



## **The Wise 6/7/26 Summer 2026 Edition # 1**

*Honoring an Outstanding Finish to the 2025-2026 School Year at WAAS!*

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## **Birthdays The Next Three Weeks!**

**Emmett McElmurry-** June 10th

**Jack Mendenhall-** June 15th

**Cooper Smith-** June 17th

**Avie Arnold-** June 20th

**Aaron Evans-** June 21st

**Mr. Gibble-** June 25th

**Mary Ella Polen-** June 27th



## **Celebrating an Amazing Month of May at WAAS!-**

The end of the 2025-2026 school year brought excitement and joy all across our campus as we celebrated our 8th Grade Graduation, 5th Grade Graduation, and welcomed our new students for their Orientation Day at WAAS! Our 8th graders traveled to Washington D.C./Williamsburg and we enjoyed many final presentations and projects including 8th Grade Decades Day, 8th Grade Ted Talks, and 6th Grade World's Fair. The Elf Owls came out victorious in the Nest Cup and will be celebrated further in August for their victory. Thank you to all of our students, parents, and staff that made this such a special finish to a banner year at WAAS!





## **Special 8th Grade Graduation Recognitions!**

**Myra Shanker**-2026 Valedictorian

**Takoda Lac**- 2026 Salutatorian

**Manasi Prasad**- Guest Speaker- WAAS 2022 Valedictorian, NCSSM Class of 2026, Duke Class of 2030

**Mira Hu and Banks Sherwood**- 7th Grade Graduation Marshals

**Cora Baker, Zach Estrem, and Julia Gualdi**- Prelude, Processional, and Recessional Performances

**Ben Robinson**- 2nd Annual Beth Upton Impact Award Winner

**Satlaj Dighe**- Science Olympiad Coach of the Year

**Mindy Baker, Yan Liu, Somya Navejar, and Jessica Smith**- Our Amazing Graduation Committee!

**Christine Ashley**- Programs and Invitations

**Krysten Rivenbark**- Slideshow

**Jesse Simon**- Distribution of Awards

**Melissa Puritis**- Closing Remarks

**WAAS Faculty and Staff**- Thank you all for everything you do for our students!



**Good luck to our WAAS 8th Grade Class of 2026! You are ready, and your future is bright. We look forward to seeing all of the amazing things you will accomplish in the years ahead. 🦉🚀**

## End of Year Report Cards and Testing Information-

Report Cards and testing data were mailed home this past Thursday, and should arrive at your home this week. Enclosed in the same envelope as the report card is a copy of your child's results for our ITBS testing earlier this Spring, with a narrative provided.

Detailed ITBS testing data, including school growth metrics, and our ITBS growth honor roll will be shared in our next newsletter as well as on social media at the end of June. **Our testing data this year at WAAS was once again incredibly impressive, and we look forward to sharing the details on those outcomes later this month! *As a preview we are very proud to announce that our student's collective average as a school was in the 94th Percentile nationally, paced by our 8th Graders who as a class placed in the 98th Percentile. In addition, on average WAAS students grew 19 composite points this year, nearly twice the national average!***

In addition, middle school families will receive an official copy of their Biology EOC results and 7th grade families will receive their official copy of their Math 1 EOC results. According to the state of North Carolina, a level 3 score shows proficiency of course material, a level 4 shows proficiency with a solid command, and a level 5 shows complete mastery of course material. The percentile given shows how your child performed based on all students taking that exam across the state this year, with 99 being the highest possible score. 8th Grade families will also receive Spanish Placement results and an updated final transcript. WAAS keeps all of this information in the student's cumulative file, and provides the file to the student's high school at the appropriate time after their 8th Grade year is complete, but it is helpful to save all of these documents in case you need them in the future. ***\*Please take time at home to review final grades and testing information and reflect on successes from this school year, as well as goals for the upcoming year ahead.***

## Summer Meet and Greet and Back to School Dates 2026-2027-

WAAS SUMMER  
MEET AND GREET  
SUNDAY, JULY 12TH, 2026  
3:00-5:00 PM  
THE VENUE  
800 S KERR AVE, WILMINGTON, NC 28403

# BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

Come to greet your teachers, set up your lockers, and get ready for a great school year!

- 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE**  
RETURNING 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE  
Lockers: 2:00-2:30 PM  
Student/Parent Class Meeting in Cafeteria: 2:30-3:00 PM
- 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE**  
RETURNING 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE  
Lockers: 3:15-3:45 PM  
Student/Parent Class Meeting in Cafeteria: 3:45-4:15 PM
- 5&6 GRADES**  
RETURNING 5<sup>TH</sup> & 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADES  
Lockers: 4:30-5:00 PM  
Student/Parent Class Meeting in Cafeteria: 5:00-5:30 PM
- NEW STUDENTS**  
ALL NEW STUDENTS  
Lockers/Cubbies: 5:45-6:15 PM  
Student/Parent Class Meeting in Cafeteria: 6:15-6:45 PM

### LOGISTICS & PARKING INFO

- This event is **staggered** to help accommodate everyone in the parking lot and throughout the building. Please arrive only during your designated time.
- Carpool whenever possible.
- Families may park in any open parking spot or on the front grass near the WAAS sign. Teachers will park on the side of the building.
- As the parking lot fills, please follow staff directions regarding parking, entering, and exiting.
- Please do not park in the carport or in any area that blocks the flow of traffic unless directed by staff.

## SAVE THESE DATES!

BEGINNING OF THE SCHOOL YEAR 2026-2027

- Back to School Night**  
Monday, August 10th
- First Day of School (4th-6th Grades)**  
Wednesday, August 12th
- Middle School Curriculum Night**  
Thursday, September 3rd
- Elementary Curriculum Night**  
Thursday, September 10th
- Middle School Team Building Trip - Charlotte Whitewater Center**  
Thursday, September 17th - Friday, September 18th

**4th Nine Weeks and Full Year Honor Roll Announcements!-**

We are very proud to announce our WAAS A+ and A Honor Roll for the 4th Nine Weeks as well as our Honor Roll for those who achieved this distinction for all four quarters this school year at WAAS! Congratulations to these Honor Roll recipients below!

**WAAS  
HONOR ROLL  
4TH NINE WEEKS  
2025-2026**

**A+ HONOR ROLL**

MIRA HU- 7TH  
TAKODA LAC- 8TH  
IRA SATYAJIT- 8TH

MYRA SHANKER- 8TH  
BANKS SHERWOOD- 7TH  
REID YOKUBAITIS- 5TH

**A HONOR ROLL**

<u>4TH GRADE/ 5TH GRADE</u>	<u>6TH GRADE</u>	<u>7TH GRADE</u>	<u>8TH GRADE</u>
CAROLINE BARKER	SAMIRA CUBAS	BODAN ESCARAVAGE	HARSHA BANDAPALLI
OWEN BRADFORD	EDIE DAVIS	BRECCAN HAYES	ISAIAH D'ANGELO
PIP DAY	NICK FISHER	NIKOLAS KINOSHITA	MIKA FAIN
ANNELISE HENDERSON	ALLY KEHN	HUDSON MORRIS	CONNOR MASON
ALDEN JOHNSON	EMMETT MCELMURRY	JET NAVEJAR	JACKSON POINT
ILA MENON	CLAIRE MCWEY	KAYLA STEWART	LIESL RIVENBARK
CASH NAVEJAR	ZIVA PANCHAL	LUCY YOKUBAITIS	BEN ROBINSON
ALECK NIGGL	GAVIN PHIFER	DAVID YOU	SOPHIA ROBINSON
FRANKIE PRATHER	OLIVIA PODD		STEPHEN ROMAN
	ALEX ROBINSON		PERRY TENNANT
	BEN ROBINSON		
	EVELYN ROGERS		
	NELSON TRASK		
	TRACE TURNER		

**WAAS  
HONOR ROLL  
ALL 4 NINE WEEKS!  
2025-2026**



**A+ HONOR ROLL  
MYRA SHANKER- 8TH**



**A HONOR ROLL**



**4TH GRADE/ 5TH GRADE**

**OWEN BRADFORD  
PIP DAY  
ANNELISE HENDERSON  
CASH NAVEJAR  
FRANKIE PRATHER  
REID YOKUBAITIS**

**6TH GRADE**

**SAMIRA CUBAS  
EDIE DAVIS  
NICK FISHER  
ALLY KEHN  
EMMETT MCELMURRY  
CLAIRE MCWEY  
GAVIN PHIFER  
ALEX ROBINSON  
BEN ROBINSON  
EVELYN ROGERS  
TRACE TURNER**

**7TH GRADE**

**BODAN ESCARAVAGE  
BRECCAN HAYES  
MIRA HU  
JET NAVEJAR  
BANKS SHERWOOD  
KAYLA STEWART  
LUCY YOKUBAITIS  
DAVID YOU**

**8TH GRADE**

**ISAIAH D'ANGELO  
MIKA FAIN  
TAKODA LAC  
LIESL RIVENBARK  
BEN ROBINSON  
SOPHIA ROBINSON  
STEPHEN ROMAN  
IRA SATYAJIT  
PERRY TENNANT**

**Thank You Mrs. Davis!**

Congratulations to Mrs. Davis who has accepted a position as the Elementary Program Coordinator for North Carolina Science Olympiad. While we are very sad to see her go, we are very excited for her for this wonderful opportunity, and know she will do an incredible job in this new role! She will have an office at UNCW and will travel to many of the tournaments across the state, supporting elementary school teams. We are excited that our Elementary teams will get to see her at future tournaments leading the way!

Mrs. Davis has made an incredible impact at WAAS in her support of our 4th/5th Grade classroom and within our Science Olympiad program for the past 7 years. She will be deeply missed! Our faculty celebrated her two weeks ago at our End of Year Staff Lunch, and celebrated further at a special staff dinner this past week. Thank you Mrs. Davis!



**4th/5th Teacher Assistant Role Update-**

We are also very excited for Ms. Dee to be able to take on a full time role at WAAS this upcoming school year by taking on our 4/5 Teacher Assistant duties in conjunction with her current roles! Ms. Dee will fill the Teacher Assistant role for 4th/5th Grade Science each day 1st Period, and within the 4th/5th Grade classroom on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. Ms. Dee's Art Explorations schedule Monday and Tuesday will not be impacted and she will continue to lead field trip coordination. We are very excited to have her at WAAS with us each day moving forward and to provide this continuity for our students. Thank you Ms. Dee for taking on this role to further support our 4th and 5th grade students!

**WAAS Summer 2026 Calendar and Building Hours-**

Our WAAS Summer office hours from June 8th- July 2nd are 8:00 am- 3:00 pm, Monday-Thursday. The school building will be closed July 3rd. Starting Monday, July 6th our office hours will be 8:00- 4:00 pm, Monday- Friday for the remainder of the Summer.

*\*Given our Summer hours and maintenance projects being scheduled, it is helpful to email or call ahead to arrange a time with us to visit the building. Mr. Fischetti and/or Mrs. Ashley will be regularly available to reach by email during work hours. Thank you!*



**Upcoming Summer Wise Owl Newsletter Dates-**

Newsletters will be published every three weeks throughout the Summer Break. Summer newsletters will be published Sunday, June 28th, Sunday, July 19th, and Sunday, August 9th. If you are a graduating family interested in continuing to receive WAAS newsletters this Summer and/or in the future, please reach out to Mr. Fischetti.



### **Preliminary Back to School Information 2026-2027-**

*\*Detailed School Calendars, Counseling Calendar, Expanded Field Trip Information, HOS Huddle Dates, Nest Dates, etc. coming soon!*

### **2026-2027 Supply Lists-**

Linked below you will find our supply lists, listed by grade level, for the 2026-2027 school year. Students will bring their supplies with them to Back to School Night on August 10th, and set up their locker.

[Supply List 2026-2027](#)

### **Student Directory 2026-2027-**

Our annual student directory is now accessible via Jupiter Ed. To access the new 2026-2027 student directory, login to Jupiter Ed. Once logged in, click the menu button, and select "Materials". From there, select "School Office" and you will find the 2026-2027 Student Directory.

### **New Parent Orientation Presentation-**

The presentation from our incoming parent orientation session in May, is linked below.

[Incoming Parent Orientation 2026-2027](#)

### **2026-2027 Apparel Orders and Dress Code-**

*\*see orientation presentation for additional details on apparel ordering guidance*

[Apparel Order Website](#)

[Dress Code 2026-2027](#)

### **Track and Fitness Club Fall 2026- Join us for an enhanced Cross Country Season this Fall!**

Our Track and Fitness Club will be joining other local private schools to compete in two, 3K (just short of 2 Mile) races this Fall Cross Country season! To prepare, we will start earlier in the school year and offer more practices as we gear up for these competitions. There will also be two opportunities to visit Sunhouse Fitness for strength sessions during the season as well. Please use the link below to learn more about Fall Track and Fitness, see the schedule, and to sign up! **All ability levels and experience levels are welcome!**

[Track and Fitness Sign Up and Details Fall 2026](#)



### **Middle School Whitewater Center Field Trip Updates-**

We are looking forward to our Charlotte Whitewater Center field trip September 17th-18th! Students will participate in a STEAM Quest and team building program with their classmates as well as explore the many activities offered at the center including rafting, kayaking, mountain biking, climbing, ziplining and many others.

The final cost for students was shared in an email from Ms. Dee a few weeks ago and have been added to FACTS. Costs will be split into two payments with the first half posting in FACTS on 7/27 with a due date of Friday 8/7, and the second half posting 8/24, with a due date of Friday 9/4.

Carpools, hotel rooms, and all other trip details including chaperone specific details will be shared in August. Please reach out to Ms. Dee with any questions.



### **Rising 7th Grade Immunization Requirements-**

North Carolina has specific immunization requirements for rising 7th Grade students. An up-to-date Certificate of Immunization record indicating that your student has received all required immunizations for 7th Grade is required by the state before the student's first day of 7th Grade (August 13th). A copy of our required immunization letter was included with the rising 7th grade student's report cards and is linked below. As a non-public school, WAAS still must meet state requirements related to immunization reporting for each school year to remain in state compliance.

Rising 7th Grade families please email or drop off updated records to Mrs. Ashley at your convenience. If you have any questions, please reach out. We appreciate your support!

[Immunization Letter Summer 2026](#)

## 2027-2028 Early Admissions Information-

Our Early Admissions Period for 2027-2028 begins in September! Applications will be available Wednesday, September 2nd with a submission deadline of Monday, October 12th. Current families are welcome to [sign up for a tour](#) or can reach out to Mr. Fischetti for an application. Go Owls!



The graphic features a central owl mascot wearing glasses and a blue shirt with 'WAAS' on it. To the left is the circular seal of Wilmington Academy of Arts & Sciences, which includes symbols for a book, a flask, a musical note, and a globe. The background is decorated with stars, leaves, and colorful brushstrokes.

# WAAS

## EARLY ADMISSIONS TOURS ARE COMING THIS FALL!

Now Preparing for the 2027-2028 School Year!

Updated June 1, 2026

Come tour our community, see our students and teachers in action, and learn what makes **WAAS** special!

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS	TOUR OPTIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Meet our school community</li><li>✓ Learn about our mission, goals &amp; philosophy</li><li>✓ See classrooms, students, and teachers in action</li><li>✓ Tour our beautiful campus</li><li>✓ Receive application information</li></ul>	<p><b>MORNING TOURS</b> 8:45-10:00 AM</p> <hr/> <p><b>EVENING TOURS</b> AVAILABLE ON SELECT DATES!</p>

We can't wait to meet you!  
**GO OWLS!**

**SIGN UP FOR YOUR TOUR TODAY!**

[www.wilmingtonacademy.org/admissions](http://www.wilmingtonacademy.org/admissions)

Questions? Email us: [admissions@wilmingtonacademy.org](mailto:admissions@wilmingtonacademy.org)

**Thank You to Our 2025-2026 Club Sponsors!**



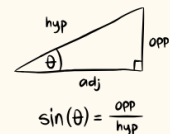
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**GOLD OWL SPONSORS**



**Important Links/ Documents for Reference- \*2026-2027 Updates Coming Soon**

**Calendars**

[Academic Year Calendar 2025-2026](#)

[Academic Year Calendar 2026-2027](#)

[Google Calendar](#)

[Spring 2026 Planning Calendar](#)

**Policies and Procedures**

[Student-Parent Handbook](#)

[Apparel Store](#)

[Dress Code](#)

[Lost and Found Gallery](#)

[WAAS Field Trip & Club Policy/ Summary](#)

[Community Service Resources](#)

**Celebrations, Enrichment, and Keys to Success**

[Owlsome Observations!](#)

[WAAS Club Brochure](#)

[WAAS Drama Website](#)

[Reminders for Success / Best Practices for Student Learning at WAAS](#)

[\\*Teacher Resources Slide/ Teacher Resource Guide \(Both For Parent Use\)](#)

**Wise Owl Newsletters 25-26**

				6/7/26
4/19/26	4/26/26	5/3/26	5/10/26	5/17/26
3/8/26	3/15/26	3/22/26	3/29/26	4/12/26
1/25/26	2/1/26	2/8/26	2/22/26	3/1/26
12/7/25	12/14/25	1/4/26	1/11/26	1/18/26
10/26/25	11/2/25	11/9/25	11/16/25	11/30/25
9/21/25	9/28/25	10/5/25	10/12/25	10/19/25
8/17/25	8/24/25	8/31/25	9/7/25	9/14/25
6/8/25	6/29/25	7/13/25	7/27/25	8/10/25