



The Winand Word

February 1, 2024

Important News from BCPS

The second semester is underway, and I want to share some important reminders for our students and families to ensure we are working together to create safe environments for all and preserve and protect teaching and learning. Positive and secure school climates have a tremendous impact on student well-being and learning and we continue to make significant investments in comprehensive safety measures to ensure all students and staff are safe.

While the majority of our 110,000 students come to school ready to learn, engage with their peers and adults positively and follow the rules, there are some students (and adults) who make poor choices and engage in dangerous and disruptive behaviors on school property. When these situations occur, our school administrators respond swiftly and are working to ensure consistency in the implementation of consequences.

I want to be clear that we do not tolerate dangerous behaviors and we will continue to use all legally available tools and resources to protect students and hold accountable those who break the rules. We believe that we can and will have a strong and positive second semester. It will take all of us doing our part.

Parents/guardians, please take some time to review the following information with your child(ren)—

[The 2023-2024 Student Handbook](#) includes an overview of the rights and responsibilities of BCPS students and a summary of the laws and regulations that affect students. Topics include consistent, timely attendance, respect for people and property, technology usage, student publications, student activities, student records, the right to appeal - including grievance procedures – and more.

Cell Phone Policy

While students may bring personal phones to school, the phones should not be used during class time or used inappropriately at any time during the school day. Failure to follow these rules will result in disciplinary actions against your child. We understand there are a number of reasons why parents/guardians have their children bring phones to school, however, **they are a distraction and cause significant disruption to the learning environment**. Please let your child know that cell phones and school time don't mix and students who violate the cell phone policy **will receive consequences**.

As a reminder, students may have their cell phones on school property and during school-sponsored activities; however, students may not use their cell phones until the end of the instructional day with the following exceptions:

1. When instructional staff, in Grade 3 and above, has permitted such use for instructional purposes during instructional time. At Winand, cell phones are not part of the instructional program.
2. High school students may use their cell phones during student lunch periods.
3. Middle school students may use their cell phones during student lunch periods, as determined by the school administrator of each individual middle school.

Effective teaching and learning can't happen when students are breaking the rules and distracted by their devices. Thank you for your support in reinforcing our cell phone policy at home.

Transportation Procedures and Expectations

The Office of Transportation's top priority each day is to transport all student bus riders safely to and from school. To accomplish this goal, we need the cooperation of the entire community. Positive student behavior while entering, riding, and leaving the bus contributes to safe transportation by making it possible for drivers to dedicate their full attention to the roads and other drivers. Student bus riders are expected to act responsibly and respectfully at all times.

The primary purpose of rules and procedures on buses is the safety of all passengers—students and staff. Please take a few minutes to review the [transportation handbook](#).

What are the consequences for students involved in physical fights?

- Short term suspensions up to 10 days.
- Long term suspensions – 11 days to expulsion –issued through the Student Conduct Hearing Officer.
- Arrests/criminal charges issued, when appropriate, by the Baltimore County Police Department.
- Mediation/restorative conferences may be held to resolve the conflict, *after consequences have been applied*.
- Community conferencing is offered to families to address long-standing community conflict.

What are the consequences for students who bring firearms to schools?

- **A minimum of a one year expulsion**
- Reassignment to alternative programs
- Arrests/criminal charges issued, when appropriate, by the Baltimore County Police Department.

I also want to remind our parents and guardians of the importance of setting positive examples at home and in the community. The behaviors we model at home and values we instill in our children have tremendous impact on the schoolhouse. We know that many of our school safety issues stem from unresolved community conflict and are often amplified on social media. We call on parents to [limit or monitor student social media](#) and cellphone use, join with the school community to provide a positive presence and to share safety concerns directly with school leaders who will ensure they are addressed quickly.

I encourage you to connect with your child's school. Joining the parent teacher student association, volunteering, and/or attending school events are just some of the many ways you can participate. To make a difference at the community level, please consider attending [area educational advisory council](#) meetings or joining a council. There are also councils or committees focused on [career and technology education](#), [gifted and talented education](#), and [special education](#).

In addition, we invite parents to learn more about [BCPS Parent University](#). In collaboration with many partners, Parent University offers online resources, in-person and online workshops, and a mobile parent resource center to support parents in nurturing their children's success. Follow Parent University at [@BCPSParentU](#) on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#).

Thank you for your partnership and support.

Regards,

Myriam Rogers

Superintendent

Attendance Matters

Regular attendance is closely linked to academic success. Students who attend school regularly are more likely to keep up with their assignments, understand the material, and perform well on assessments. Missing school can lead to gaps in learning and make it challenging for students to grasp essential concepts.



If your child is absent, please send in a note upon their return to school.

At Winand Elementary, the goal is 96% attendance; please help us achieve this goal and provide students the foundation they deserve.

Week Ending February 2

Pre-S 77%

Pre-K 90%

Kindergarten 93%

First Grade 95%

Second Grade 95%

Third Grade 93%

Fourth Grade 93%

Fifth Grade 97%

Should you have any questions, please contact Mr. Day gday3@bcps.org or (443) 809-0763.

Lost and Found



Lost and Found is located in the cafeteria; please encourage your child to look in the bin if they lost something.

Arrival Reminder

For safety, we ask that students not arrive or gather on school grounds prior to 9:10 AM as there is no supervision before 9:10 AM .

School doors open at 9:10 AM. The late bell is at 9:20 AM. Students should arrive to school no later than 9:20 AM in order to not be marked late.



Math Night at Winand

Due to a delay in shipping of student materials, **Math Night has been rescheduled to Tuesday, February 20.** Thank you to the parents that have returned the RSVP for the event.

You do not need to resubmit in order to attend Math Night. If you did not RSVP, but would still like to attend, please send in your RSVP by Wednesday, February 14.

If you have any further questions, please email Ms. Yun (myun@bcps.org).

Thank you for your understanding! We look forward to seeing you at Math Night!



Winand Elementary School



Math Night

Date: ~~February 6, 2024~~

NEW DATE February 20th

Time: 5:30-6:30 p.m.



Join us to learn strategies and techniques to help your student practice their math skills!



Literacy Night~ Save the Date!

Save the Date!

March 19th

5:30-7pm

LITERACY NIGHT

Winand Elementary School
GAMES, LEARNING, and FUN!



Counseling Corner

News from Ms. Knight

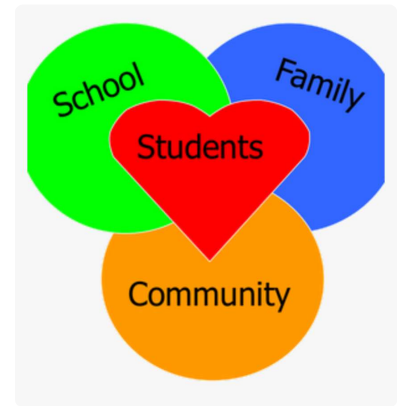
FEBRUARY GUIDANCE LESSON

Students will be discussing and celebrating what makes everyone special and different.

Check out these great books on celebrating differences!

It's Okay to Be Different, by Todd Parr *The Crayon Box that Talked, by Shane DeRolf*

Elmer, by David McKee *What I Like About Me!, by Allia Zobel Nolan*



Character Trait of the Month: PEACEFULNESS

This month, students are learning and practicing the trait of peacefulness.

Students can show peacefulness by being calm and at ease.

Ask your child: How can you show peacefulness?

Magnet School Updates

Magnet School acceptance emails should be coming out on February 9th if you applied for the 2024-2025 school year.

If you have any questions, please visit the website below:

https://www.bcps.org/curriculum/programsandoptions/educational_opportunities/magnet_programs

Home Internet Access Resources for Families/Students

Families needing assistance with paying for or obtaining internet access for their children while at home should be directed to the Maryland Emergency Broadband Benefit (MEBB) service. The State of Maryland has partnered with the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) which provides eligible families access to free or reduced internet access for their homes. This internet access can be used for virtual learning, and access to online resources such as job postings, health resources, and other benefits for adult family members and children.

Maryland Emergency Broadband Benefit can be accessed through the MEBB website by going to a Baltimore County Public Library and using the available internet access.

Baltimore County Public Libraries also has a 'Long Term Device Lending Program' where patrons of the library can sign out either a ChromeBook and/or a cellular hotspot for up to six months. More information is available on the Baltimore County Public Library website (<https://www.bcpl.info/services/longterm-lending.html>).

An alternative method is to contact the FCC Affordable Connectivity Program directly by calling (877) 384-2575. Services are available in multiple languages. Families must qualify for the service. A family can also contact one of the internet access/broadband providers on the attached listing directly to find out more about the application process.

Volunteer at Winand Elementary



We are excited to welcome volunteers at Winand Elementary. All volunteers must be trained. Please complete the online application and send the certificate to Ms. Knight.

Volunteer information:

https://cos.bcps.org/departments/communications/family_and_community_engagement/b_c_p_s_volunteers

Volunteer Application:

https://cdn5-ss3.sharpschool.com/UserFiles/Servers/Server_9046799/File/Updated%20Documents/Application%20for%20Volunteer%20Services%20ADA.pdf

PTA Corner

The next PTA meeting is February 13, 2024 from 6:00-7:30 p.m. Join us!



BCPS Calendar

Just a quick reminder that you can find the 2023-24 BCPS School Calendar on the school system's website <https://www.bcps.org/>

Calendar Reminders

February 2024

- 2-5-2024~ Report Cards Available Online at 4 p.m.
- 2-9-2024~Schools Closed for Students~ PD for Teachers
- 2-13-2024~ PTA Meeting at Winand
- 2-19-2024~ Schools and Offices Closed-Presidents' Day, Washington's Birthday
- 2-20-2024 Math Night 5:30-6:30

March 2024

- Week of 3-18-2024~ Spring Book Fair
- 3-19-2024 Reading Night~See Flyer
- 3-22-2024~ *Spring Break Begins at the End of the Day*

April 2024

MCAP Testing Grades 3-5-Stay Tuned for More Details from Mr. Day and Ms. Higgins

- 4-2-2024~ Schools Reopen
- 4-5-2024~3rd Marking Period Ends-Schools Dismiss 3 hr Early 1:05 p.m. Teachers on Duty-Grading and Reporting
- 4-10-2024~Schools Closed for Students-Teachers on Duty for PD
- 4-16-2024~Report Cards Available Online at 4 p.m.
- 4-26-2024~ Schools and Offices Close 3 hr. Early~ 1:05 p.m.
- 4-29-2024~Pre-K and Kindergarten Conference Day – No Preschool3, Pre-K or Kindergarten Sessions – Teachers on Duty
- 4-30-2024~Pre-K Conference Day – No Preschool-3 or Pre-K Sessions– Teachers on Duty