

**Wellesley Middle School**

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Dear WMS Parents and Guardians,

Greetings! I hope you are all enjoying your summer break and that you will continue to rejuvenate over the next couple of weeks. Personally, this has been the summer of family, where my wife and I have been navigating the world of parenting two “adult” children (Luke, 24 and Nora, 21) and tending to my own parents who prefer their ages not be disclosed. :-). It has been a balance of responsibility, care and fun, both on the West (San Jose) and East (VT, MA) Coast. Whether you were being productive or simply relaxing, I hope the time away has brought you and your families much joy, too.

Summer at WMS

With a late June release from school, the summer working months flew by quickly! The Tech Offices received a much needed makeover. Additionally, we have been busy closing this past year, preparing for our opening, and participating in district and school retreats. Some areas of interest have been to continue conversations about the ever-changing world of AI, work on School Improvement Plans with an eye on measurable, instructional goals, and learning more about our district’s HR practices. From a school perspective, we worked on student agency, improving school operations, and furthering our definitions of Grade 7 and what our students experience. There’s been no shortage of work to keep us busy! Also, we have updated our handbooks, so please review our new [WMS Student Handbook 2025-26](#) for the latest school and district information.

Smart Devices at WMS 2025-26

Last year, we developed a plan for [Smart Devices at WMS](#). Overall, phones will need to be stored in locked “pouches” that will not allow student access during school hours (i.e, upon arrival until the 2:30 dismissal). This summer, we worked through the logistical details in order to operationalize our plan. Upon return, we will be training staff on what needs to be done and students on the first day of school. On the second day back, we plan to enforce our new policy. **We need everyone’s support in order for this plan to work.** Although we know that there will be challenges, and a learning curve to start, we are committed to the long-term benefits of this approach. Success will mean better teacher-student relationships, less distractions to learning and more social interaction directly between peers. Let’s work together to make this happen!

WMS Enrollment 2025-26

In 2025-26, our projected enrollment is 909 students. At WMS, Grade 8 will have ~316 students on four “teams” of four teachers each; Grade 7 will have ~297 students on four “clusters” of four teachers each; and Grade 6 will have ~296 students on four “houses” of four teachers each. All teams, clusters and houses include assigned school counselors, special educators, support staff and an assistant principal. Please access this link for the most current listing of [teams, clusters, houses and advisories](#). Note: Due to staffing needs, assignments may be revised through the next several weeks.

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WMS Student Advisory

Continuing this year, WMS will be supporting a student advisory within our schedule. Our WMS Advisory is 15 minutes daily for students to connect with peers and adults. In particular, we will address the topics of bullying, technology and identity, along with a balance of school events/logistics and de-stressing activities. We will continue to explore the question: “How should we treat each other?” Our advisory classes are approximately 20 students each, and co-led by 2 to 3 adult faculty members. We are excited about growing the social and emotional health of our students this year!

Summary of Important Dates

Wednesday, August 13, 12 noon	PowerSchool Portal opens. Your child’s Advisory (on team) teacher, room number and school counselor will be available for viewing.
Monday, August 25th & Tuesday, August 26th	Medical supplies drop-off times to nursing at WMS: Monday, August 25, 3:30-4:15 p.m. and August 26, 7:30-8:00 a.m. Click here to access a letter from our nurses .
Wednesday, August 27th, doors open at 7:30 a.m.	School begins. This day is a full day from 7:45 a.m. to 2:29 p.m. Students should report to the following locations no later than 7:40 a.m. • 6th grade students report to the WMS Auditorium. • 7th grade students report to Gym B. • 8th grade students report to Gym A. • Any student receiving breakfast should report to the WMS Cafeteria.
Wednesday, August 28th	Students will receive their full schedules at the beginning of the day in school.
iPads at WMS Grade 7 and 8 students should bring their iPads on the first day of school. Grade 6 iPads will be distributed in classes during the first week of school.	

Note: During the summer, our WMS Main Office is open from Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Starting Monday, August 25, our main office hours will be 7 a.m. – 4 p.m.

What to do before August 27th, 2025

Accessing our WPS PowerSchool portal

Please refer to Appendix A (attached below) from our WPS District Office that outlines how [WPS PowerSchool information](#) should be reviewed and accessed. Included are instructions on how to receive your child’s Advisory (on-team) teacher placement, room number and school counselor. The portal will be open from August 13 at noon through September 3, 2025. It is important that we receive accurate, up-to-date information to ensure your child’s safety when in our care. Additionally, all WMS back-to-school documents are available on our [website](#) under the “Quick Links” section: “Back to School Packet 2025-26.” Please continue to access this information, including anti-bullying content, before the start of school. If you know of someone who does not have Internet access, please ask them to contact the WMS Main Office. We can help them get the information they will need.

Important Note: When you open the portal, you will view your child's Advisory (on team) teacher, room number, and school counselor assignment. Due to the intricacies of our scheduling process, **we are unable to change students from one Advisory to another.** If you find yourself in an extenuating circumstance, please contact our main office for assistance.

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Access SNAP Health Portal

Please [Access SNAP Health Portal](#) to review WPS nursing policies, your student's medical information, and to provide [parent consent](#) for Tylenol/Advil for the 2025-2026 school year. Please reach out to the WMS nurses with any questions.

School supplies and materials needed

Please access this link "[WMS Supply List 2025-26](#)" or refer to our WMS website for school materials needed to start school. Also, in an effort to maintain protocols that promote school safety, please send your child with the following:

- **A refillable water bottle.** Filling stations are available for refills.
- **Boxes of tissues for the classroom.** Tissues are needed, especially during the winter months. In preparation, please send in two boxes of tissues with your student for classroom use.
- **Small or medium sized bottle of hand sanitizer.** Hand sanitizing and washing will be encouraged throughout the school day. Please send hand sanitizer that can be used in the classroom.

Drop-off and pick-up requirements and door entrances

For drop-offs on the first day of school, we are asking that students enter through our Kingsbury Street (front door) or **Donizetti Street (back door, foot traffic only – no car drop-off)** entrances. Car drop offs are allowed on Kingsbury Street only. Please reserve Donizetti Street for bus traffic and the D'Auria Drive (south side door) entrance for our students entering from our school buses. Doors will open at 7:30 a.m. and students are expected to be in the building no later than 7:40 a.m. Grade 6 students should report to the WMS Auditorium where they will meet their Advisory teachers. Grades 7 students will report to Gym B and Grade 8 students will report to Gym A. All students receiving breakfast will report to the WMS Cafeteria. At 7:40 students will leave their respective areas for Advisory on the first day (Period 1 on a routine day). At 7:45 a.m., student attendance will be taken, tardies will be marked, and school announcements will occur over the PA. School ends at 2:29 p.m.

Upcoming events

On Friday, September 5th from 8:30 – 9:30 a.m., I invite you to a WMS “meet and greet.” No formal presentation is planned; however, it will give me and other school administrators the opportunity to meet you and answer any questions you might have. It is also a chance for you to meet other families in our WMS community. Additionally, our annual WMS Back-to-School Night is Thursday, September 25th, 2025 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. During the evening, parents and guardians will have the opportunity to meet with teachers and experience their child’s daily routine. Please mark your calendars for both events.

In conclusion, my hope for all students entering a new school year is that they learn through strong academic growth, make new friends and maintain existing ones, and feel the emotional stability that comes from happiness and good health. I am feeling very confident that the coming year will be an exceptional one! Should you have additional questions, please call our WMS Main Office at 781-446-6235, who will direct your call. I look forward to starting our new school year together on Wednesday, August 27th.

Sincerely,



Mark T. Ito
Principal, Wellesley Middle School

Appendix A

PowerSchool Parent Portal & Classroom Assignments

As we continue to prepare for the start of the new school year, it is essential for the Wellesley Public Schools to confirm the emergency contact information, directory information, and other important permissions for each of our students. The Wellesley Public Schools uses PowerSchool, an online platform, to maintain these data. The PowerSchool Parent Portal will be open from August 14 at 12:00 noon through September 4, 2024. All parents/caregivers must log in during this time to confirm this important information for each of their children. Home Room information for Grades K-8 will be available. As in prior years, you will not be receiving a class list due to security and privacy laws (see [MGL 603 CMR 23.00](#) for more information). Please note that you may see TBD for teacher's name as we may be finalizing some teacher placements.

District-approved parent and community partners such as our PTOs, Wellesley Education Foundation, etc., request contact information for our families to produce school directories, which we recognize is a valued resource for our families. In accordance with our Student Records Policy (JRA, JRA-R) and the [Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act \(FERPA\)](#), parents may opt out/customize the information released through the PowerSchool Parent Portal. Please note that directory information shared with parent organizations is done so with the understanding that this information will not be used for commercial, political, or other third party uses.

PowerSchool Parent Portal Instructions: August 13, 2025 at 12:00 noon – September 3, 2025 at midnight

Make sure you know your Username and Password: (Anytime over the summer)

All families receive a username and set a password when they enroll their students, a username reminder email will be sent on 8/6/25. If you do not know your password, please go to the parent portal log in screen

<https://wellesley.powerschool.com>:

- Click on Forgot Username or Password?
- Fill in your Parent Username and Parent Email Address and click Enter
- Check email for password reset instructions and set your new password.
- If you need assistance, email portal@wellesleys.org.

Returning Users: (This can be completed after portal opens on August 13, 2025 at 12:00 noon)

Log into the Portal at <https://wellesley.powerschool.com> or by using the PowerSchool App.

- Click the “Forms” menu item
- Complete all four “WPS – Annual Update” forms and click “Submit” at the bottom of each form. (Even if changes are not necessary, please login and ‘Submit’ each form in order to update your account for the upcoming school year.)
- The nursing department’s [SNAP Health Portal](#) can be accessed from the PowerSchool portal
- The Confirmation page will include the homeroom information for your child (Grades K-8 only)
- Follow this procedure for each child, with the exception of the optional “Contact Information Change” form which should only be completed once per family.

Parent Portal Training for Parents (if needed):

- Pre-Recorded Tutorials: [WPS Parent Portal Training Videos](#) – watch on your own at a convenient time
- Contact portal@wellesleys.org and a WPS portal team member will be happy to assist you by phone or email during work hours.

Back to School Packets and Handbooks with Annual Notices are available in the Quick Links section of the school's website. Thank you for your support and we are looking forward to a great school year!