

West Meade Early Education Center



7722 Ray Street
Fort Meade, Maryland 20755
Phone: 410-222-6545
Fax: 410-222-6518



Office Hours:

8:15 AM–3:45 PM

School Hours

8:45 am—doors open

9:05 am—instruction begins

3:30 pm—dismissal

AM PreK–9:05–11:40 AM

PM PreK–12:55–3:30 PM

Administration

Jessica Kallon, Principal

jkallon@aacps.org

Counselor

Theresa Lacovara, School Counselor

Tlacovara@aacps.org

Office Staff

Linda Best-Hazan, Principal Secretary

lbest-hazan@aacps.org

Renee Puhl, Registration & Attendance

rpuhl@aacps.org

Follow us on Twitter @

WestMeadeAACPS

October

11- Picture Day

14- Panda Express Spirit Night

14-PTO Meeting

25- Trunk or Treat 5:30-7:30

20- Two-hour early dismissal for all students. School closed for p.m. Pre-K

21- Two-hour early dismissal for all students. School closed for PM PreK. Parent/Teacher Conferences

Dear West Meade families,

No one can deny that this has been an exciting and eventful start to the school-year! I will admit, COVID-19 has presented its challenges, but we will continue to consult with the AACPS COVID team and The Health Department to remain consistent and protect our students, staff, and the community.

We are going full swing with our #WestMeadeMakesItFun educational experience. Our goal is to deliver rigorous instruction that is also engaging and entertaining. Please check out our website and follow us on Facebook and Twitter to see photos, upcoming events, and celebrations.

Using the bathroom independently requires new skills for pre-K and kindergarten students. This is an important achievement for all children. We expect our students to be able to go to the bathroom on their own, so your child will benefit from being independently toilet trained. Please allow them to practice going to the bathroom, closing the door, tending to their clothing, and especially wiping. These skills will improve over time, but it is important to help them feel confident when using the restroom at school by practicing independence at home. Here is a video created by our speech language pathologist, Mrs. Kocan, to help create a home and school connection. <https://www.wevideo.com/view/2389318458>

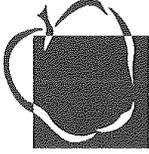
Our first PTO meeting of the year will be on October 14th at 9:30 am. We will meet at Severn Library located at 2624 Annapolis Rd. The PTO is continuing to encourage new membership and participation in our school community. Please join us to hear more about how PTO supports our make it fun initiative with upcoming events like Trunk-or-Treat on October 25th.

Parent Teacher Conferences are on October 21st. Please look out for communication from your child's teacher about your conference time. Currently, we are encouraging virtual conferences.

West Meade's Parade of Characters will be on October 29th. All students are invited to participate. Students may wear their costumes to school. Teachers will send home a flyer with more information. Due to AACPS and The Health Department's COVID-19 guidelines, we are unable to invite parents to the festivities. Thank you in advance for your understanding.

If I can support your child in any way, please feel free to contact me at 410-222-6545 or jkallon@aacps.org.

Thank You,
Jessica Kallon
Principal



ANNE ARUNDEL
COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2644 Riva Road, Annapolis, MD 21401 | 410-222-5000 · 301-970-8644 (WASH) · 410-222-5500 (TDD) | www.aacps.org

October 1, 2021

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Each year, Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) is eligible to apply for federal Impact Aid grant funds. Impact Aid is a federal formula grant program designed to assist local school districts that enroll federally-connected students. Federally-connected students are children of active duty uniformed services personnel, children who live on federal property or in subsidized federal housing, and children whose parents are employed on eligible federal properties.

AACPS anticipates receiving approximately \$2,000,000 in federal funds from the Impact Aid grant. The funds become a part of the school system's general operating budget and are critical to maintaining high standards for educational excellence.

We need your assistance in identifying students with federal connections to ensure that AACPS can obtain its fair share of funds from this program. Please complete the Federal Impact Aid Parent-Student Survey for your child(ren) online at <https://secure.aacps.org/webapps/SEFP/en-US/OOF/Federal>. Please be assured that all information provided will be treated confidentially.

If you have any questions, please call Angie Smack in the AACPS Finance Office at 410-222-5200. Information about the Impact Aid Program can be found on the U.S. Department of Education's website at <https://oese.ed.gov/offices/office-of-formula-grants/impact-aid-program/>.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jessica Kallon".

Jessica Kallon, Principal
West Meade Early Education Center

JK/ams

Welcome to the EEE STEM Room!!!

My name is Robin Suda, I am the STEM teacher here at West Meade EEC. I am very excited to be working with your engineers this year! Kindergarten students will come to my class for one hour, once a week. In STEM, we focus on following this Engineer/Design Process to solve problems:

1. Ask
2. Learn
3. Plan
4. Create
5. Test
6. Improve

Since we only meet once a week, each project we work on takes about 6-8 weeks to complete the entire process.

I look forward to a fun year of learning and designing! Please do not hesitate to email me if you have more questions about the program rsuda@aacps.org. Thanks for all your help!

***Please consider donating any of the following:**



Math Resources

Here are some helpful math games that students can play independently on the computer to help support the skills we are currently working on. These skills include counting "how many" to 10 and recognizing numerals 0 to 10. www.abcya.com has many wonderful number games under the number heading of the K section. Some games we would recommend that support learners are Monster Mansion Match Number Match along with Number Bingo. If your child needs a little more of a challenge, the game First to Five works with numbers from 2-12. Also, for a challenge, players on Number Bingo can select numbers 0-100 to play with as well as selecting a group of numbers like the 20's, 30's, 40's and on up. If families are looking for games they can play together, Board games like Chutes and Ladders help students with counting out-loud. Also Playing card games like Go Fish are good games for number recognition. The card game WAR (without face cards) is a good game to start if your student needs a challenge. This game will help them to develop a concept of greater than and less than. We hope that your student and your family have fun playing these games while developing your student's math skills.

Greg Mueller, Kindergarten Teacher & Lead Teacher



Harvest for the Hungry

1 Oct. -23 Nov.

One dollar purchases eight pounds of food. With your help, we can provide families with food during these difficult times. All proceeds benefit the Anne Arundel County Food Bank. We are counting on the generosity of our local community to raise funds to ensure that no child in Anne Arundel County goes to bed hungry.

www.aacps.org/Harvest



Now that we are all back in school, illnesses will be inevitable. How do we know the difference?

Seasonal Flu and COVID-19

- Flu and COVID-19 are both contagious respiratory illnesses, but they are caused by different viruses. COVID-19 is caused by infection with a coronavirus (called SARS-CoV-2) and seasonal flu (most often just called “flu”) is caused by infection with one of many influenza viruses that spread annually among people.
- Because some symptoms of flu and COVID-19 are similar, people may need to be tested to tell what virus is causing their illness. People can be infected with both a flu virus and the virus that causes COVID-19 at the same time. In general, COVID-19 seems to spread more easily than flu and causes more serious illnesses in some people. Compared with people who have flu infections, people who have COVID-19 can take longer to show symptoms and be contagious for longer.

How it Spreads

- **Both COVID-19 and flu** can spread from person-to-person between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet). Both are spread mainly by large and small particles containing virus that are expelled when people with the illness (COVID-19 or flu) cough, sneeze, or talk. These particles can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby and possibly be inhaled into the lungs
- Although most spread is by inhalation, it may be possible that a person can get infected by touching (for example, shaking hands with someone who has the virus on their hands) or by touching a surface or object that has virus on it, and then touching their own mouth, nose, or eyes.
- Both flu viruses and the virus that causes COVID-19 can be spread to others by people before they begin showing symptoms; by people with very mild symptoms; and by people who never experience symptoms (asymptomatic people).

Differences:

- While the virus that causes COVID-19 and flu viruses are thought to spread in similar ways, the virus that causes COVID-19 is generally more contagious than flu viruses. Also, COVID-19 has been observed to have more superspreading events than flu. This means the virus that causes COVID-19 can quickly and easily spread to a lot of people and result in continual spreading among people as time progresses.

Is it a cold or the flu? Here are some common differences:

Signs and Symptoms	Cold	Influenza (Flu)
Symptom onset	Gradual	Abrupt
Fever	Rare	Common; lasts 3-4 days
Aches	Slight	Common; often severe
Chills	Uncommon	Fairly common
Fatigue, weakness	Sometimes	Usual
Sneezing	Common	Sometimes
Chest discomfort, cough	Mild to moderate; hacking cough	Common; can be severe
Stuffy nose	Common	Sometimes
Sore throat	Common	Sometimes
Headache	Rare	Common

Since there will no doubt be a lot of illnesses circulating around as the move into the fall and winter months, it’s important to keep sick kids at home. Please review the daily symptom checker prior to leaving for school each day.

- **Please do not send sick children to school.** Covid-19 symptoms are any one of the following:
 - Fever 100.4 or higher
 - Sore throat
 - Cough
 - Difficulty breathing
 - Diarrhea or vomiting
 - New onset of severe headache (especially with a fever)
 - New loss of taste or smell

If your child is exhibiting any of the above Covid-19 symptoms they will be sent home from school.