



WELCOME TO WARDS CREEK
2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR



WCES ***Mission Statement***

At WCES, We Ensure
Achievement, Learning and
Leadership 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

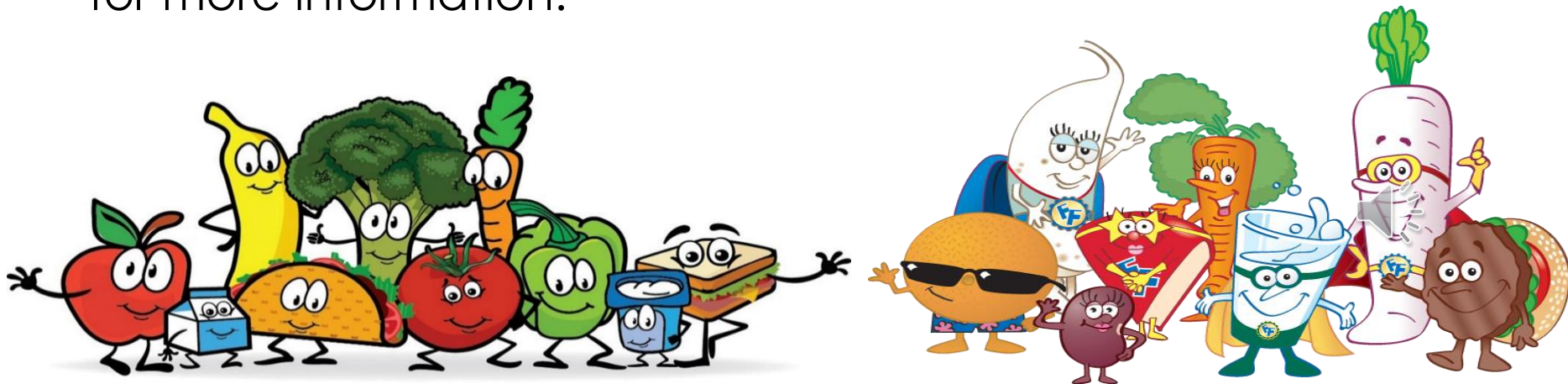
We love to celebrate student birthdays. Students may bring in store bought items enough for all students in the homeroom class. Please refrain from homemade items so that we are mindful of those students with food allergies.



C IS FOR...CAFÉ

Cafeteria Manager – Alison Hargus

- Students use their ID to purchase meals and café items.
- Teachers and staff are available to assist students in the café.
- Ice cream is available for purchase on Fridays for grades 1–5.
- Students may bring a healthy snack for working snack time.
- Menus are available on the school website.
- PayPams allows families to add funds and view cafeteria purchases online.
- Visit the Warrior Café webpage under the “Departments” tab for more information.



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.



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.



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 students are dismissed first, followed by Parent Pickup, buses, and daycare vans.
- All K–5 students have access to bus transportation.
- Bus riders often arrive home before Parent Pickup students.
- Please be patient with Parent Pickup, especially during the first few weeks of school.
- Practice buckling and unbuckling seatbelts independently to help speed up dismissal.



D IS FOR...DISMISSAL

Important Dismissal Reminders

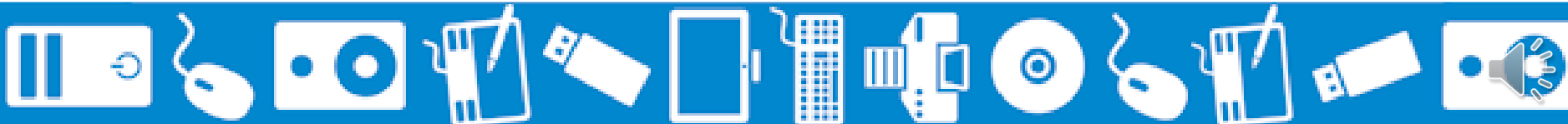
- For student safety, please remain in your vehicle during dismissal and display your car tag.
- Anyone picking up your child must be listed on the student information form. Those without a car tag must park and present ID in the front office.
- Do not park and walk to the sidewalk - students will only be released through the designated pickup line.
- Early Release Wednesdays: Dismissal is at **1:45 p.m.**
- Once your child is safely in your vehicle, you may remove your car tag.



E IS FOR...EMAIL & COMMUNICATION

- Teacher Emails
- WCES Webpage
- "The Torch" Monthly Newsletter
- ParentSquare – school-wide email, phone, text messaging system

Please keep your contact information current!



F IS FOR...FAMILY

- We are a Character Counts District
- Along with Academics, each day we have “Family Time”.
- We teach Character Counts and discuss our responsibilities as a class family.
- Leadership for ALL!



G IS FOR... **GUARANTEED AND VIABLE CURRICULUM**

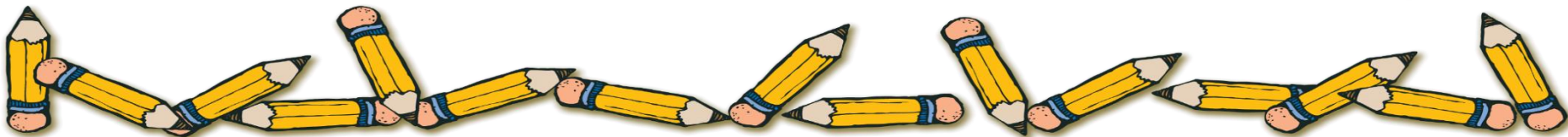
Achievement, Learning and Leadership for ALL

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.

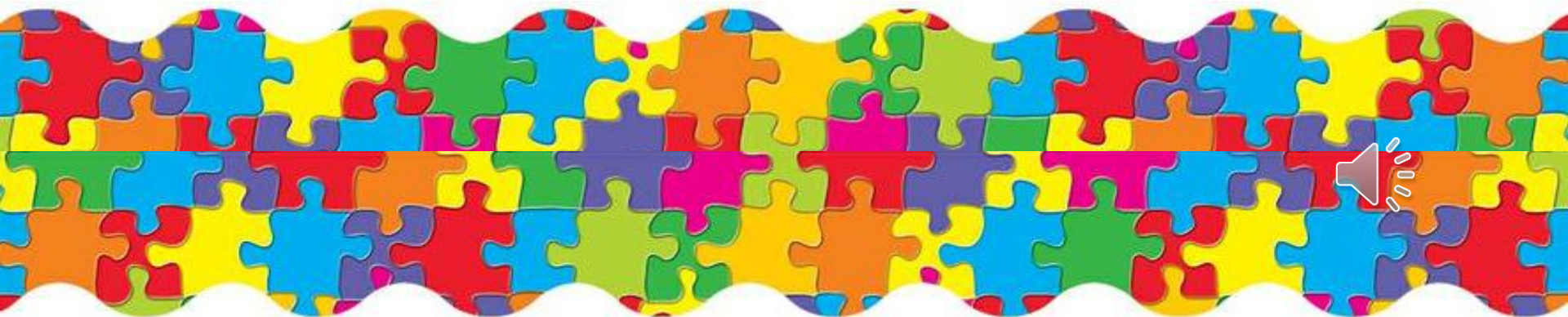
Year at a Glance:

The SJCSD website includes this document to guide parents in the curriculum expectations



H IS FOR...HANDBOOKS

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



I IS FOR...INDEPENDENCE

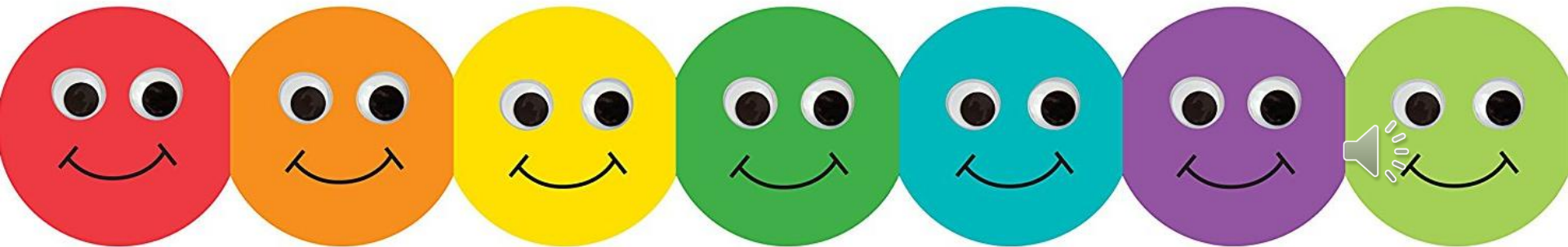
- Parents will only be able to walk their child to the school entrance the first day of school.
- Staff members will meet the students and assure they arrive to class safely. Students follow colored tiles to their designated color house.
- **THEN...** we believe our students will be ready to be independent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

We won't be far behind!



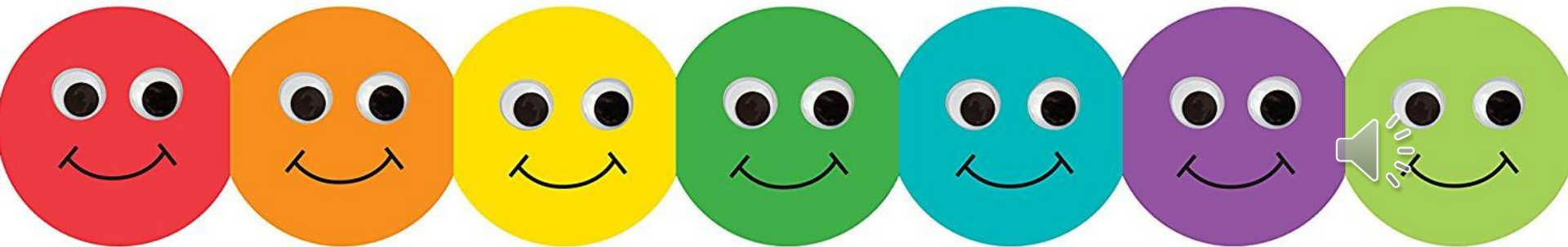
J IS FOR...JOY

Our classrooms are filled with joy and laughter. Each day your child should be able to tell you the best part of their day. Ask with excitement for them to share what it's like to be a Warrior.



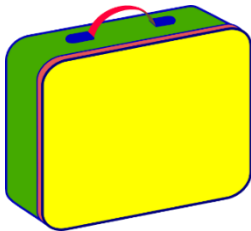
K IS FOR...KINDNESS

We are all in this together. We must always model kindness & compassion. This partnership makes us a healthy and productive Warrior Family.



L IS FOR...LABELS

Label jackets, water bottles and lunch boxes. The lost and found is in the front office. We will donate unclaimed items after each marking period.



M IS FOR... MINDSET

We believe that all learning and achievement takes hard work and that often we need practice 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

- There is always a nurse on campus.
- We will take excellent care of our Warriors!
- You will be called as needed when your child goes to the clinic.



O IS FOR...OPEN HOUSE/ CURRICULUM NIGHT

Wards Creek will be hosting our annual Curriculum Night. Teachers will share all 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 Awards
 - 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
- Website: www.wardscreekpto.com
- The PTO Website contains information on joining, buying spirit wear, and all the fun family activities.
- PTO also has a Facebook page:
"Wards Creek Elementary PTO - Parents Page"
- Please consider getting involved, we need you!



Q IS FOR...QUICK GOODBYES

QUICK GOODBYES LEAVE DRY EYES!



R IS FOR...RELATED ARTS CLASSES

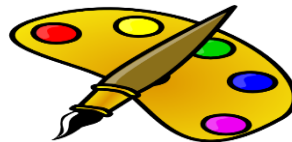
Students will rotate related arts classes each day.

Music – Kathryn Eaton

Art – Katie Wolf

PE – Dennis Milite

Media – Susan Schoer

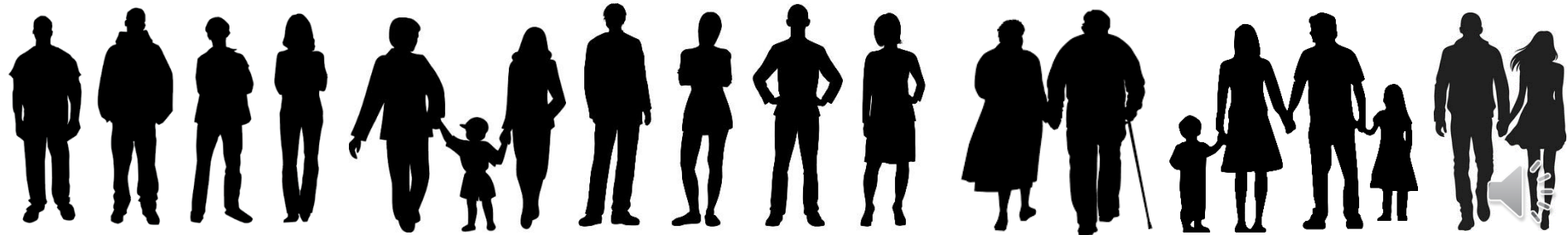


S IS FOR...SCHOOL ACCESS

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

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

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



T IS FOR... TRANSPORTATION

- Consistent transportation routines help ensure a smooth start and end to each school day.
- Kindergarten bus riders board first.
- All kindergarten students have color-coded bus tags with matching animal symbols.
- Staff assist students to the correct arrival and dismissal locations.
- The district will provide bus route and transportation information directly to families.



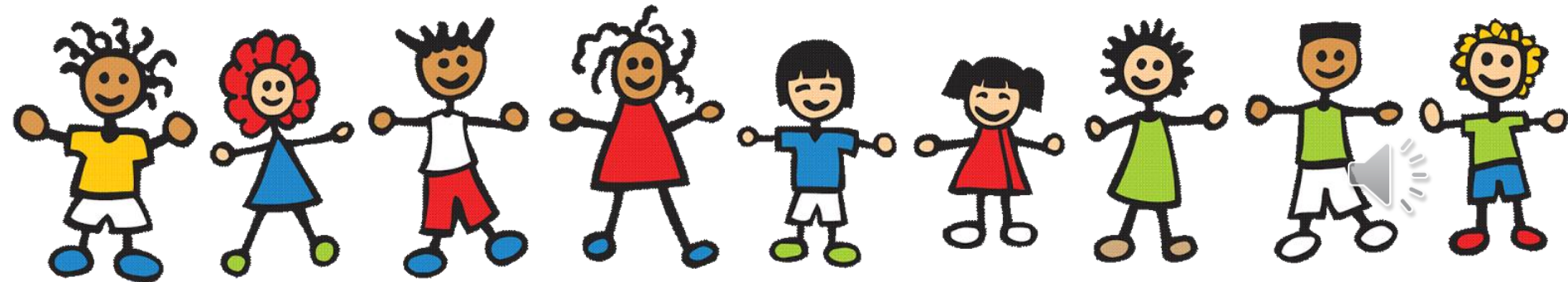
T IS ALSO FOR... TRANSPORTATION CHANGES

- *Transportation changes need to be made on the PikMyKid app.*
- *Transportation changes should be made before 2:00 pm (1:00 pm on Wednesdays).*
- *We cannot accept phone calls for those changes unless it's an emergency.*



U IS FOR...UNIQUE

- All our students learn that 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... VISION STATEMENT

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



W IS FOR... EARLY RELEASE WEDNESDAYS

St. Johns County Schools have early-release
on Wednesdays.

Wards Creek dismisses at 1:45 PM every
Wednesday.

WEDNESDAY

X IS FOR...EXCELLENT YEAR

As partners in your child's
education, we can celebrate an
amazing year!



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

