



Washington Grove Elementary School

GAITHERSBURG, MD

August 10, 2022

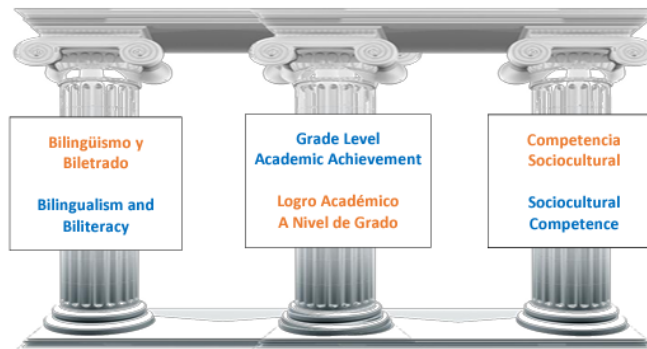
Dear Washington Grove Families,

Welcome back! I hope this letter finds you well and enjoying a restful and relaxing summer. We are so excited for the 2022 - 2023 school year. We are thrilled to welcome all of our new Washington Grove students and their families to our first year of learning together. And, of course, we cannot wait to see our returning students and families. We had a busy summer of learning at WGES this summer. We served over 150 of our students for five weeks during ELO SAIL. Students participated in literacy, math, science, and enrichment. While our students were learning, our dedicated staff continued to hone their skills. They participated in numerous professional development opportunities that will enhance the teaching and learning of our students at WGES.

Washington Grove is a **PROUD DUAL LANGUAGE** school. This year we are adding our final grade to our program. All students in grades K – 5 and two sections of Pre-K will spend half their day learning in Spanish and half their day learning in English, but ALL classrooms at WGES are Dual Language classrooms. We are excited about our commitment to the three pillars of Dual Language education and are committed to building our collective knowledge and capacity.

Three Pillars of Dual Language Education

Tres Pilares de Educación de Lenguaje Dual Three Pillars of Dual Language Education



Washington Grove Elementary School - A Proud Dual Language School
Escuela Primaria Washington Grove - Una Escuela Orgullosamente Bilingüe

WGES Vision

This year our students will be working to show our Vision in practice. The WGES Vision is:

Washington Grove es una comunidad de ciudadanos globales quienes se respetan los unos a los otros, se esfuerzan por tener éxito y resuelven problemas juntos in two languages.

Washington Grove is a community of global citizens who respect one another, strive for success and solve problems together en dos idiomas.

Students will earn incentives individually and as a class based on demonstrating these traits. Please help us by reviewing them with your students.

<i>Valorar el uno al otro</i>	<i>Value each other</i>
<i>Inspirar respeto</i>	<i>Inspire respect</i>
<i>Solucionar problemas</i>	<i>Solve problems</i>
<i>Interesarse por el éxito</i>	<i>Interest in success</i>
<i>Ofrecer ayuda</i>	<i>Offer help</i>
<i>Nunca rendirse</i>	<i>Never give up</i>

Our enrollment is the highest in my five years at WGES. We currently have 350 students in Grades K - 5. We fully anticipate a robust enrollment in our Pre-K programs, which should increase our overall enrollment to approximately 500. We plan to have three classes in Kindergarten, four classes each in Grades 1 and 2, and three classes in Grades 3 - 5. We also have two Dual Language full-day Pre-K classes, one full-day Head Start class, two classes of half-day Pre-K, and five PEP classes.

This year's Back-to-School Night will be on Thursday, August 25th, from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. A 5th-grade patrol meeting will start at 5:30 p.m. in the cafeteria. More details will be forthcoming but please "Save the Date" on your calendars. Our school hours are 9:25 a.m. – 3:50 p.m. Students should not arrive at school before 9:10 a.m. That is when we open the doors and welcome your children to school daily. **For the safety of your children, do not drop them off at school before 9:10 a.m. because there is NO adult supervision.**

Summer is always a time of change; with that change comes staffing updates. I am very excited about the team we have collaboratively built to work with our students this year. They are a group of dynamic, student-focused, and passionate educators ready to create an amazing chapter in the lives of our students. They are eager to continue our commitment to high standards of academic excellence and a strong emphasis on developing students who see themselves as learners and recognize the good in themselves and others. I know you will join me in welcoming our new Washington Grove Cougars to the family. You will be able to welcome them personally at Back-to-School Night.

Washington Grove Position	Staff Name
Kindergarten Spanish/English	Nancy Castro
Third Grade Spanish/English	Maria Gennarini
Third Grade Spanish	Valentina Garzón
Fifth Grade Spanish/English	Carmen Purpura
Community School Liaison	Sara Orellana
Spanish Language Literacy	Andrea Esparza
ESOL	Rosa Velasco

Washington Grove Position	Staff Name
Fifth Grade Spanish	Suaimeliz Pinero Saez
Fifth Grade English	Michael Schnabel
PEP Parent Educator	Heather Zimmerman
PEP Teacher	Alison Collins
Spanish Language Literacy	Martha Conzatti-Huerta
ESOL	Kathryn Roberts

We are also excited to announce new opportunities for some of our staff within WGES.

New Washington Grove Position	Staff Name
Kindergarten Spanish	Sara Salas-Baeza
Second Grade Spanish	Betzaida Gerena-Reyes
Second Grade English	Diana Hagan
Emergent Multilingual Coach	Carrie Conley

Our Leadership Team met this summer to define our instructional focus for the 2022 - 2023 school year. We worked together to discuss how to best support our students both academically and emotionally. After reviewing students' data, we have decided to focus on implementing language acquisition strategies to support our multilingual students' language development in English and Spanish. We are committed to delivering high-quality first instruction, planning collaboratively, and differentiating instruction to meet the needs of all students. In addition, we will focus on implementing *Leader in Me*, our new Social Emotional Curriculum. As a staff, we will continue to build our cultural proficiency to create welcoming and engaging classroom environments for all students. By focusing on these areas, we believe we will provide your children with a quality instructional program in a school climate that promotes high expectations for all students.

We look forward to returning to a more "normal" environment regarding COVID-related safety protocols. We will provide more specific information as it becomes available.

Once again, I would like to express my enthusiasm for the 2022-2023 school year. When we work TOGETHER, students succeed. I look forward to partnering with you and the dedicated staff at Washington Grove to ensure that ALL Washington Grove Cougars achieve success. **TOGETHER WE THRIVE EN DOS IDIOMAS.**

Sincerely,

Dr. Alonso

Dr. Amy J. Alonso
Principal

Key Information

Homeroom Assignments

We will send postcards by mail the week before the first day of school with your child's homeroom assignments for the 2022-2023 school year.

Patrol Meeting

A patrol meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, August 25, 2022, in the cafeteria. All grade 5 students who will serve as Washington Grove patrols are required to attend this important informational meeting.

Students Arriving Late

Students who arrive in the school building after 9:25 a.m. are marked tardy. Students who arrive late must go directly to the office, sign in, and receive a late pass. Each late arrival counts as a tardy.

Dropping Off and Picking Up Students

Students being dropped off in the Kiss & Learn area **MUST** exit their cars using the passenger side door. Adults in the car should remain inside the car in this area. Cars may not be left unattended. If you would like to walk your student to the doors, please park your car on Oakmont Street and walk them down.

In order to ensure continuity and avoid disruptions during the instructional day, parents should avoid picking up students before 3:50 p.m. If you need to pick up your child before the end of the school day, please do so by 3:30 p.m. Bus schedules are being finalized and will be sent separately.

Changes in Transportation or Location

It is important for the safety of students that we are notified if your child's arrival or dismissal plan changes. Students **ARE REQUIRED** to bring a note indicating the change (For example, "Maria Gonzalez will go to S.O.A.R. after school today, Monday, September 15th. Sincerely, Mrs. Gonzalez"). Your signature is always required for this change. Any changes that are emailed in must be sent to the classroom teacher and the main office (Monica_M_Benitez@mcpsmd.org and Michelle_A_Robey@mcpsmd.org).

Student Item Drop Off

It is important for students to be prepared with their materials each day. If you need to drop off your child's items, please leave them with Ms. Benitez in the main office. She will see that the materials are given to your child.

Updating Emergency Information - SYNERGY

During the first week of school, each child will receive a parent contact form and a parent/child reunification form. You should review them for accuracy and/or complete any missing information. Make sure you provide the name and contact information of a person we can be in touch with in case you cannot be reached. Please be sure to include the names and contact information of those people who are authorized to pick up your child in case you are unable. **Children will not be released to any adult whose name does not appear on these sheets. Please remind them to bring a picture ID with them to match.** Please return both of these papers to school as soon as possible.

Birthdays

Families can send in a small store-bought birthday treat for each class member to help celebrate their student. Balloons, goodie bags, juice, and pizza parties are not allowed. Treats will be handed out during student lunch in grades K - 5 and within the classroom for Pre-K and PEP.

Lunch and Recess Schedule

Grade	Recess	Lunch
Kindergarten	12:05 – 12:40 p.m.	11:30 a.m. - 12:05 p.m.
Grade 1	1:25 – 2:00 p.m.	12:50 - 1:25 p.m.
Grade 2	1:25 – 2:00 p.m.	12:50 - 1:25 p.m.
Grade 3	11:30 a.m. - 12:05 p.m.	12:05 – 12:40 p.m.
Grade 4	12:50 - 1:25 p.m.	1:25 – 2:00 p.m.
Grade 5	12:50 - 1:25 p.m.	1:25 – 2:00 p.m.

School Supplies (LIST)

Students are expected to come to school ready to learn. You may consider securing individual supplies for your student. Supply lists for each grade level are posted on our website and are accompanying this letter.

Parent Volunteers

We are extremely proud of Washington Grove and hope our parents will participate actively in our school community. We welcome and invite any parent who wishes to volunteer in the classrooms at lunch and recess. We will be hosting required Volunteer Orientations for ALL parents and community members who want to volunteer this year. More information for getting involved and the dates of those orientations are forthcoming. Don't hesitate to contact Mrs. Sobalvarro-Ochoa if you have any questions.

S.O.A.R.

S.O.A.R. is the before and after school childcare provider that is housed in the all-purpose room. Morning daycare hours are 7:00 – 9:10 a.m., and evening daycare hours are 3:50- 6:30 p.m. Please contact S.O.A.R. by phone at 301-928-7201 or email diana@soarchildcare.com if you are interested in childcare.