



Weekly Community Updates

April 7, 2025

<u>Calendar</u>	Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.
<i>This week:</i>	6	7 Hearing & Vision Rescreening (k,1 and New) 4Th Grade MCAP Session 1 5Th Grade Family Life 11:15-12:30 3Rd Grade ELA MCAP Session 1 12:2-:30 Asst Principal Appreciation Week	8 5th Grade AIR Rehearsal 9:10-10:30 5th Grade Family life 11:15-12:30	9 1st Grade AIR 9:30-11:15 5th Grade Math MCAP Session 1 10-11:30 4th Grade ELA MCAP Session 1 12:2-30 5Th Grade Family Life 1:45-3:10 Green Team Meeting (Shu's Room) 3:30-4:30	10 5th Grade Math MCAP Session 2 10-11:30 5Th Grade Family Life 1:45-3:10 Science Fair 6:30-8	11 First Grade AIR 9:30-11:30 Final Performance at 2 pm 5th Grade Family Life 11:15-12:30 College and Career Day	12

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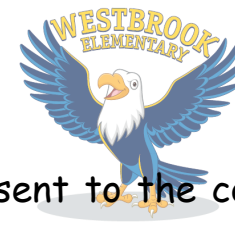


Next Week:	13	14 No school for students and teachers	15 No school for students and teachers	16 Schools and offices closed	17 Schools and offices closed	18 Schools and offices closed	19
	SPRING BREAK						
After Break:	20	21 Schools and offices closed	22 Return to School! Bus Drivers Appreciation Day	23 Administrative Professionals (Secretaries!) Appreciation Day	24 Take Your Child to Work Day	25 Spirit Wear-Ledos and	
			Asst. Principal's Appreciation Week				

**** Staffing Updates-**

- We have hired a long-term substitute school counselor to finish out the school year. Please welcome Josephine "Jo" Pittman! Ms. Pitman will start after spring break. Ms. Pittman is completing her master's in school counseling from the University of Pennsylvania. She is currently doing her internship at Rock Terrace School; before that, she was at Fallsmead Elementary. She also works part-time as a music therapist and will be with us on an abbreviated schedule. Two full-time days and three part-time days- more information to come. Please be sure to give her a big **Westbrook welcome!**

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- We are working through staff allocations for next year and will present to the community during the June PTA meeting. See you there!

Westbrook NEWS, INFORMATION, REMINDERS

SPIRIT WEAR STORE OPEN! Now until April 9th!

The PTA has opened the Spirit Wear store for SPRING!

The store is LIVE. [CLICK HERE](#) for T-shirts, NEW short-sleeve hoodies, shorts, pajamas, and more!

Store is open NOW through Friday, 4/9, so get your orders in.

Once the store closes, all orders will be processed, and you can expect to have your items come home with your kids after Spring Break!

Fund The MCPS BUDGET- Tell County Council and Executive Elrich: Fund Board of Ed's Budget - Action Network. Support Westbrook and MCPS!

Career Day

Returns April 11th! If you are interested in sharing information about your job and career with your child's class, please fill out this interest [FORM](#). Reach out to Mr. Wells with any questions (bradley_w_wells1@mcpsmd.org)

MCAP Schedule Change - Please Note

4th Grade ELA MCAP Schedule Change

Wednesday April 9, 12:00-2:00

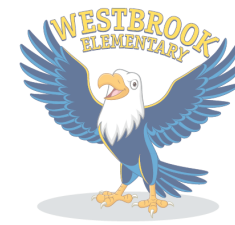
~~Thursday April 10, 12:00-2:00~~

Wednesday April 23, 12:00-2:00

Friday April 25, 12:00-2:00

Thursday May 8, 12:00-2:00

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Pre-Screening Hearing and Vision Message

*In accordance with Maryland State Law, students in Montgomery County Public Schools are screened for possible vision and hearing problems. Trained hearing and vision screeners will screen students new to MCPS, students in Grade (s) (K and 1st), and students referred by teachers because of possible signs of hearing or vision problems. The screeners will be at Westbrook ES on ~~March 11th, 12th~~, and **April 7th**.*

Children who do not see clearly or cannot hear what their teacher and classmates are saying have a more challenging time learning at school.

You will receive a referral form, via US mail, to take to your child's doctor if your child fails the screening. If your child is already under care for a hearing or vision problem, or you do not wish your child to be screened at school because of conflicts with your religious beliefs, please notify the school nurse in writing.

If your child wears glasses or contacts, they should wear them daily and bring them to the screening.

School-based vision screenings may not detect every vision problem. To learn more about possible vision problems and symptoms or health conditions that may require additional evaluation, go to Montgomery County Government's website at this link: <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS-Program/PHS/SchoolHealth/HearingVision.html>

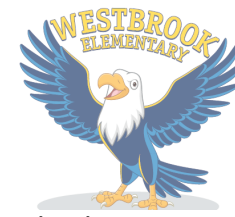
Contact your school's nurse if you have questions about your child's screening.

MESSAGE ON PERSONAL MOBILE DEVICES

★ **TESTING** season is upon us! **All PMDs (including smart watches) will be confiscated** from students wearing them during the school day. They are a testing violation and prohibited during the school day at elementary school (unless completely shut down and put away in a student's backpack). Confiscated devices will be available for pick up in the front office by an adult.

**** Westbrook encourages all students to leave cell phones, smart watches, etc. at home. Students tend to use these during the school day. We will confiscate any PMD that is used in a manner outside of the existing policy.**

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We have noticed an increase in the inappropriate use of smart devices, particularly smartwatches, during the school day. According to [MCPS policy](#), elementary school students are **prohibited** from using personal mobile devices (PMDs) at any time during school. **PMDs (Including smart watches) are to be turned completely off and put in students' backpacks during the day (students are not permitted to wear smart watches during the day. Contact administration if you have any questions.**

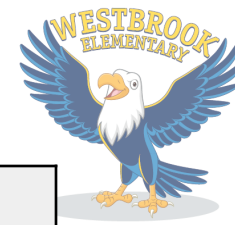
At Westbrook, we value the needs of all our students and strive to support them. However, we must adhere to the MCPS policy regarding PMD usage, which states that PMDs may be confiscated if not used following these guidelines. Any confiscated device may be picked up will by a parent or caregiver.


We appreciate your cooperation in ensuring students do not use PMDs at school, allowing them to focus on learning and developing into kind individuals. Thank you for your understanding.

Monthly Grade-Level Newsletters

K	Kinder
1st	First Grade
2nd	 FY25 April Newsletter
3rd	G3 April
4th	Contact teacher

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5th	Contact Teacher
Art	Art April
Music	 April Music Newsletter
P.E.	APRIL PE
Media	Contact Ms. Wellen
EML	Contact Ms. Razzaghi and Mrs. Garagusi

MCPS News

Check out the MCPS Parents' Resource page

Digital Learning Information and Support for Parents- **hot linked!**

- [ParentVue login Portal](#)
- [Every MCPS Parent Should have a ParentVue Account - FAQs & Activation Information](#)
- [Community Tech Support Center Information](#)
- [Free, On-Demand Online/Virtual Tutoring](#)
- [Cybersafety](#)

PTA NEWS

The lost and found will be cleaned out completely before spring break, and anything remaining will be donated. Please stop by between now and then if you are looking for missing coats, sweatshirts, or water bottles.

Possible Next Steps from March PTA Meeting



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Several parents have reached out to suggest next steps following the March PTA meeting. Please email the PTA to let us know if you would be interested in participating in and/or exploring any of these as a school community.

- **Wait Til 8th pledge:** [Wait Til 8th](#) offers a place for parents to pledge, alongside other parents at their kids' school, not to give their children a smartphone until at least the 8th grade. By signing the online pledge, you promise not to give your child a smartphone until at least the end of 8th grade as long as at least 10 families total from your child's grade and school pledge. Once 10 families from a grade have pledged to delay the smartphone, you will be notified that the pledge is active and receive a list of families who are delaying from your child's grade and emails for the parents. If this feels aligned for your family, we encourage you to sign up and help make Westbrook a Wait Til 8th school!
- **Parent book club: *The Anxious Generation* by Jonathan Haight.** Many of you have likely already read or heard of [this book](#), which connects the current mental health crisis among youth and young adults to the rise of smartphones and the decline of independent play in childhood. If you would be interested in reading the book alongside other parents and discussing it before the end of the year, please let us know. If 10 parents sign up, the PTA will work to coordinate a book group and discussion.
- **Let Grow:** More resources about supporting independent play for our kids is available on the [Let Grow](#) website.

Membership Update

The PTA has opened up multiple membership levels (\$25 to \$150) to make membership more accessible for all Westbrook families. If you haven't already become a member, we encourage you to do so by clicking [here](#).

Upcoming Events

Here are the upcoming PTA events this spring!

- Thursday, April 10: **Science Fair**
- Friday, May 16: **Carnival!**
- Tuesday, June 3: Last **PTA Meeting** of the Year

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FOWS (Friends of Westbrook School Foundation) NEWS

Mom's Night - May 10th!

Save the date for Mom's Night on May 10th! Start your Mother's Day celebration with the best community of moms there is 🌸🌻

Westbrook Pantry

The Westbrook Pantry is here to provide support to any family facing food insecurity. For families interested in using the pantry, please email Ms. Bell at Nicole.Bell@mcpsmd.org with the subject line "PANTRY REQUEST." You are also welcome to contact friendsofwestbrook@gmail.com to learn more about available support. Correspondence with Ms. Bell and FOWS will be kept confidential.

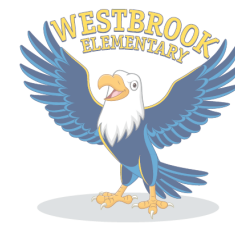
QUICK LINKS!

- [PARENT DASHBOARD](#) (Parent Handbook)
- [Parent Resources](#) from MCPS
- Our school [website](#)
- [Staff Directory](#)
- [Westbrook ES Wish List](#)

****Bullying, harassment (including sexual misconduct and sexual harassment), intimidation, hazing, incidents of hate bias, and concerning issues involving student gender identity are not tolerated in MCPS. We are committed to ensuring our students feel safe, valued, and respected in our schools. Please see the multiple ways you can file a report by clicking [here](#).**

Please contact us directly with any questions or concerns. We have an open-door policy and desire to support our school/home community partnership.

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Proudly serving the Westbrook Community,
Principal Cox and Assistant Principal Johnson