Dear Washington Wildcat Families,

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year! I am excited to start the year with all our new and returning Washington Gifted Middle School families. We completed many school wide projects and goals last year (air conditioning, additional technology, new lighting and ceilings, new landscaping, new schedules, focused SEL curriculum, and community service projects) and I can’t wait to share what is in store for the new year.

I invite all families to become stakeholders in our mission, “To empower every person to become a responsible, self-directed, lifelong learner through a positive partnership of family, school, and community.” Our teachers and staff work tirelessly to support this mission with each and every student in our building. WGMS has an amazing PTO, with Mrs. Sarah Hall stepping into the President role. She and the Executive Board are always looking for parents to help with the many events we host here at WGMS. PTO meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month at 6:00.

One of the unique aspects of WGMS is the plethora of activities, clubs, athletics, and academic teams that are offered. Please encourage your child to try new things. Our band and orchestra played at the basketball games last year and our drama production, The Addams Family, was simply amazing.

All new WGMS students will be matched with a mentor buddy as part of our Bigs and Littles program. Look for information in late July regarding your Big or Little match. The Bigs and Littles program has been at WGMS for many years and we look to enhance the mentorship between our new students and their Big.

Due to COVID-19, most students will be on a Blended Virtual A/B Learning Schedule. Students’ temperatures will be checked each day when they arrive at school. Students must bring hand sanitizer to school and must wear a face mask while in school and on the school bus.

Upcoming Information and Dates:

Returning students can complete their online enrollment via Skyward Family Access beginning mid-July. It is imperative that we have your correct address, phone numbers, and email. Any address changes must be verified with two proof of address.

New students can register at any Registration Hub (Manual High School and Peoria High School) on August 8 from 9:00 -2:00, August 11 and August 13 from 9:00 – 3:00.

Wildcat Eve

Let’s start the year the Wildcat Way! Incoming 5th graders and new students, along with their Bigs, are invited to Wildcat Eve on Monday, August 17 from 6:00 – 7:30. Bigs will help their Littles set up lockers, see the classrooms, and walk their schedule. Students will bring all supplies and receive their locks to practice their combinations. Bigs and Littles will receive their free back to school spirit wear shirt at Wildcat Eve.
Unpack Your Backpack/Locker Set Up

Continuing in our Wildcat Way... 6th, 7th, and 8th graders are invited to locker set up on Tuesday, August 18 from 12:00 – 1:00. Students will receive their locker assignments and locks and will be able to bring supplies, set up lockers, and see their classrooms on this day. Returning students will receive their free back to school spirit wear shirt at Unpack Your Backpack.

NOTE – no stickers of any kind are allowed on the outside or inside of lockers. Please use only scotch tape on the outside of lockers. No masking tape or duct tape is allowed on locker surfaces.

Open House and Annual Potluck/Picnic

This event combines our Open House and Annual Potluck and Picnic and is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, August 27. More details to follow in our Back to School packet that will be issued on the first day of school.

School Hours and Attendance

The first day of school is Wednesday, August 19, 2020. Our school hours will be 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Students may enter the building at 8:15 to eat breakfast or wait in the cafeteria (5th and 6th grades) or the foyer (7th and 8th grades). All students should be in their homeroom, prepared for the day, by 8:30.

The WGMS dress code and school supply lists are included in this packet, as well as posted on our website. Students may wear their new spirit wear shirt, along with proper uniform bottoms, on the first day of school.

The entire Washington Gifted Middle School staff looks forward to welcoming our families to the 2020-2021 school year. You play a vital role in the education of each of our students and we welcome your support. Please let me know if you have any questions as the school year unfolds.

Certain aspects of the 2020-2021 school year may be subject to change due to the effects of COVID-19. Rest assured, if any changes happen, we will keep you informed and updated on those changes.

Regards,

Mrs. Susan Martin

Mrs. Susan Martin, Principal
susan.martin@psd150.org

Mid July – Online registration for returning students. Registration deadline for All Virtual Learning@Home is Friday, June 24.

August 8, 11, and 13 – Registration for new families
August 17 – Wildcat Eve 6:00 – 7:30
August 18 – Unpack your Backpack/Locker set up 12:00 – 1:00
August 19 – First day of school 8:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.