



## THE TORCH

<b>Monday</b>	<b>8-23</b>	A day in the Related Arts Schedule
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>8-24</b>	B day in the Related Arts Schedule
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>8-25</b>	Early Release Day – Dismissal starts at 1:45 B day in the Related Arts Schedule
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>8-26</b>	B day in the Related Arts Schedule
<b>Friday</b>	<b>8-27</b>	Wear Yellow and Gold to Shine Your Light. B day in the Related Arts Schedule

Hello Warrior families! We want to thank everyone for a great first week of teaching and learning. The students have been nothing less than fabulous with transitions, cafeteria behavior, and shining their light. Mr. Klein and Mrs. Haynes visited each classroom and held PBIS assemblies to share the Positive Behavior Support reward system called **“The Wards Creek Way”** and Warrior expectations. Every child will have the opportunity to exhibit leadership and earn some very special quarterly rewards by displaying consistent positive behavior. A handbook has been placed in your child’s planner explaining the system. A copy is attached and is also available on the school’s website. Please ask your child about this and help them practice the expectations.

Our school nurse is no longer able to provide clothes for students who may need to change them. We ask that Pre-k to 1<sup>st</sup> grade students have an extra set of clothes in case they may need them.

**Wear Yellow and Gold this Friday to “Shine Your LIGHT.”**

Daily Silent Reflection State law now requires a one-minute moment of silent reflection to take place at the beginning of each school day. During this minute, students may not interfere with other students’ participation and teachers may not make suggestions as to the nature of any student’s reflection. Parents are encouraged to discuss this moment of silence with their children and to make suggestions as to the best use of this time.

We have been impressed with the arrival and dismissal of buses. Friday, most of our buses were here by 8:10. And, it appears that this will be consistent. This greatly ensures that all students will be in class by 8:25. Students needing breakfast will have plenty of time. Meanwhile students who have already had breakfast can proceed to class to prepare for a great day of learning. Thanks again parents for trusting that this is a safe way to transport your child. For those parents utilizing parent drop-off, please remind your child to have their bookbag in hand and ready to exit the car. This will help the line be finished by the bell. Also, we ask that students exit on the right side of the car. This is a safety concern.

We have consistently been having 8 out of the 11 buses arrive by the 2:45 dismissal time. Friday, after establishing a routine in procedures, we released those buses at 2:50. The last bus left school by 3:05. In contrast, parent pick-up is just beginning at 2:50 and the last parent pick-up student was in their car at 3:15. We encourage parents to take advantage of having their child ride the bus. Also, please have your child enter on the passenger side of the car. Entering from the driver's side is a safety concern.

Parents who are picking up their children in the parent pick-up line must have a card tag visible. Please use a sharpie and clearly write your child's name and grade level. Also, please make sure your child sits on the passenger side of the vehicle or the passenger side of the vehicle is accessible for loading your child. With two lanes of cars, it is not safe for a child to load the car from the driver side of the vehicle.

Learning begins at 8:25. Any student arriving after 8:30 will lose valuable instruction and disrupts the learning for others. Please have your child to school on time. In addition, our teachers are maximizing teaching time and do not begin to prepare for dismissal until 2:40. Students checked out early will miss many end of the day activities that prepares them for the next day. Students will not be checked out after 2:00 unless it is an emergency. Consistency in routines is most beneficial for students. Safety is our utmost concern and keeping your child on a normal schedule will greatly benefit operations.

The café opens for breakfast at 8:00. This year students will choose a breakfast and eat in the cafeteria. Please let your child know they can come in for breakfast daily, regardless of their time arriving at school. Free meals, breakfast and lunch, for all students regardless of income will continue through June 2022.

If your child would like to purchase additional food items during lunch, please set up accounts through PayPams to make payments. <https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/food/paypams/> This is the preferred form of payment and assists in continuing our efforts with contactless methods.

#### **Student Health Screening Entry Form:**

Please assess your child daily for the following symptoms and answer the contact questions.

- Fever of 100.4 or higher
- Uncontrolled cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Sore throat
- Loss of sense of smell or taste
- Muscle aches
- Vomiting or diarrhea
- Is your child currently awaiting COVID-19 test results? If yes, please keep your child home and notify the school nurse when test results received. Further instructions will be discussed at that time.
- Does your child live in the same household with someone positive for COVID-19? If yes, please keep your child at home and notify the school nurse when test results are received. Further instructions will be discussed at that time.
- Has your child had close contact with someone who in the past 14 days who tested positive for COVID-19? If yes, your child must quarantine for 7 days from the last date of contact with the positive individual. The quarantine may be shortened if a negative COVID test result is obtained on day 5 or later from exposure to the positive case.

The **Parent Handbook** has been provided and is available on the school website.

The water bottle filling stations will continue to be used as water bottle filling stations and not water fountains. Please send a water bottle with your child each day.

Spotlight on 4<sup>th</sup> grade: The fourth-grade team has been collaborating and working together to introduce classroom routines, create our social contracts, and build up the learning community within our classrooms. This past week, we had an assembly with Mr. Klein to learn about school-wide goals and expectations. It is amazing to see our fourth-grade leaders transitioning seamlessly into the new school year. It has also been a pleasure getting to know our students, many of whom are returning Warriors and many of whom are new to Wards Creek. In the coming weeks, we will be jumping into our content areas. In math, we will be focusing on Math Practices, then moving into learning about multiples and factors. Our fourth-grade scientists will be learning about what scientists do, how they use/collect data, and the types of models used. In reading, we cannot wait to get our hands on nonfiction narratives, where we will be focusing on the author's purpose and perspective toward a topic in an informational text. Our writers will also start dabbling in constructing personal narratives and engaging in peer conferences to get feedback from fellow writers. We are excited to continue to build relationships and grow together as learners over the course of the school year! Welcome back, Warriors!