

Important Information for the Opening of School

Calendar

The WJ event calendar is posted on our website. Please consult it for a comprehensive list of activities, meetings, sports, etc. at: www2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/wjhs

August 9: Fall Sports Try-outs and Practices Begin

August 23: New Student Cookout – 6:00 p.m. Held in the bus loop area in front of the school. This event is for the entire family and is free of charge.

August 24: New Student Orientation – 7:45 a.m. homeroom begins. Bus transportation is provided. Bus schedules can be found on the WJ website.

August 24: Senior Cookout and Shed Painting – 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. behind the school.

August 28: First Day of School - Welcome Back!

September 07: Back-To-School Night – 7:00 p.m. Meet the staff and tour the school.

September 11: Parent Information Meeting Seniors - 7:00 PM

September 18: Parent Information Meeting - Juniors - 7:00 PM

September 23: Kensington 8K - Run, run, run to raise \$ for WJ.

September 27: Parent Information Meeting - Freshmen - 7:00 PM

October 2: Parent Information Meeting - Sophomores - 7:00 PM

October 6: Fall Pep Rally -Students get ready to cheer for the Wildcats!

Oct 2 - Oct 7: Spirit Week/Homecoming Game/Homecoming Dance – Students should prepare for hall decorating (10/5), the Movie, the game (10/6), and the dance (10/7).

Attendance

Attendance is a crucial part of student success. If students are not in class, then grades and other important aspects of student achievement are negatively impacted. At Walter Johnson, regular attendance is expected of all students. **To report your students' absence please use this Google form: [Online Attendance Form - English Spanish](#). Please note absences are not excused until written documentation is provided. For attendance policies and procedures please visit the attendance page on the Walter Johnson website located here: <https://www2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/wjhs/studserve/attendance/>**

Additionally, this year due to a change in MCPS policy, schools will have to withdraw students that have 10 days in a row of unexcused absences. Please be sure to notify us if your child will have an extended absence for any excused reasons. This is very important.

Annual Verification

Each school year parents are encouraged to review and update their contact information in ParentVUE. It is important that we have the most up-to-date information in case of an emergency. You can designate others as emergency contacts in case you cannot be reached. You can also control the information that is released about your student in the "Directory Withholding" section. Here is the Synergy ParentVue Guide:

https://www2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/siteassets/district/departments/athletics/parent/parents_guardians---getting-started-with-parentvue.pdf

Cell Phone Policy

Students are not allowed to use their cell phones during class unless the teacher has planned a lesson involving portable devices. Students are not allowed to bring cell phones during class time to the restroom. They should remain off and out of sight during all class periods. Cell phones may be used before school, after school, and between classes. Please do not text or call your child on their cell phones during their classes. This is very disruptive to instruction and may result in disciplinary action.

What to Bring on the First Day of School

Begin the day in your Homeroom to receive your schedule. There is no list of items needed for school. Please bring a simple notebook, paper, a pen, and a pencil. The teachers will let you know what else you will need on the first day of school.

Financial Obligations

If you have a **financial obligation** to the school, please help us by paying immediately. You should contact Ms. Virginia Howard in the school bank at 240-740-6913. If you have financial difficulty in paying, please contact your assistant principal:

New Assistant Principal TBA (A-Ch), Ms. Gail Samuels (Ci- Greg); Ms. Nicole Morgan (Greh-Leu), Mr. Jeff Leaman (Lev-Or), Mr. James Heintze (Os-Shil), Ms. Regina Rodriguez (Shim-Z)

Athletics

If you plan to participate in athletics on August 9th, you must have a **current physical on file**. Please check out the athletics website: <https://wjathletics.org/> for specific tryout dates and concussion baseline testing dates and times.

School Cash Online Sign-up Directions

The directions for signing up for School Cash Online are in the link below. This system allows parents/guardians to pay for school activity fees online.

<https://www2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/contentassets/5f525cf4aeec4dec87961c4d587268db/cashout-parent-registration-instructions---2022-eng.pdf>

Testing Accommodations for College Board Tests (AP, SAT, PSAT)

To receive accommodations on these tests, a Student Eligibility Form must be submitted. The form must be completed by parents and school officials and then mailed to the College Board **at least seven weeks in advance of the student taking the first test**. The criteria established by the College Board for granting testing accommodations vary significantly from the school system. Having an IEP or a 504 plan does **not** guarantee that the College Board will provide accommodations. Currently, the College Board requires up-to-date (within the last three years) neuro-psychological testing that documents the specific need for each requested accommodation. Please contact the Academic Support Center (240-740-6840) or the Counseling Office (240-740-6920) to obtain the forms and ask questions about this process.

WJ Website/Important Forms

On our website (www2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/wjhs), we maintain links to several important Montgomery County Public Schools and Walter Johnson High School forms. Go to the WJ homepage and click on “Parents” which is located in the left margin of the homepage. The “Forms” is located on the left under the “Parents” box.

Please review these important documents which include the following:

WJ Bus Routes

Protection of Pupil Rights

Asbestos Mgmt. Plan Notice

Integrated Pest Mgmt. Notice

SNAP Cafeteria News

MCPS Community Forums

Information on Grading

During the 2023-2024 school year, all high schools will continue to report grades based on individual student achievement, or what students know and can do in relation to course expectations. We will continue to use countywide standard procedures for reteaching/reassessment, homework, and grading. A full copy of the procedures is available at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/grading/

More information will be provided later regarding checking your child’s grades online. For class-specific grading issues, teachers will address these procedures in the syllabi for their classes. These course-specific procedures have been developed by subject teams (Algebra team, Biology team, etc.). In early September,

teachers' syllabi will be available. If you have a specific question about grading in a particular class, please talk to your student's teacher.

Counseling Office

Your counselor will stay with you throughout your high school experience. It is important that you get to know your counselor and the valuable resources they provide. If you have questions about your schedule, a course, college applications, or anything you may need, then please contact your counselor at 240-740-6920. Not sure who your child's counselor is, then please check here:

<https://www2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/wjhs/counseling/>

Join the PTSA Listserv

Directions for joining the listserv are available online at:

<https://www2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/wjhs/listserv/>

Important information regarding school events is shared through this moderated listserv. There are also directions for joining our discussion listserv. This is a venue for parents to discuss many items in a more open format.

A Note on Military Recruiting and Directory Information

If a parent does not wish to have their child's name made available to military recruiters and/or does not wish to have their child's directory information included in the student directory, *The Lineup*, then they should indicate that when they update their information in Synergy when Annual Verification becomes available after July 1st.

Note on Getting Involved

Walter Johnson has an incredible number of extracurricular activities (sports and clubs). ALL students are encouraged to involve themselves in life beyond the classroom at WJ. From new friendships to opportunities to experience leadership, you will benefit from becoming an active member of the WJ community. Get involved!

Similarly, parents are encouraged to involve themselves in the organizations that advocate for, and support, Walter Johnson High School and its student programs: Join the PTSA, Join the Booster Club, and donate to the WJ Education Foundation. All of these parent groups support our school, staff, and students in a variety of ways. more information on these options can be found online at:

www2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/wjhs

Thank you for your support!