Parents

Type of Tool	Access
WPS Tip Line	http://www.wps.k12.va.us/tipline/index.html
WPS News and Information	<p>WPS Website: www.wps.k12.va.us JHHS Website: http://jhhs.wps.k12.va.us DMMS Website: http://dmms.wps.k12.va.us DMIS Website: http://dmis.wps.k12.va.us FDES Website: http://fdes.wps.k12.va.us GQES Website: http://gqes.wps.k12.va.us JKES Website: http://jkes.wps.k12.va.us VACDES Website: http://vacdes.wps.k12.va.us</p> <p>WPS Mobile Phone App: http://www.wps.k12.va.us/gowps/index.html</p>
Student grades and Information (Parent login) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents can view and change information including address and phone number • Parent can view student grades for 5th grade - 12th grade • Parent can view student report cards and progress reports 	<p>Powerschool Website: https://pwrschl.wps.k12.va.us/public/</p> <p>Powerschool Phone App: http://www.wps.k12.va.us/prntstd/PS_parent_portal.pdf</p>
Facebook <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Push notifications • Event schedules • Daily school happenings • Human interest stories 	<p>Winchester Public Schools John Handley High School Daniel Morgan Middle School Daniel Morgan Intermediate School Frederick Douglass Elementary School Garland Quarles Elementary School John Kerr Elementary School Virginia Avenue Charlotte DeHart Elementary School</p>
Twitter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Push notifications • Event schedules • Daily school happenings 	<p>Winchester Public Schools - @tweetwps John Handley High School - @HandleyJudges Daniel Morgan Middle School - @dmmswps Daniel Morgan Intermediate School - @dmiswps Frederick Douglass Elementary School - @FDESPandas Garland Quarles Elementary School - @gqeswps John Kerr Elementary School - @JKESWPS Virginia Avenue Charlotte DeHart - @vacdeswps</p>