

Wyngate Elementary School

Travis J. Wiebe, Principal

Wyngate News

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Thank you!

We want to celebrate a wonderful start to the 2018-19 school year. Thank you for your support in helping teachers and students quickly establish routines and expectations so that learning could begin right away. Students have been actively engaged in instruction and the start of the school year has been strong. Teachers continue to work to build a positive classroom climate and effective relationships with students and families. We appreciate your continued support at our school and PTA events. The turnout for Back to School Night was impressive; we thank you for your active engagement in our school community! We look forward to seeing many of you at our first PTA meeting tomorrow evening and next week during our Open House event.

Please make it a routine practice to take time as a family to read and discuss information in each issue of the Wyngate News and the PTA online newsletter. If you have any questions about any items in this newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Join us for a PTA Welcoming Reception on Tuesday, October 2nd, 6:30-7:00pm in the Media Center (babysitting provided in room one).

Attend the first PTA Meeting of the 2018-19 school year on Tuesday, October 2nd, 7:00-8:00 pm in the Media Center (babysitting provided in room one). Learn about the Wyngate Parent Teacher Association (PTA), and the important role it plays in your student's school year

experience. Hear Wyngate Principal Mr. Wiebe's State of Wyngate Update. Guest speaker, Mrs. King will discuss our Mindfulness program at Wyngate and answer any questions. Ask questions, inquire, and get involved!

Columbus Day Open House - Monday, October 8, 2018

Our annual Open House event will be held on Monday, October 8, 2018 from 9:30-11:30 am. Grades one and four will conclude prior to lunch at 11:15 am. Please be sure to sign in at the Welcome Table and take a visitor's badge before proceeding to classrooms. Classroom teachers will be sending home schedules and their plans for the day, including whether students will be with any of our art specialists. If you have any questions about the Open House event, please contact the classroom teacher.

The purpose of the Open House is for families to see a snapshot of their child's day in the classroom. In order for this experience to be effective, visitors are asked to sit or stand without talking in the classrooms so they may observe the typical classroom learning activities. While younger children may not always be able to stay at home, we do ask that if a small visitor is disruptive, you take them outside the classroom for a break in the hallway. Sometimes, teachers plan lessons that are interactive on this day. If this is the case, they will provide directions for you.

Unfortunately, we are unable to accommodate all visitors who would like to stay for lunch on this day. We ask that you select another day to join your child for lunch. We look forward to opening our doors to you on Monday, October 8th!

Upcoming Dates

October

- 1 - Cultural Arts Assembly
– Billy B, The Natural
Science Song and Dance
Man
- 2 - New Family Coffee
(10:30 in Media Center;
6:30 prior to PTA
Meeting)
- 2 – PTA Meeting (7:00 pm
in Media Center)
- **5 – Early Release Day –
Students Dismissed at
12:55 pm**
- 8 – Columbus Day Open
House (9:30 – 11:30)
- 9 – Field Trip –
Kindergarten to Sharpe’s
Farm
- 10 – Walk to School Day
- 12 – PTA Fun Run
- 30 – Grade 2 Pumpkin
Math
- 31 – Halloween Parade
and Parties

Wyngate Reminders

Friendly Reminders from the Office –

- Please send a printed note for all dismissal changes. Emails to teachers or the office is not the best means to communicate a change in plans. Getting your children home safely is our top priority. With 700+ students, printed notes make dismissal run smoothly and allow teachers to confidently dismiss students to the correct location.
- Help your student get organized and arrive at school with necessary items (lunch, homework, book, instrument, jackets, etc). Each time an item is forgotten a call is made into the classroom interrupting instruction for all.
- There is no parking in the bus lane during school hours. This driveway must be kept clear at all times for emergency vehicles.
- If your child will be late or absent from school please use our [attendance notification system](#), which can be found on the homepage of the website, or call the attendance hotline (240-740-1081).

HEALTH ROOM SUPPORT

We are pleased to have Ms. Gonella and Ms. Waites returning to support students and families in the health room this school year.

- School Community Health Nurse : **Ms. Donna Gonella**
- School Community Health Technician: **Ms. Anna Waites**

We encourage parents of students with health concerns to discuss them with our nurse or health room tech when they come to school or call them during school hours. **The health room's direct phone number is 240.740.1082.**

SCHOOL & FIELD TRIP COSTS

We are committed to providing all students, regardless of their economic circumstances, with full access to the instructional program. If you need assistance for any requested expense, or



with providing the organizational tools and personal supplies, please contact your child's teacher, our counselor, or the principal.

PARKING LOT PROCEDURES

Private cars are permitted in the parking lot at all hours. Parents may use the parking lot "Kiss and Drop" area to drop off and pick up their children before and after school.

Parents who drive into the parking lot to drop off their children in the morning should follow the line of vehicles and allow their children to exit *the curb side of the vehicle*, which is painted yellow. The children should get out promptly, and the parents should proceed out of the parking lot. At dismissal, students who are being picked up by parents will be dismissed to wait at the "Kiss and Drop" point.

Drivers must remain in their vehicles in the "Kiss and Drop" area. Parents who wish to walk their children to the line-up areas or meet their children at the school doors in the afternoon must park their cars in parking spaces either in the parking lot or on the street. **Under no circumstances should a parent or driver park and leave their vehicle in the "Kiss and Drop" area.** (The license number of cars parked illegally at the curb will be given to our school police officer.)

Students arriving by car each day should plan to arrive at school no later than 8:40 a.m. If the line of cars into the parking lot is long, parents may park their vehicles and walk their children to school on the sidewalk.

If parents come to school for a conference with a teacher or on other business, they should park in a parking space in the lot or on Wadsworth Drive.



BY ORDER OF THE FIRE MARSHALL, PRIVATE VEHICLES ARE NOT PERMITTED AT ANY TIME IN THE CIRCULAR DRIVE DESIGNATED FOR BUSES IN FRONT OF THE SCHOOL.

While all of us have busy lives and have many demands on our time, it is important that we model appropriate behavior for all children by displaying courtesy and adhering to the standards of safety in the parking lot.

It is important for families to share these guidelines with others who may pick their children up after school.

STUDENT SAFETY

Each morning and afternoon, staff members will monitor students getting on and off the buses, ensuring that students enter the building and line up in appropriate areas and conduct themselves in an orderly fashion. Wyngate Safety Patrols will also be assigned to specific areas to help and remind students of good safety practices. Students are expected to carry a library book or a book from home to read while waiting.

DOGS AT SCHOOL

We ask that, parents refrain from bringing animals to school during arrival and dismissal times. However, Montgomery County Public Schools Regulation ECJ-RA, *Animals on School Grounds*, does provide that “principals may identify a waiting area for owners and their animals on during the student day, as well as during arrival and dismissal time.” To that end, the sidewalk area adjacent to Wadsworth Drive is the area for parents to wait with their dogs. No animals are to enter the school building.



CROSSING GUARDS

We will continue to have a crossing guard in front of the school on a regular basis. From time to time there may not be a crossing guard at Wilmett and Wadsworth. The county has too few crossing guards, and when a guard is absent from a high traffic crossing, the police department may “pull” a crossing guard.

ATTENDANCE POLICY – PLEASE NOTE

According to information provided to us by the MCPS Department of Reporting and Regulatory Accountability, the following procedures are in effect regarding absence and tardy reporting:

- Students who arrive at school more than **two hours late** will be recorded
as **absent for a half day**.
- Students who leave more than **two hours early** will be recorded as **absent**
for a half day.

NON-CUSTODIAL PARENT REQUEST FOR SCHOOL-RELATED INFORMATION

As you know, parents who do not have custody of their children are entitled to receive copies of report cards, school newsletters, interim reports and other information that pertains to the child’s education and is routinely sent to or is available to the parent who has custody.

Requests for this information must be made in writing to the principal each year by the non-custodial parent and should include the non-custodial parent’s name, address, and type of information desired. Should the principal receive such a request, the custodial parent will be

notified. Even if you were on our mailing last year, you will need to make a new request for the current school year.

TEASING, BULLYING, HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION

As a school staff, we teach students to be kind, courteous and respectful of other students and adults in the school, on the playground and on the school bus. When a student reports teasing to a teacher, the teacher or lunch/recess aide staff meets with the students involved and if appropriate, involve the school counselor or administration. However, we need to hear from parents and get their assistance to curb teasing. **Parents are asked to contact their child's teacher if the teasing occurs in the classroom and to contact either the school counselor or the assistant principal if it is happening during recess.**

Bullying and intimidation are less typical actions in an elementary school, because of the closely supervised students at play and because of the age of our students. But, if such a situation occurs, parents should notify the principal. Parents may also complete [MCPS Form 230.5 Bullying, Harassment, or Intimidation Reporting Form](#). A copy of this form was sent home with students today.

LUNCH

This year all students will eat lunch first and then go to recess. The lunch and recess schedule for this year is as follows:

11:15 - 12:25	Grades 1 and 4
11:55 – 1:05	Kindergarten and Grade 3
12:35 - 1:45	Grades 2 and 5

Students order their lunch each morning by **9:00 a.m.** Students have three choices for lunch each day. **Lunch for students is \$2.55. Milk or juice may be purchased for \$.60.**

We are pleased to offer breakfast this year. Breakfast is served in the cafeteria from 8:40 am – 9:00 am. Breakfast is \$1.30.

The SNAP program allows parents to deposit money on line into a student's cafeteria account. Parents may also deposit money by sending a check, made out to Wyngate Cafeteria or they may send their child to school with cash. Each student has a PIN number, which the student must learn. This PIN number does not change, and the account can be moved with the student if the student moves within the school system, and naturally, this money carries over from year to year. Children should not share their PIN number with others as this is how their funds remain protected.

We encourage parents to put money in their children's SNAP account even if the child normally brings lunch to school. This eliminates the problems that occur when a child forgets his or her lunch or forgets to bring money to school.

Each week, the cafeteria manager sends home a letter with students who need additional funds in their lunch account. If a student orders lunch, but does not have sufficient funds in his or her account, they receive a lunch. In an effort to avoid having the cafeteria working without funds, each week the cafeteria manager this year will provide the office with the names of students who have insufficient funds in their lunch account for follow-up.

Please note: Kindergarten students bring lunch from home for the first month of school.



WHAT HAPPENS IF MY CHILD FORGETS TO BRING A LUNCH?

Bring the lunch to the main office clearly labeled and your child will retrieve it prior to lunch from the bench in the hallway adjacent to the office.

SCHOOL HOURS

8:00 School Office opens (Secretary normally available to answer phone)

8:25 Teachers arrive in building

8:40 Students may enter the building

8:50 Students enter classrooms (first bell)

9:00 Classes begin (last bell). Students arriving after this bell are **tardy. They**

must report to the school office and sign in before proceeding to class.

3:25 Students dismissed

3:55 End of day for teachers

4:25 School office closes

SIGN IN AND OUT AT THE OFFICE

To ensure safety and security for the children, **all parent and visitors to the school must sign in at the office and scan a state issued ID or passport using our Visitor Management System.**

Children who arrive **late must stop in the office, sign in, and obtain a tardy slip before going on to their class.** Parents who need to take a child out of school for an appointment are asked to sign him or her out in the office. If your child needs to be picked up early, please do so before 3:15 pm. Students will not be called out of class after 3:15 as we begin our dismissal procedure.



STUDENT ABSENCE

If your child will be absent or late for school, **please call and notify the school office at 240-780-1081 by 9:00 a.m.** While you may want to email a teacher directly to obtain missed work, **this does not replace office notification.** Absences may also be reporting using the [attendance link](#) on the **Wyngate website**. Students who are unexcused absent more than 10% of the time may be contacted by the school. If a child is out ill for more than 5 days, a doctor's note is required to return to school.

ROUTINES AND SCHEDULES START THE YEAR RIGHT

The start of a new school year is exciting, but it means that families need to make some adjustments from summer. Here are some suggestions from *The Parent Institute* to get your family back into a school routine.

Set the rules. Make sure your children know what you expect now that they are back in school. Set a specific time to do homework. Enforce rules for TV watching. Set aside some time each day for reading. This time can be increased on days that your child does not have homework. Create a chart for the first few weeks of school--until your routines become habits. Give your child a star on days he or she does everything without being asked.

Manage Correspondence. The start of the school year means a lot of paper going between home and school. Set up a place where your child puts all the paperwork from school. Sign it and put it back in his or her book bag by the next day. **(Do check your child's book bag each day!!)**

Keep track of schedules. Post a calendar where everyone will see it. Have everyone write down their activities as they are scheduled. This will help you plan ahead. If a book report is due the day after a soccer game, your child will see that he or she needs to finish it early.

Help Your Child Get into the Homework Habit

If your child hasn't kept regular homework routines in the past, now is the time to start. Here's how:

- **Find a place for your child to do homework.** Have him or her put the book bag there and work there every day. Make sure it is a good place for your child to sit and read each day.

- **Provide a toolkit.** A child who has to get up every five minutes to look for a pencil or a piece of paper can't properly focus on homework. Have her or him put together a box with homework supplies. Include pens, pencils, erasers, a ruler and glue. Add other supplies as your child needs them. Have your child get it out when it is time to start homework and put everything away at the end of study time.

- **Set a regular homework time.** Kids thrive on routines. If your child does homework at the same time every day, she or he will probably argue less. There is no best time. Some children need to let off energy after school. Others want to get right to work. Find the time that works for you.

- **Set homework goals.** At the start of each study period, ask your child to make a list of what needs to be done. He or she can check them off as each task is finished.



MCPS Information

MCPS Parent Academy (English and Spanish)

The MCPS Parent Academy has kicked off its fall season on September 24. Parents/guardians and members of the community are invited to participate in these free workshops that provide information, resources, tools, and tips to support your child's success in school. Don't miss this season of workshops, which will be offered on a range of topics, including college and career planning, study skills, cybersafety and social media, and positive communication.

Parent Academy workshops are free. Childcare and interpretation services are provided upon request. A full list of courses is available on the [Parent Academy website](#).

Academia para Padres de MCPS

La Academia para Padres de MCPS inició su temporada de otoño el 24 de septiembre. Los padres/guardianes y miembros de la comunidad están invitados a participar en estos talleres gratuitos que brindan información, recursos, herramientas y consejos para apoyar el éxito de sus hijos en la escuela. No se pierda esta temporada de talleres, que tratarán una variedad de temas, que incluyen planificación universitaria y profesional, destrezas de estudio, ciberseguridad y redes sociales y comunicación positiva.

Los talleres de la Academia para Padres son gratuitos. Se ofrecerán servicios de cuidado infantil y de interpretación de idiomas a pedido. Una lista completa de los talleres está a disposición en el sitio web de la [Academia para Padres](#).

Provide Input on Important Board of Education Policy (English and Spanish)



The Montgomery County Board of Education is seeking public comments on draft Board Policy KEA, *Political Campaigns and Political Materials* (KEA), and changing the policy name to *Civic Engagement, Political Campaigns, and Political Materials*. The revised and renamed policy reflects the Board's desire to allow students to receive excused absences for participation in civic engagement activities.

During the 2017–2018 school year, many MCPS students became involved in important issues confronting our country and even received national recognition for their engagement. As a result, students, families, and Board members expressed interest in supporting student participation in civic activities without impact on their attendance status. Currently, Policy KEA permits students in Grades 9-12 to participate in political campaign activity during school hours during the two-week period immediately prior to a primary or general election, at the request of the political candidate or organization with written parent/guardian consent, and written approval of the principal/designee. The public comment period for this policy will be limited to 30 days, until Friday, October 12, 2018. More information is provided [here](#).

Dé Su Opinión sobre Una Importante Política del Consejo

El Consejo de Educación del Condado de Montgomery está solicitando comentarios del público sobre el borrador de la Política KEA del Consejo, *Campañas Políticas y Materiales Políticos* (KEA), y sobre el cambio de nombre de la política a *Compromiso Cívico, Campañas Políticas y Materiales Políticos*. La política revisada y con el nuevo nombre refleja el deseo del Consejo de permitir que a los estudiantes se les otorguen ausencias justificadas por participar en actividades de compromiso cívico.

Durante el ciclo escolar 2017–2018, muchos estudiantes de MCPS se involucraron en asuntos importantes que afronta nuestro país e incluso recibieron reconocimiento nacional por su participación. Como resultado, los estudiantes, las familias y los miembros del Consejo

expresaron interés en apoyar la participación de los estudiantes en actividades cívicas, sin que eso afecte su situación en cuanto a la asistencia escolar. Actualmente, la Política KEA permite que los estudiantes en los Grados 9–12 participen en actividades de campaña política durante el horario escolar, durante el período de dos semanas inmediatamente anterior a una elección primaria o general, a solicitud del candidato/a u organización política, con el consentimiento por escrito del padre/madre/guardián y la aprobación por escrito del director/a de la escuela o persona designada. El período para comentarios del público para esta política se limitará a 30 días, hasta el viernes, 12 de octubre, 2018. [Aquí](#) se provee más información.

High School Application Programs Available on Parent Portal October 1 (English and Spanish)

MCPS is offering a convenient way for parents/guardians to consider a student's high school options for the following school year.

In addition to the themed and enriched and accelerated courses and programs available in students' local high schools, students in Grades 8–11 may be eligible for high school application programs.

Beginning Monday, October 1, parents/guardians of students will be able to access and review high school application programs on the [myMCPS parent portal](#). They will be able to sign on to the portal, go to the document library (on the left sidebar) and review the report that reads, "My Student's High School Application Program Options for 2019–2020." Each program will have a brief description, program website address, and the application address for those ready to apply. All programs have different eligibility requirements. Your child's address, grade level, and current school may impact your student's eligibility, so make sure your school has your current address.

The application deadline is Friday, November 2. If you need help accessing the parent portal, contact your student's current school. More information is provided [here](#).

Solicitud para los Programas de Escuela Secundaria Disponible en el Portal para los Padres el 1ro. de octubre

MCPS está ofreciendo una forma conveniente para que los padres/guardianes consideren las opciones de escuela secundaria de un/a estudiante para el siguiente ciclo escolar.

Además de los cursos y programas temáticos, enriquecidos y acelerados disponibles en las escuelas secundarias locales de los estudiantes, los estudiantes en los Grados 8–11 podrían ser elegibles para solicitar admisión a los programas de escuela secundaria.

A partir del lunes, 1ro. de octubre, los padres/guardianes de los estudiantes podrán acceder y revisar la solicitud de ingreso a los programas de escuela secundaria en el [portal myMCPS para los padres](#). Ellos podrán iniciar una sesión en el portal, ir a la biblioteca de documentos (en la barra lateral izquierda) y revisar el informe que dice: "My Student's High School Application Program Options for 2019–2020" (Opciones de Solicitud para el Programa de Escuela Secundaria de Mi Estudiante para 2019–2020). Cada programa tendrá una breve descripción, la dirección del sitio web del programa y la dirección de la solicitud, para quienes estén listos para solicitar. Todos los programas tienen diferentes requisitos de elegibilidad. El domicilio, nivel de grado y escuela actual de su hijo/a podrían afectar su elegibilidad, así que asegúrese de que su escuela tenga su domicilio actual.

La fecha límite para solicitar es el viernes, 2 de noviembre. Si necesita ayuda para acceder al portal para los padres, comuníquese con la escuela actual de su hijo/a. [Aquí](#) se provee más información.

Grand Opening Celebration for Thomas Edison High School of Technology (English and Spanish)

Parents/guardians and members of the community are invited to the grand opening ceremony and open house for the new Thomas Edison High School of Technology. The event, set for October 10 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., will provide an opportunity to tour the school, meet students and staff, and learn about the school's programs that allow for hands-on learning that prepares students for college and career. RSVP online at

docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScLIHdqks_d1yTtFwyeZ8XrX9oRycN5cmHt_qnDieiQaXZm5w/viewform.

Celebración de la Gran Inauguración de Thomas Edison High School of Technology

Los padres/guardines y los miembros de la comunidad están invitados a la ceremonia de la gran inauguración y reunión de puertas abiertas de la nueva Thomas Edison High School of Technology. El evento, programado para el 10 de octubre, de 6:30 a 8:30 p.m., ofrecerá una oportunidad para hacer un recorrido de la escuela, conocer a los estudiantes y al personal e informarse acerca de los programas de la escuela que permiten aprendizaje práctico que prepara a los estudiantes para la universidad y para carreras. Responda a la invitación en línea en

docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScLIHdqks_d1yTtFwyeZ8XrX9oRycN5cmHt_qnDieiQaXZm5w/viewform.

