



Kevin Klein, Principal  
Julie Haynes, Assistant Principal  
Jill Williams, Assistant Principal

6555 State Road 16  
St. Augustine, FL 32092

July 14, 2023

Dear Warrior Families,

Welcome to Wards Creek Elementary! I am looking forward to getting to know your child. This is an exciting time for you as your child continues their journey toward becoming a life-long learner. We are very excited to have you and your child as part of the Warrior Family. This year will be an exciting one filled with learning and growth for all.

My name is Kevin Klein, and this will be my third year as the principal of Wards Creek. I was the assistant principal at this great school since 2013. I have been an educator for 25 years and an administrator for 21 years. Your child's safety, success, and wellbeing are my top priority. I often tell the students that I get my energy from seeing them smile. Having the privilege to watch children grow and thrive brings me great joy.

Julie Haynes is in her third year as an assistant principal here at WCE. She was previously a 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at Julington Creek Elementary. She is entering her 22<sup>nd</sup> year in education. Mrs. Haynes is passionate about student learning and believes learning can be fun. Her joy comes from watching children get excited about learning and discovery.

Jill Williams is joining our family as an assistant principal. She has been in that role within a neighboring district for 10 years. This will be her 23<sup>rd</sup> year in education. She is excited to join the Wards Creek Warrior Team and looks forward to a great school year.

We are positive that this will be a wonderful year of inquiry and learning. We are excited to have you be part of our Warrior family and hope you will look for opportunities to attend parent-child activities, volunteer in the classrooms, support school fundraisers, and be an active member of the PTO.

I am truly grateful for the amazing students, staff, and community that we have. Our school fosters a leadership environment for all our students. Our school motto is "Achievement, Learning and Leadership for ALL."

Please use the information below, along with our school website and staff, to answer any questions you may have about the approaching new school year. **Please note that the first day of school is Thursday, August 10<sup>th</sup>. Also note that kindergarten does a staggered start. See information below for kindergarten.**

*Kevin Klein*

## Meet and Greet

This is the time for you to meet your child's teacher and bring in school supplies. We are asking families to try to not stay in the classroom for more than 10 minutes. This time is really meant to introduce your child to his/her new teacher and drop off supplies. Our teachers communicate effectively throughout the year. So, they will keep you informed about the growth of your child.

***Meet and Greet will take place on Thursday, August 9<sup>th</sup>:***

***Last Names A-M 9:00-10:00 a.m.***

***Last Names N-Z 10:00-11:00 a.m.***

## Kindergarten Staggered Start

All kindergarten students in St. Johns County, participate in a staggered start. ***This means that students sign up for one day during the first three days of school where they will attend in a small group. This allows the teachers to provide students with individualized attention and teach daily routines and procedures.*** Staggered start will be Thursday, August 10<sup>th</sup> through Tuesday, August 15<sup>th</sup>. You child's teacher will send a welcome letter with a Signup Genius for the day that works best for you. **ALL KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS WILL COME TO SCHOOL ON Wednesday, August 16<sup>th</sup>.**

## First Week of School Arrival

Parents are welcome to walk their child to class the first week of school. All students enter through the bus loop and parent pickup loop doors. **You must go to the front office to sign in prior to escorting your child to class. Remember to bring your ID! If you have not completed a School Access Form visit <https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/volunteer/>. This form is required in order to enter the building and is good for three years.**

## Instructional Day

It is critically important that all children arrive on time to school each day. This is a key part of how you can support our success. The instructional day for students is from 8:25-2:45 with early release on Wednesdays at 1:45.

## Extended Day

Wards Creek is pleased to provide extended day services to our families. We offer both before care beginning at 6:30 a.m. and after care until 6 p.m. ***If you wish to enroll your child and have not done so already, you will need to complete an Extended Day Registration Form and pay the registration fee. The registration form and link for online payments can be found on the Extended Day page (<http://www-wce.stjohns.k12.fl.us/extendedday/>)***

## New Parent Brochure

We have created a new parent brochure to assist you with important information that will help you. <https://www-wce.stjohns.k12.fl.us/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/WCES-Brochure22-23.pdf>

## Parent/Teacher Organization

Please join our fabulous team. <https://www.wardscreekpto.com/>

## Featured Links

Please scroll down to the website to view the section "important documents," such as the Parent Handbook and Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports. <https://www-wce.stjohns.k12.fl.us/>