



Woodland Middle School

Paw Prints...

Special New Student Edition

Summer 2009



Upcoming Events

August

- 11-13 Proof of Residency Event
- 22 Sneak Preview
- 26 1st Day of School
- 27 Gifted Curriculum Night 6:30 PM

September

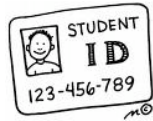
- 2-3 WMS Picture Days
- 7 Labor Day No School
- 16 6th Grade Curriculum Night - 6:30 PM
- 25 School Improvement Day - 10:40 Dismissal
- 28 Rosh Hashanah No School

For a complete listing of events and activities visit our web calendar on the Woodland Middle School website.

A Note From Your Principal...

On behalf of the faculty and staff of Woodland Middle School, I'd like to welcome you to Woodland Middle School for the 2009-2010 school year. We are looking forward to having you as a member of our school community, I hope you find the information contained in this newsletter useful in planning for the upcoming school year. Enjoy the balance of your summer. I look forward to seeing you at *Sneak Preview* on August 22nd.

Mr. Scott Snyder
Principal



Multiple Uses for Your WMS ID Card

Your WMS student identification card serves many purposes. As such, students are required to carry it with them at all times and show it to any staff member upon request. Along with helping provide for a safe learning environment, your ID is also required to:

- Check out materials from the Learning Resource Center.
- Purchase hot lunch via the debit system.
- Get into school dances and activities.

You will get your ID within the first few days of school. Your first ID card is free of charge. Should you lose or damage it, a replacement will be available for \$5 in the school office. Students may wear their ID on a lanyard if they wish. Lanyards can be bought in the office for \$1. Lanyards bought elsewhere should be of the safety variety with a breakaway connector.

Get WMS news via email. Sign up for *Special Delivery* at: www.dlst50.net.

Combination Questions

On the first day of school, you will be assigned a locker of your very own. It is critical to the security of your belongings that you never share your locker or its combination with anyone – even your best friend. Your locker will be located in your team hallway and very close to your core classes. You'll also be assigned a much smaller locker in the gym locker room to store your PE uniform. The lock on your PE locker will have a different combination than your hallway locker. Your teachers will give you plenty of time to practice your combinations and get used to your locker. However, here are a couple more tips that you may find useful:

- Buy an inexpensive combination lock to practice with over the summer. While you will not be able to use this lock at school (all locks must be "school" locks), the process to open a combination lock will be exactly the same.
- Consider a wire locker organizer for your hallway locker to help you stay organized. If you buy one, be sure it will fit in a 12" wide x 11" deep locker.
- Don't buy a backpack with wheels. They rarely fit in our lockers.



**SNEAK PREVIEW
SATURDAY,
AUGUST 22nd
12-2 PM**

Find Your Homeroom, Walk Your Schedule and more... !

WMS Cafeterias Offer a Variety of Lunch Options

Students electing to purchase hot lunch at school have a number of options available to them. Along with the standard meal choices similar to what they are used to in grades 1-5, students also have a wide variety of a la carte choices available to them each day. French fries, pizza, sandwiches, chips and ice cream are just some of the items available. We also feature a daily *Light Line* that provides students with healthier items such as salads and yogurt. Payment can be made either by cash or via the debit card system. Parents may make payments towards their child's lunch account either on-line or via drop boxes located in each of our cafeterias. Students then use their bar-coded student ID to checkout and have their purchases deducted from their balance. Parents may examine an itemized list of the food purchased by their child via the district's website, www.dist50.net, by clicking on the lunch menu icon. Daily lunch menus can also be viewed here. Please keep in mind that one debit account is established per family. As such, if you have more than one student using the debit system, they will be drawing from the same account.



Proof of Residency Event

As you may already know, the Board of Education now requires all families registering students in Woodland District 50 schools to prove residency each year. A Proof of Residency Event will be held August 11th-August 13th in the Woodland Middle School gymnasium and cafeterias.

During Proof of Residency, families will be required to prove current residency by bringing in a current tax bill, mortgage statement, lease, utility bill, driver's license or similar documentation. Once residency is verified, parents may pick up information for their children including their class schedule, transportation bus route/stop, and view class lists for all of their children's homerooms in one location. Parents will also have the opportunity to pay registration fees, apply for a fee waiver, apply for the free and reduced lunch program, deposit money in their lunch account, purchase PE uniforms, sign up for Special Delivery, and obtain information on PTA and the Woodland Educational Foundation. Hours for the Proof of Residency Event will be **10:00 AM to 8:00 PM** each of the three days:

Questions regarding this process should be directed to our Registrar's Office at (847) 856-2986.

Exploratory Classes Offer Something for Everyone

6th grade students have the opportunity to participate in six Exploratory classes throughout the year. Students attend their Exploratory class daily and each Exploratory rotation lasts six weeks. Throughout the course of the year students will participate in **Applied Practical Arts, Art, Family & Consumer Science, Music, Spanish, and Technology Lab**. Additionally, students demonstrating that they need extra assistance in math or reading may have an Exploratory reading or math class for one of their rotations. When you pick up your schedule in August you'll notice each of your Exploratory classes noted with a code such as X1, X2, etc. X1 means First Rotation Exploratory. This will be the class you will start the year in. X2 will be your second six-week class, and so on. You'll also notice that you have a six-week health education class as well that you will instead of PE during the rotation noted on your schedule for health.



WMS Health Clinic Staff

Jeanne Paskvan
Registered Nurse

Frankie Beno
Hilda Callison
Jackie Dressler
Health Assistants

Middle School Health Clinic Here to Help You Stay Healthy

The WMS Health Clinic provides a wide range of services to the students and staff of Woodland Middle School. The 10-bed facility is staffed daily by one registered nurse and four health assistants. The health clinic staff not only treats the day-to-day stomach aches and headaches but they also maintain every student's immunization records, conduct hearing and vision screenings, administer both prescription and over-the-counter medications to students, test blood-sugar levels, maintain records of student sports physicals and issue elevator passes for students on crutches. Parents may download the required forms for leaving prescription and over-the-counter medications at school from the WMS website, www.dist50.net/middle, by clicking on the Student Forms icon. Should you have any questions pertaining to the medical needs of your child, please don't hesitate to contact our clinic at (847) 856-3406.

Frequently Asked Questions (by Moms, Dads, and Students!)

- **Can I bring my iPod®, cell phone, etc. to school?**

*Bringing electronic devices such as iPods, MP3 players, cell phones, electronic games is **strongly** discouraged. You are not allowed to use or have them with you during the school day. If you do bring them to school, they must remain in your locker and turned off. If you do not follow this rule, you run the risk of having your item taken away by a staff member and your mom or dad will have to pick it up in the school office. Even worse, someone else can take it or you can lose it in which case it is unlikely that you would ever get it back. While we will certainly assist you in trying to retrieve any lost or stolen property, WMS is not responsible for lost or stolen items.*

- **Do I need to change for Physical Education class every day?**

Yes. Students are expected to wear their PE uniform for class every day. You will be given time at the beginning and end of class to change clothes. Showers are also available for use but are not required. You should take your PE uniform home to be cleaned at the end of each week.

- **What if I don't know anyone in my classes?**

This is highly unlikely. Everyone assigned to your homeroom will have come from your team at the Intermediate School. Additionally, for the first few weeks of school during Advisory, your teachers will lead you in teambuilding activities that will help you meet those teammates that are new to you. You'll also see a lot of familiar faces at lunchtime and during your PE and Explore classes, as all 6th grade students participate in these classes at the same time.

- **How much money do I need while at school?**

Students are discouraged from bringing large amounts of money to school at any time. Three dollars will buy most students more than they can eat in our cafeterias. Field trip or other special event monies brought to school should be sealed in an envelope with the student's name clearly printed on it.

- **How/where do I sign up for FNA (Friday Night Alternative)?**

FNA is not a middle school activity. It is run by Warren Township and held at Woodland Middle School. Any questions pertaining to FNA should be directed to the Warren Township Center at (847) 244-1101 or on their website, <http://www.warrentownship.net>.

- **How do I find my school bus?**

Just like at the other schools, your bus will always be in the same place every day after school. There will be many teachers and other adults outside to help you find your bus. We dismiss in three bus calls and the 6th grade students get called first for each bus call! In the morning, busses drop off on the Washington Street side of the school.

- **Can I walk home / to the Teen Center?**

Due to the busy streets that surround our school, every student is entitled to ride a school bus and is encouraged to do so. If you wish to walk or ride your bike home or to the Warren Township Teen Center, you must have a note from a parent or guardian on file in the main office to that effect. One note can be written to cover the entire school year.

- **The school is so large. What if I get lost?**

Not to worry... You won't be alone! It is quite likely that every person who has ever ventured past the main office at WMS has gotten lost or turned around at some point in time. During the first few weeks of school your teachers will take great care in making sure you get to where you need to be. In addition to giving you a few more minutes to get to class, they will walk you to your PE and Explore classes as well as to lunch. We also have 10 hall monitors whose main job is to patrol the hallways and make certain you get to where you need to go. If you find that you've gotten turned around, just ask any adult and they'll be happy to help you.

- **When can I use the restroom if I need to?**

If you look at the daily schedule provided in this newsletter, you'll notice that you have several minutes between classes. Since the majority of your classes are right next door to one another, you'll probably find that you have plenty of time to use the restroom between classes. If you find that you need to use the restroom during the middle of a class, you just have to ask your teacher for a pass.

- **I used to be a room mom. How can I get involved at WMS?**

In most instances, simply letting your child's teacher(s) know that you are interested in getting involved will do the trick. We are always in need of parents to accompany classes on field trips, help at Market Day, chaperone dances, serve on our Family-School Partnership, work at our Book Fairs, etc.

Woodland Middle School

7000 W. Washington St.
Gurnee, IL 60031

Phone:
(847) 856-3400

Activities Hotline:
(847) 856 - 3547

Fax: (847) 856-1306

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Scott Snyder
Principal

Michael Witkowski
Associate Principal

Tiffany Drake
Assistant Principal
Jaguar House

Vicki Marble
Assistant Principal
Lynx House

Sean Murphy
Assistant Principal
Puma House

Bill Schufreider
Assistant Principal
Cougar House

Dr. Joe Vaal
Nancy Waggoner
Special Education
Supervisors



We're on the Web

Visit us at:
www.dist50.net/middle

Who Do I Call??

It is no secret that WMS is a large school. However, please do not let that stop you from seeking assistance when you or your child is in need. Generally speaking, questions or concerns are best addressed by the person closest to the situation. In most cases this will be your child's teacher or homeroom teacher. You will be provided with the contact numbers for your child's teachers at Curriculum Night. Each team also is assigned one assistant principal who works with the students and teachers on the team. He or she will often be able to assist you as well. When in doubt, you can always call our main office and our staff will be more than happy to direct your call to the appropriate staff member.

Commonly Used WMS Phone Numbers

Main Office – (847) 856-3400
Activities Hotline – (847) 856-3547
Attendance – (847) 856-3401
FAX – (847) 856-1306
Food Service – (847) 856-3408
Health Clinic – (847) 856-3406

Your 6th Grade Daily Class Schedule

7:15 – 7:30	Homeroom
7:30 – 7:55	Advisory
8:00 – 8:50	Core 1 (SS, LA, M or SCI)
8:54 – 9:44	Core 2 (SS, LA, M or SCI)
9:48 – 10:38	Core 3 (SS, LA, M or SCI)
10:43 – 11:13	Lunch
11:23 – 12:13	Core 4 (SS, LA, M or SCI)
12:19 – 1:06	PE or Exploratory
1:11 – 1:58	Exploratory or PE
2:05 – 2:30	Homeroom / Bus Calls

(You'll notice that there is no recess when you are in middle school. ☺)

Physical Education Uniforms will be available for sale at Proof of Residency August 11-13 as well as in the MS Office during regular business hours. •\$20 per uniform•

Get Involved in Your School!!

Middle school is so much more than going to your classes, completing homework, and taking tests. WMS offers a wide variety of clubs, sports, and activities. Everything from Rocket Club, intramural basketball, student leadership and our interscholastic sports teams will be available to you. Check the WMS website (www.dist50.net/middle) for a listing of the activities that are available and the participation permission slip. While the selections may vary from year to year, there is always plenty to do after school hours!

If you are interested for trying out for any of our interscholastic sports teams, we offer softball, soccer, basketball, wrestling, volleyball, and track. You must have a current physical (within the past calendar year) on file in the WMS health office in order to try out.

Parking Lot Safety

Those of you who have dropped off or picked up your child before or after school are well aware that traffic around Woodland schools can become quite congested. Following these basic guidelines will help move traffic along and ensure safety.

Student Drop-off or Pick-up

Our parking lot will be resurfaced and striped over the summer. The District 50 Operations & Facilities Department is studying options for traffic flow around WMS. Look for information regarding student pick-up and drop-off later in the summer.

General Parking Lot Rules

- Follow the established traffic pattern and obey all signage, pavement markings and parking lot attendants.
- School busses have the right of way.
- Do not cut through rows of parked cars.
- Only park in marked spaces.
- Do not park in the area reserved for school buses.
- Do not make u-turns in the parking lot.

Catch the Spirit with Woodland Spirit Wear!

The Woodland PTA will be selling Spirit Wear during Proof of Residency.