

September 2025 Newsletter

Westwood is so very excited about the start of the 2025-2026 school year!

We had a fantastic start to the school year, kicking things off with our staggered kindergarten cohorts for orientation and a successful Open House. It was a great way to welcome our newest Westwood Dukes and connect with families! Be sure to **join our Westwood Facebook page** for weekly video updates from Principal Milks and to stay connected with all the great things happening at our school.



Important Dates:

Sept. 1-No School-Labor Day

Sept. 9 - Parent Co-Op Meeting (6:00-7:00 pm) in our Westwood Library

wwparentcoop@gmail.com for more information

Sept. 2-17 Acadience Testing

Sept. 2-17 - NWEA MAPS Testing

Sept. 18 - Westwood School Picture Day

School Picture Day is Sept. 18 (Thursday).

Order forms will be sent home with students prior to picture day.



Save time and preorder your student's photographs on the Ripcho Studio prepay site before Picture Day by clicking the **"Order Online"** button below.

Don't want to preorder online? You can also view and print the portrait package order form by clicking the **"Portrait Packages"** button below. Print the order form, fill out the requested information, and give the order form to the photographer on Picture Day with the full payment enclosed.

Parents who have multiple children must place a separate prepay order online for each child. Your

Access Key is: **JT5CMFWN**

NWEA MAPS Testing - To progress monitor our students' growth, we engage in MAPs Testing. Testing occurs three times a year at each grade level in the areas of Reading and Math. The testing schedule occurs during the week of Sept. 2- Sept.

17. Parents will receive MAPs scores after all testing is completed.



First Day Forms are now Online!

All forms must be completed by Friday, September 5th!

Access PowerSchool Here:



If you need assistance creating a Parent PowerSchool Account, email Mrs. Jenn McCloskey at jmcloskey@wellingtonvillageschools.org. Please send only one email, and she will address each one as the requests come in.

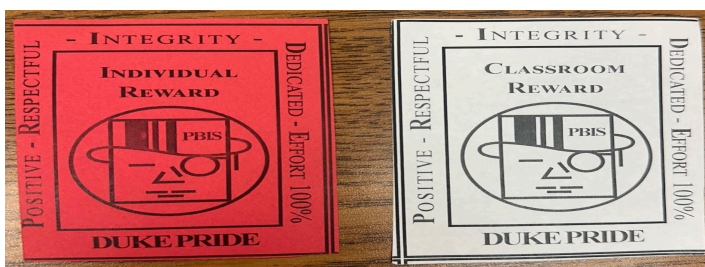
Thank you in advance for your patience.

PBIS Kickstart

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is a framework for supporting whole school practices (schoolwide) to promote a safe school setting by supporting social, learning, behavioral, and emotional needs of all students.



At Westwood, students can earn RED tickets for showing their Duke P.R.I.D.E. Then, students can redeem the tickets for individual prizes and classroom rewards! We started this school year off with an exciting assembly with reverse charades with Dr. Peltz and a prize wheel!



PBIS at Home Guide

1. Expectations

Create a list of 3 -5 POSITIVELY worded expectations for the whole house. Keep it simple!

- Be respectful
- Be understanding
- Be helpful

2. Examples

Create a few examples of what each of those expectations looks like for the house. Ask your kids to contribute!

Respectful

- I can be respectful by... staying quiet when the adults are working.
- I can be respectful by... waiting for my turn to use the computer/device.

Understanding

- I can be understanding by... recognizing our new reality and the challenges it presents.

Helpful

- I can be helpful by... cleaning up the messes I make or cleaning up a mess I see.

3. Celebrate It

When your child does one of these things, CELEBRATE IT! Tell them what you liked and appreciated about their behavior. Then give them a physical token to keep track of their positive behaviors – stickers, coins... whatever you have.

4. Set Goals Come up with a “big picture” goal. If you earn 15 “points” or tokens, you can get 15 extra minutes of electronic time. Maybe they can buy their way out of a chore! You can check out this list of remote learning incentives from PBIS Rewards for ideas.

5. Patience BE PATIENT! This type of system does not solve everything, but it definitely helps to define expectations and to focus on the positive outcomes. A small shift in what you observe can lead to a much larger change in the way you think and relate to your family members!

-Justine Hoch, a Spanish teacher and a PBIS enthusiast.



Westwood Parent Cooperative

Who are we?

We are a group of parent volunteers who raise money for materials and activities at Westwood Elementary.

JOIN OUR Team!

How to Join

Email us: WWParentCoOp@gmail.com

- We can add you to our contact list and answer any questions you may have.

Facebook: [Westwood Parent Co-Op](#)

- Updates and volunteer opportunities will be posted

Meetings: *2nd Tuesday of each month - 6pm in Westwood Library*

- Meetings typically are less than an hour and well-behaved kiddos are welcome to tag along!



Preparing for the Future!

Wellington Schools Endowment

Saving For College Program

Wellington Schools Endowment Fund



The Endowment Fund helps Wellington students through:

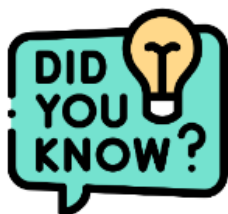
1. Funding field trips and classroom extras through **teacher grants**
2. **Scholarships** to graduating seniors
3. A match for Wellington K-12 students toward their 529 **Saving For College Plan**



- To receive the Wellington Endowment Funds match, students must be enrolled in Wellington Schools and in Kindergarten – 12th grade.
- Have a College Advantage 529 Savings Plan for that student open through the Ohio Tuition Trust Authority's College Advantage investment program.
- Email an annual account statement showing your contributions (for the period January – December of the prior year), due by **February 15th** to the Endowment board at dukesendowment@gmail.com.
- The Endowment will provide up to a 25% match on the \$1,000 in contributions made to the student's Saving for College account. You can contribute any amount from \$5 - \$1000. The percentage of the match will be changed based on fund availability. Final matching amounts are not determined until parents' contributions have been totaled, and are subject to change based upon available funds.

Visit our website at (or scan the QR code to the left for details)
<https://www.wellingtonvillageschools.org/domain/1173>

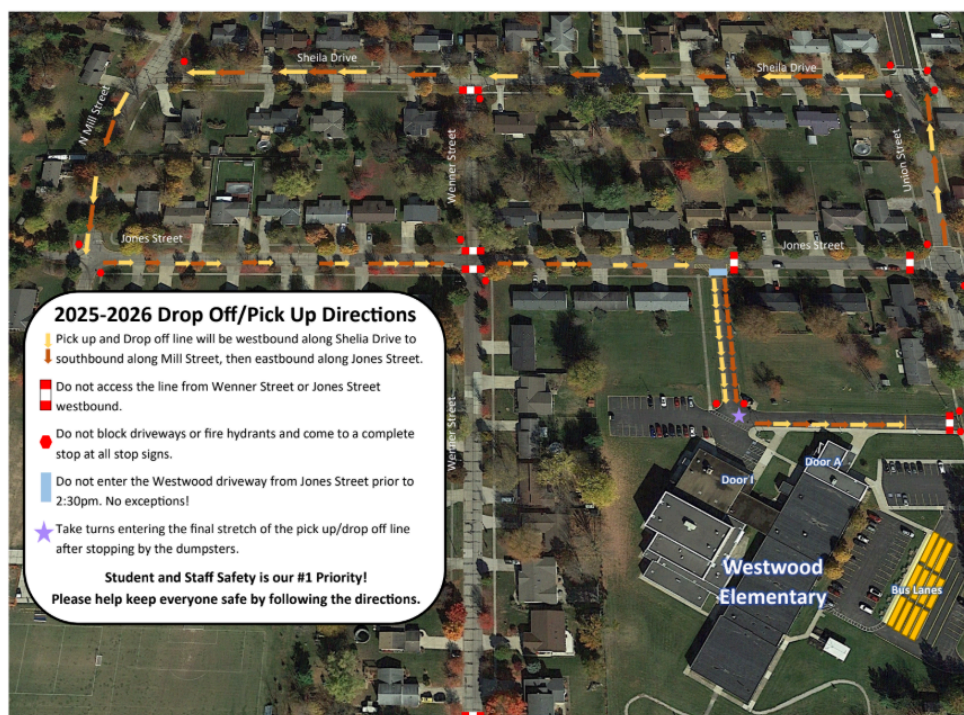
Head Start



There are 2 LCCAA Head Start preschool classrooms in Westwood Elementary School. The school week runs Tuesday-Friday, 8:30am to 3:30pm. Students receive breakfast, lunch, and take a nap daily. To learn more about the program or to see if you qualify, go to https://www.lccaa.net/programs/head_start or call Tarnisha, Family Service Assistant, at (440) 647-7440.

Important Reminders:

- Breakfast drop-off is at Door "I" on the side of the building between 7:30-7:45 am.
- Remember that all student dismissal changes must be communicated to the office by 1:30pm.
- Wait for a staff member to be at your car before opening the door.
- Car rider pick-up line can start forming at 2:30 via **N. Mill St. to Jones St.**
- Please have your car rider tag hanging from your rear view mirror
- Be prepared to show ID if asked.
- Students will be placed in the **BACKSEAT** of the vehicle per state guidelines
- **NO DOGS at pick up/drop off**





DID YOU KNOW that your child's reading skills have the potential to substantially impact other academic subject areas? Strong reading skills enable your child to access, interpret, and engage with the curriculum effectively. Listen for examples of how your child is performing reading tasks across different content areas:

Mathematics: Reading comprehension is essential for understanding word problems, instructions, and mathematical concepts presented in text form.

Science: Proficiency in reading enables your child to grasp scientific texts, follow experimental procedures, and understand complex concepts and vocabulary.

Social Studies: Good reading skills help in comprehending historical texts, analyzing primary sources, and understanding geographical and cultural information.

Support Your Child's Literacy Development at Every Age

Tips for Boosting Early Literacy at Home

- Recite nursery rhymes, sing songs, use your hands for shadow plays, and have conversations together.
- Speak (and read) to your child in your home language.
- Notice words that sound the same and play rhyming games together.
- Notice and read environmental print - McDonald's sign, traffic signs, grocery store labels, etc.
- Read aloud to your children and point to and talk about the print.
- Talk about letters and the sounds they make using alphabet cards and magnetic letters, tracing letters in salt, forming letters with Play-Doh, and other activities.
- Play word games, talk about the meaning of words, and use interesting words while speaking.
- Model different kinds of writing daily - Label household objects, make grocery lists and write notes. (Encourage scribbling and drawing for younger children!)
- Allow children to explore and create using a variety of materials - scissors, crayons, markers, glue and Play-Doh. Talk about their creations.

Tips for Enhancing Your Older Child's Literacy at Home

- Talk about school, hobbies, newspaper or magazine articles, and current events.
- Model joyful literacy by reading and writing daily in front of your older reader!
- Provide a wide selection of reading materials for older readers to choose from. Offer a variety of fiction and non-fiction and include topics of interest. Visit the library together.
- Encourage your readers to ask and answer curious questions before, during, and after reading to build background knowledge.
- Incorporate technology! Listen to audiobooks together in the car or on a walk. Talk about the story.
- Play word games together like Scrabble, Boggle, or Wordle. Have a competition and make it fun!
- Focus on vocabulary. Talk about interesting words and use distinctive words while speaking.

Tools and Resources for Families



Additional resources to support literacy development can be found at education.ohio.gov/literacy.



Westwood Newsletters are posted on the Westwood facebook page, Westwood building page, and email to the email address registered with the district. If you do not receive Newsletters through your *email* address, please contact the school to update your address.

Thank you for everything you do! Your support, kindness, and dedication are a big part of what makes Westwood such a special place.

Wishing you an amazing September! We're truly grateful to partner with you, and we're here if you ever need anything. Let's keep working together to make a real difference!

Mrs. Kimberley Milks

Contacts:

Mrs. Kimberley Milks, Principal

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Jenn McCloskey, Secretary

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Our Vision

Our vision is to create a dynamic, supportive learning environment where all students develop adaptability, positive self-worth, with the skills needed to grow socially, emotionally, and academically. By fostering strong connections to school and community, we empower our students to advocate for themselves to design their own future as productive, engaged, resilient, and empathetic members of society.
Once a Duke, always a Duke.

