



Welcome to Wards Creek
2023-2024 School Year



WCES

Mission Statement

At WCES we ensure
Achievement, **L**earning
and **L**eadership for **ALL!**



WCES

Vision Statement

To build and sustain a culture that provides a safe environment where all stakeholders collaborate to ensure growth and achievement for ALL



A is for...Assurance

Rest Assured that safety is our focus & the well-being of our students is our highest priority!



B is for...Birthdays

We love to celebrate student birthdays. Students may bring in store bought items enough for all students in the homeroom class. Please refrain from homemade items so that we are mindful of those students with food allergies.



C is for...CAFÉ

CAFÉ Manager – Alison Hargus

- Each student has an ID used to purchase café items
- Teachers and staff are on hand to assist students in the café
- Ice Cream is available for purchase on Fridays (1st-5th)
- Students may also bring a healthy snack to have in the classroom during working snack
- Menus are available on our website
- PayPams is the online payment system used by St Johns County. You can deposit money and view purchased items on their website
- Visit the Warrior Café's webpage under the Departments tab on our website



Please consider...

- Items in lunchbox should be easy for students to open without support
- Begin practicing with students now if they will be bringing a lunch from home
- We will make sure every student has the support they need
- Please note we are a "nut aware" school

Dear Parents
(of elementary school aged kids)

When your kids come to school we will have to help them open LOTS of the things you pack for lunch.

PLEASE HAVE THEM PRACTICE OPENING THINGS BY THEMSELVES.

These are EASIER to open. If I help them open it, I won't be putting my hands on parts that will go in their mouth.



flip top water bottles bento box/or tupperware ziplock bags reusable sandwich bags twist off snacks

These are HARDER to open. If you send these PLEASE have them PRACTICE opening it. If I help them open it, I will be putting my hands on parts that will go in their mouth.



milk carton juice box w/straw to put in it. lunchables have MANY packages to open inside of it. individual chips/snacks twist off drinks

If your kiddo can open everything in their lunch, it means less time waiting with their hand up, more time eating and less germs!!
(even though we are washing our hands and disinfecting)

D is for...Dismissal

Dismissal Routines

- Extended Day - Released First
- PPU/Buses/DayCare Vans - Released next
- Reminder - all K-5 students have bus access
- Students on buses often arrive home before those who are parent pick up
- Please be patient if choosing PPU as a dismissal option- especially at the beginning of the year
- A helpful skill would be for students to practice buckling and unbuckling their seatbelt independently



D is for...Dismissal

Important Dismissal Reminders

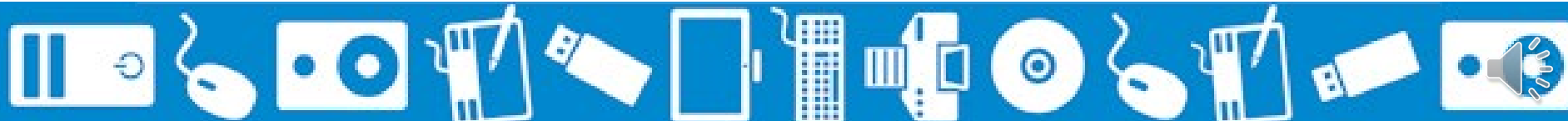
Critical Reminders - With increased traffic and safety updates, it is important that we work together to ensure the safety of our students.

- We ask that parents/families remain in their vehicles at **ALL TIMES** during dismissal. Please have your **car tag displayed**
- Anyone picking up your child must be listed on the student information form. Those without a tag will be asked to park and show ID in the office
- **Parents/Families SHOULD NOT** park and walk up to the sidewalks. Students will not be released from this area
- **Early Release Wednesday** – All students are dismissed at 1:45 on Wednesday
- Pull your car up to the designated flag number. Your child will be waiting for you there. After your child is safely in your car, you may remove your car tag.



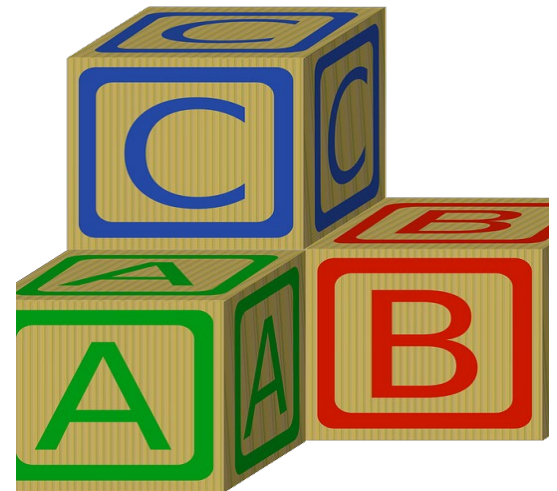
E is for...Email & Communication

- Teacher Emails
- WCES Webpage
- Parent Handbook – WCES webpage- Important Documents
- Monthly Newsletter – The Torch
- Peachjar - WCES webpage (bottom right) communication of community activities
- School Messenger – school-wide email, phone, text messaging system
- ***Please keep your contact information current***



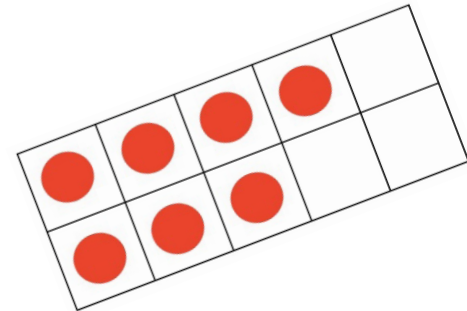
F is for...Foundational Skills

- This year your child will learn foundational skills
- PK- children learn how to follow routines, interact with peers, be in a school environment
- The PK curriculum is called Teaching Strategies Gold
- Units are organized into themes
 - Trees
 - Building
 - Balls



F is for...Foundational skills

- Kindergarten children learn foundational skills in all subject areas
 - Reading
 - Concepts of Print (L to R, Beginning, Middle, End, Holding a book, turning pages 1 at a time)
 - Letter names and sounds
 - CVC words
 - Rhyming
 - Sight words 50-60 by end of year
 - Math
 - Counting 0 - 100 (by end of year)
 - Counting sets of 20
 - Make 10 using a 10 frames
 - Add/subtract to 5
 - Social Studies/Science
 - Cultures and celebrations around the world
 - Life cycles
 - Five senses
 - Day/Night



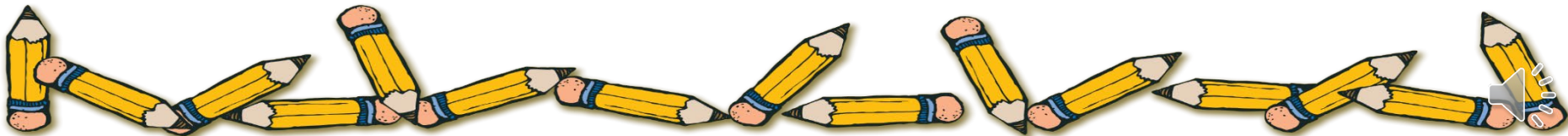
G is for...

Guaranteed and Viable Curriculum

Achievement, Learning and Leadership for ALL

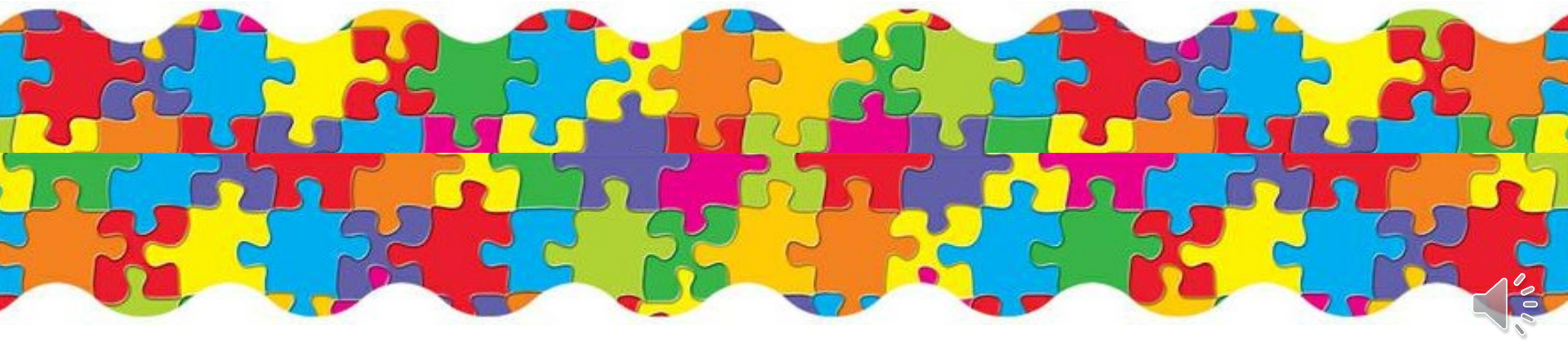
Guaranteed and Viable Curriculum – Teachers develop units of study that identify instructional timelines for all students to the level of rigor for their grade level. They work collaboratively to ensure fidelity using high yield instructional strategies. Students are progress monitored three times a year to ensure they are mastering the critical content.

Year at a Glance – The SJCS D website includes this document to guide parents in the curriculum expectations



H is for...Handbook

The WCES Parent and PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports) Handbooks can be accessed on our webpage.



I is for...Independence

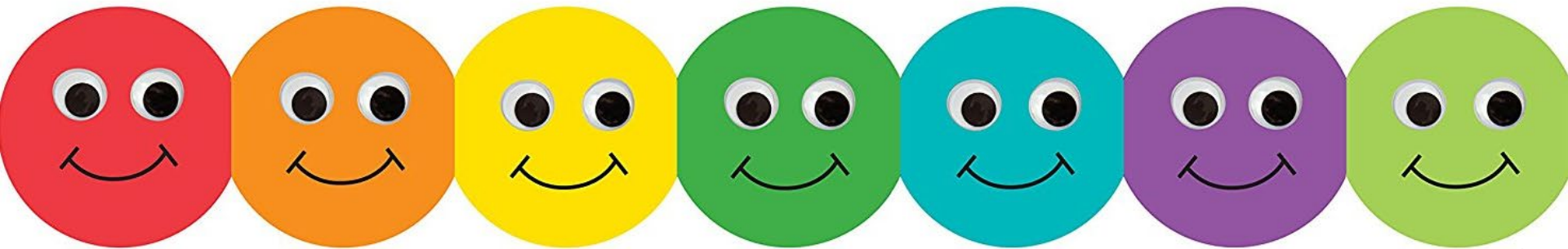
- Parents will only be able to walk their child to class the first week of school
- Staff members will meet the students and assure they arrive to class safely. Students follow colored tiles to their designated color house
- **THEN...** we believe our students will be ready to be independent but...

We won't be far behind!



J is for...Joy

Our classrooms are filled with joy,
laughter, kindness, & compassion



K is for...PreK and Kindergarten Teachers

PreK

Lissa O'Rourke
Marlene Stemmerman
TBD

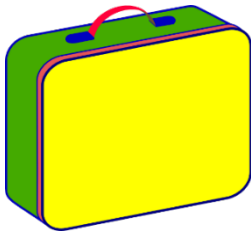
Kindergarten

Morgan Brown
Tracy Meinel
Taylor Middleton
Kristen Pellegrinelli
Charlotte Riley
Rachel Romano
Jessica Scott
Nathalia Tortolero
Krystal Van der bunt
Danielle Wright



L is for...Label

Label jackets, water bottles and lunch boxes



M is for... Mindset

Growth Mindset - We believe that all learning and achievement takes hard work and that often we need practice in order to master skills. We teach children the power of perseverance. Students utilize Leadership Notebooks to set goals and track their progress.



N is for...Nurse

- Wards Creek has two full-time nurses
- They will take excellent care of our Warriors
- When your child goes to the clinic for an illness or injury you will be called as needed



O is for...Open House/ Curriculum Night

Wards Creek will be hosting our annual Curriculum Night. Teachers will share all of the important concepts your child will learn this year.



P is for...Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports “The Wards Creek Way”

- PBIS Handbook- “The Wards Creek Way”
- Common schoolwide expectations and language
- Ensures consistence and fairness across all classrooms
- Each teacher uses their own behavior system in the classroom
- Handbook posted on website
- Leaders with Character Assemblies
 - Character Counts, Academics, and Growth Mindset



P is for...PTO

- Our wonderful PTO supports the educational needs of students and staff as well as facility enhancements
- Visit the WCES PTO link on our homepage
www.wardscreekpto.com
- The PTO Website contains information on joining, buying spirit wear, and all the fun family activities
- They also have a Facebook page
- Please consider getting involved, we need you!



Q is for...Quick Goodbyes

Quick goodbyes leave dry eyes!



R is for...Related Arts Classes

Students will rotate related arts classes each day

Music – Kathryn Eaton

Art – Kristen Kasper

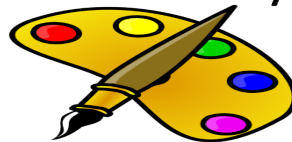
PE - Coaches - Tim Heise and Dennis Milite

Media – Kristin Fanning

STEM –Ximena Vergara

Health – Kelly Allsup

Computer Literacy – Filiz Montanez



S is for...Staggered Start (Kindergarten only)

- St. Johns County Schools utilize staggered start for kindergarten students
- Students are staggered on August 10th, 11th, 14th, and 15th. All students start full-time on Wednesday
- This year, on your child's designated day, we will ask you to arrive at 8:45am and park in the parent parking lot
- On their staggered start morning, parents may walk students to meet their child's teacher on the sidewalk
- Students who ride the bus will be escorted to their classroom at the regular time



T is for...Transportation

- Consistent transportation routines helps make for a smooth transition to school
- PreK ESE and K bus riders are seated on buses first
- All Pk ESE-1st grade students have colored bus tags with corresponding animals attached to their backpacks
- Staff will assist students to their designated location during arrival and dismissal time
- The district will contact you directly with bus information



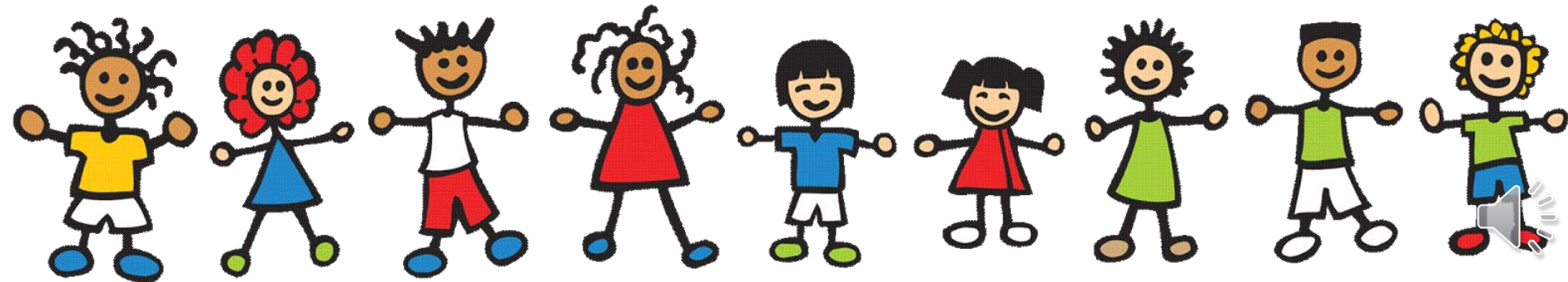
T is also for...Transportation Changes

- Transportation changes should be sent to: <https://surveys.stjohns.k12.fl.us/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=wce-transportation>. before 2:00 pm (1:00 pm on Wednesdays)
- The link is required. However, you may email your child's teacher additionally
- We cannot accept phone calls for those changes
- If you do not have access to the link we will permit parents to submit a handwritten note 1 day in advance
- Changes in afternoon transportation should only be for **emergency** situations



U is for...Unique

- All of our students learn they are special and unique
- Our children have opportunities to describe how they are alike, as well as how they are different from others
- This is how we learn to be writers!

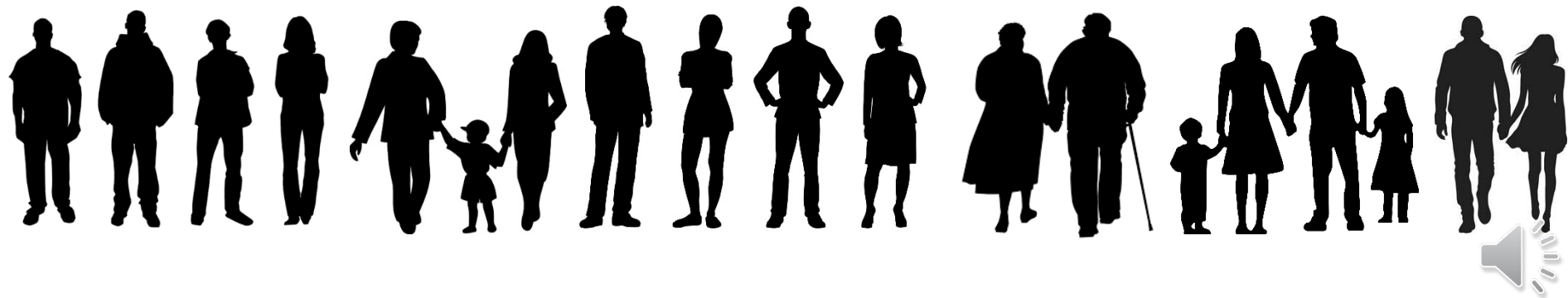


V is for...Visitors

As required by Florida state law, everyone **MUST** have School Access approval to go beyond the front office or volunteer in any capacity at Wards Creek Elementary

Please note that your driver's license or state ID is required in order to sign into the School Access system.

School access form can be completed at
www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/volunteer/



W is for...

Early Release Wednesdays

- St. Johns County Schools have early-release on Wednesday
- Wards Creek dismisses at 1:45 PM *every* Wednesday

WEDNESDAY



X is for...eXtra Clothes

Please make sure to have a pair of extra clothing, including under garments and socks, in your child's backpack in case of emergencies



Y is for...You!

You are a vital part of your child's education

Parent Leadership Expectations

- Play an active role in your child's education by communicating with teachers or staff members
- Talk to your child about their school day
- Support WCES rules and expectations
- Treat all citizens with respect. (Faculty, staff, students and other parents)
- Have **HIGH EXPECTATIONS** for your child, both behaviorally and academically



Z is for...ZZZ's

Please make sure your child is
well-rested every day.



General Information

Q & A

Kindergarten! ... here I come!

