

CWASD

Welcome Back to West



Beginning of Year Paperwork

Please check your email for paperwork required for the first day of school, which include:

- Emergency Contact
- Medication Form (if applicable)
- Field Trip & Rules Acknowledgement
- Bicycle Permission Form
- Walker/Sneaker Bunch Authorization

This forms will also be available at the Open House

Open House: August 25th

This year we are again hosting an Open House prior to the first day of school, so our students can meet their teacher and visit the classrooms before starting the year. Our wonderful PTO will serve dinner in the cafeteria, while teachers will be available and classrooms will be open for visits. Kindergarten students may take a short bus ride between 4:00-5:00.

4:00-5:30 Grades K-2

5:30-7:00 Grades 3-4

5:00-6:30 PTO Dinner Mixer

Please notice that the schedule is staggered to keep parking and crowds manageable. If you have students in both lower and upper grades, you may want to come in the mid portion of the event, so you can visit in A-Wing, have a light dinner, then make your way to B-Wing.

First Day of School: Monday August 29th.

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*Please register or update your email address with the office in order to receive electronic communications. Announcements from the office are typically done through email, be sure not to miss out!

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The End of Homework?

By Mrs. Jennifer M. Hassler, Principal

At CW West, we always make an effort to increase student achievement. In many schools, the students engage in test preparation for PSSA testing for a majority of the school year. In fact, test preparation can take the place of the arts and other content area subjects. Here we strive to educate your whole child and value the many untested opportunities students need to be well-rounded. Our staff has sought to increase student achievement in creative ways. We are returning to school in 2016-2017 with a new initiative and we are hopeful that it will help us achieve our goals as a school.

This year, our teachers will not be assigning daily homework in reading, math, and other subject areas. Last year our staff spent time researching the impact of homework on students, and here is what we found:

- Homework in the elementary grades does not increase student achievement and in fact, can have negative effects.
- Students often practice skills incorrectly when they are doing homework.
- Reading logs as homework may actually deter students from reading for pleasure.
- When students do not complete homework, school personnel feel obligated to provide consequences, often resulting in missed play or social time.

We are making a shift from assigned daily skill practice at home, and we are asking for families to support this plan in several ways. Teachers may still ask students to complete occasional, meaningful, and independent assignments that involve family time. Teachers may find optional, creative and motivational ways to encourage reading. Our West homepage and eventually, Schoology pages will include a list of online resources for students to practice skills at home. Our fourth graders will even be given an opportunity to bring their school-assigned iPad home by the second marking period. In this way, we can offer valuable academic tasks without expecting the completion of daily assignments.

Our kids use their brains all day long in school to solve problems, learn to read and write, and navigate new social situations with peers. We are giving them the gift of time. Time for sports, time for play, and time for family. The goal of this initiative is to eliminate stressors, reinvent the way we provide daily skills practice, and offer your family some meaningful alternatives to traditional homework. Thank you for your continued support; our school is a success because we have a dedicated school community.



Headphones

Again this year we are asking that your child bring in their own headphones. The headphones will be used in the classroom and during computer class. This helps to alleviate germs that are passed when sharing items. Last year many smaller students struggled with ear-buds if they were not familiar with them prior to the start of school. My suggestion would be regular over the ear headphones. Many students bought very nice ones at *5 Below* for a very reasonable price. Please send the headphones in a large Ziploc bag with your child's name and teacher written on it. I look forward to another exciting school year! If you have any questions please e-mail me at s_nichols@conradweiser.org.

Lunch Helpers

Parents interested in volunteering during the first week of school at Kindergarten and/or 1st grade lunch times please contact the office at 610.589.2501 or

WeiserWest@conradweiser.org.

Kindergarten and first grade lunches are from 11:40-12:40. Volunteers would be asked to report 10 minutes prior to the start of lunch for a brief outline of duties.



BIKE RIDERS

STUDENTS MAY RIDE THEIR BIKE TO SCHOOL IF:

- **THEY ARE ACCOMPANIED BY A PARENT**
- **ARE OLD ENOUGH TO CROSS THE FRONT PARKING LOT BY THEMSELVES**
- **HAVE COMPLETED AND RETURNED A BIKE RIDER PERMISSION FORM**



BIKES ARE TO BE PARKED IN THE BIKE RACKS OUT FRONT. PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRACTICE BIKE SAFETY AT ALL TIMES.

Calendar of Events

- Open House
Thursday 8/25
See schedule on page 1
- First Day of School
Monday 8/29
- Days off for Labor Day
Friday 9/2
Monday, 9/5

Free & Reduced Lunch Applications

If you need an application for Free/Reduced Lunch please visit the following site: <http://www.paschoolmeals.com>
Hard copies are available in the office. This form must be completed EACH year. Approval does not transfer over from the previous school year.

Lunch Accounts

- Lunch accounts can be set-up using the [SchoolCafe](#) feature will be available on August 15th.
- There are also lunch envelopes available to send in a check to be credited to your student's account.