



## Dates to Remember in February

February 1-26—Kids Heart Challenge Ends  
 February 1-5—School Guidance Counselor Week  
 February 1-5—Parent/Teacher Conferences  
 February 2—End of 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter  
 February 8-12—Bus Driver Appreciation Week  
 February 9—2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Report Cards Home  
 February 15—No School  
 February 16—District School Board Meeting 6:00 P.M. (TBA)  
 February 17—100<sup>th</sup> Day of School  
 February 18—VIRTUAL SIC Meeting @ 4:30 P.M.

## Yearbook and Yearbook Pictures

In a year when so much is lost...Don't Miss out, Buy a Yearbook!

If your child(ren) were not able to take a picture, or you were unhappy with your child's photo, please send Mrs. Britt an e-mail at [wmesyearbook29477@gmail.com](mailto:wmesyearbook29477@gmail.com) for further instructions.

Congratulate that special 5<sup>th</sup> grade student in your life with a personal ad in our WMES yearbook. If you would like to place an ad in this year's WMES yearbook, please go to the link below. If you have trouble uploading pictures to the site, you can email them to [wmesyearbook29477@gmail.com](mailto:wmesyearbook29477@gmail.com). Yearbooks, yearbook accessories, and love lines for all WMES students can also be purchased on the site.

Want to include your own photos in our yearbook? Go to the site and label them with your child's name and teacher. Picture ideas are daily instruction, Red Ribbon Week, activities during special events/days, etc.

<https://wmes.dorchesteryearbooks.com/>

### Our Vision Statement

*The vision of Williams Memorial Elementary School is to create a community of academic excellence for our students by establishing high expectations and academic rigor, providing effective and innovative educational practices in a safe and supportive environment, and helping our students develop world-class skills and to graduate with a 21<sup>st</sup> Century education and to be globally competitive in their chosen career path.*



### From the Instructional Coach


Remember that Friday is not a day off! It is an asynchronous learning day. That means even though students do not meet in real time with a live class or teacher, they still have assignments to complete independently. All work for an asynchronous day must be turned in by Monday at 8 A.M. to receive full credit and to be counted as present on Fridays.



### From the Literacy Coach

Free CHOICE in Reading...



Do your children  to read? Many say they do not. When at home, encourage and allow your children to have a choice in the books they want to read. With so many required passages for students to read at school, it is so important that students are given the opportunity to choose books they will like - some easy, some just right, some too difficult. But choice makes students want to read more successfully.

1. When students get to make genuine choices about their reading material, it **increases the likelihood they engage more in reading**, and increases their effort and commitment to reading.
2. Research shows students who read independently become better readers, score higher on achievement tests in all subject areas, and have greater content knowledge than those who do not. The amount of **free reading done outside of school** has also consistently been found to relate to growth in vocabulary, reading comprehension, verbal fluency and general information.
3. **Very few children say they enjoy reading**, and those numbers decrease as they age. A recent National Literacy Trust study found just 15.6 percent of teens age 14-16 say they enjoy reading. Independent reading and **free choice** helps students discover the fun, adventure and pleasure in reading. Roughly 80 percent of children said the book they liked most was one they had selected on their own.

# The Paw Print

WMES is "PAWS"-itively The Best!

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2019 SCHOOL REPORT CARD RATING—42 (AVERAGE) **FEBRUARY 2021**



Dear WMES Family-

Happy February! Students are finally back in the building for face-to-face instruction. We have hit the ground running since January. Please know that our teachers and staff are working diligently to instruct your child based on their strengths and needs, with input from their STAR assessment and classroom academic performance. Our teachers are continually looking for new ideas and consistently change tactics and strategies to make certain our students are engaged during classroom instruction. If a student is Hybrid, please make sure they have their camera on and are engaged in the lesson. If not, they will be placed in the Waiting Room. Students should also be submitting assignments daily.

Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held February 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>. Your child(ren)'s teacher will send a REMIND message for scheduling your conference. Please make plans to attend the ZOOM conference, since it will give you the opportunity to talk about your child's progress.

Attendance counts... Attendance directly impacts academic achievement. State law requires students to attend 90% of all school days for promotion. Attendance Conferences will start soon with Guidance Counselors. If your child(ren) have three (3) consecutive or five (5) unexcused days absent, you will receive an Attendance Letter from our Attendance Clerk. Either medical excuses or up to 10 handwritten letters can be submitted by a parent.

When your child(ren) leave the house in the morning, please make sure they have their mask, water bottle, and instructional material. Safety is our top priority at WMES, and we appreciate all of your support!

Ruth Mims

## Our Mission Statement

The children, parents, faculty, and staff of Williams Memorial Elementary School are unified in their purpose of accelerating the learning of all students through shared decision-making and powerful learning experiences



Please remember school hours are 7:45 A.M.-1:45 P.M. for face-to-face students. Students

arriving after 7:45 A.M. are considered tardy and must be signed in by a parent or guardian. All bus changes must be approved by the Transportation Department, not the Front Office.

The following school-wide ZOOM protocols are in place:

- \*Students will be placed in the Waiting Room if they are not on Camera, disengaged, or disrupting instruction.
- \*Students will be removed from class for the use of profanity or inappropriate comments or chats either by the student or an adult.
- \*Lessons and conferences will be recorded and saved for documentation
- \*All assignments should be submitted by 8:00 A.M. (the next day), if a student does not complete their work during Monday-Thursday instruction. Students have until 8:00 A.M. Monday to complete all Friday assignments.
- \*Google Hangout has been deactivated because of inappropriate use by students.
- \*Teachers will not respond to REMIND or text messages during instructional time. They will respond before 7:45 A.M. or after 2:00 P.M.

Please remember that our teachers are working very hard and need your support and understanding. This is a difficult time for all of us, so your patience is appreciated.