

Wendell Middle School

OUR SCHOOL MISSION

Our mission is to prepare our students for the future. We will deliver a challenging and interesting instructional program that nurtures every student's need for knowledge and enables learning to become a joyful, lifelong process. Our educational team is charged with fulfilling this mission and looks forward to working with parents during the school year to accomplish the exciting tasks before us. We will incorporate the arts, technology, healthful living, leadership and character development along with our core curriculum to provide our students with many different experiences. Developing students' skills to their fullest potential and creating the framework for students to enjoy a successful and productive life will take teamwork from parents, teachers, and the community. We urge every parent to become involved with their student's education and with one or more of the many important parent involvement projects that are ongoing during the school year.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Main Office	365-1667
FAX	365-1686
Attendance	365-1670
Cafeteria	365-1680
Counselor	365-1585

STUDENT SCHOOL HOURS

School hours are from 7:30 AM to 2:15 PM. Students should be in their classes prior to the 7:30 bell or they are tardy. Students who eat breakfast at school need to arrive in time to do so prior to 7:15 so they have time to eat breakfast and put their things away before the teacher starts instruction at 7:30. Please schedule appointments for doctors and dentists outside of the instructional school day. When students miss parts of instructional units, their learning is disrupted.

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

An after school program will be offered for students starting at 2:15 and will close at 6:00 pm. The cost for the program is \$206.25 and a one time \$15.00 registration fee. We must have 25 students to run the program. The program will offer snacks, homework help, and activities suitable for middle school students.

PERMISSION TO LEAVE SCHOOL

We must minimize interruptions to the instructional day. Students who are habitually checked out of school early will be referred to the counselor or principal. Our instructional time is valuable and students need to be in school learning. With the North Carolina ABC Accountability Plan and the Federal No Child Left Behind legislation, students are held accountable for a year's growth. Students who are not in the classrooms learning are not fully participating in the curriculum.

RULES FOR SCHOOL BEHAVIOR

At **WMS** we believe in respecting ourselves, one another, property, and our environment. Based on these beliefs we agree that:

- **Students should be taught to be responsible for their own behavior.**

Our goal is to help students become responsible for the behavior they choose. If a student chooses a behavior that is inappropriate or interferes with the learning environment of others, the teacher will work with the student to make a better choice the next time.

- **Students should be taught to problem solve and resolve conflicts with words.**

Teachers will work with students by talking about and practicing solving common problems that occur in the classroom. If a student is having difficulty sharing materials, the teacher would counsel the student and help the student develop a plan for how to appropriately handle the problem in the future.

- **Our school should be a safe place.**

We expect students to:

- Walk in the halls and on the sidewalks
- Leave gum at home
- Speak politely and use good grammar
- Use good table manners
- Clean up their own messes
- Eat only in designated areas and cafeteria
- Respect the environment and property
- Respect others by keeping hands and feet to themselves
- Respect themselves by being prepared to learn and doing their best

- **Students should be taught to fix mistakes.**

We all make mistakes. That is how we learn. When students make mistakes, they will be given the opportunity to fix the mistake or make things right. Restitution is the act of repairing the damage done. Being able to make things right or to retribute gives students the chance to learn from the mistake and forgive themselves as well as be forgiven for their mistake. This helps teach students responsibility for their behavior and helps them learn better ways for the future.

- **Students should be taught self-discipline.**

The goal of self-discipline is to have the student make choices that are good for themselves and the class or the family. We will spend time talking with students about good and bad choices. Students will be given opportunities to “practice” what they would say and do when put in a situation where they have to make a choice that might affect their safety or well-being.

- **Students should be taught to self-evaluate.**

Self-evaluation is the key to becoming the best person that we can. We all have a picture of the kind of person we would like to be. Through honest self-evaluation, we can work towards becoming that person. Students will be asked to help evaluate their own work and behavior. We all have areas we can improve. Self-evaluation is one of the tools we will teach students so they can work to become the best that they can be.

Students are responsible for their own behavior. As part of our Character Education curriculum, we will work with students to plan better ways for getting what they want rather than choosing inappropriate actions. We will talk about what happened and help develop skills that will assist them in getting what they want using appropriate behaviors. Helping students develop problem-solving skills will promote self-discipline and successful relationships.

- **Parents and the school will work together to provide success for the student.**

In order for your student to be successful a strong working relationship between the school and the home is vital. Parents and teachers will work together to share concerns and solve problems to promote a successful school year for your student.

Corporal punishment will not be used. Students who cannot change their behavior to conform to the expectations of the Wake County School System and our school will not be allowed to participate in classroom experiences. The code of conduct in the Wake County handbook will give specific information about the countywide expectations for student behavior.

We will not tolerate:

- **Assault on another student or adult**
- **Threats of violence**
- **Stealing**
- **Direct defiance of an adult**
- **Cursing or profanity**
- **Drugs, alcohol, weapons**

Please refer to the Wake County Handbook for specific consequences for the above infractions.

WEAPONS AND DANGEROUS INSTRUMENTS

Wake County policy prohibits weapons or facsimiles of weapons on school property, school buses, or at the bus stop. In addition, toys, video games, electronic games, music players, etc. are not needed at school. These objects should be kept at home. Help us by checking your student's book bag to make sure that the contents are appropriate for school. Students may have phones at school as long as they are kept out of sight and kept turned off during the instructional day. The school will not assume responsibility for lost or stolen items.

HOMEWORK

Homework serves three purposes:

- To reinforce and practice skills being taught in the classroom
- To provide opportunities for parents to be aware of skills being taught in school.
- To help students develop a sense of responsibility.

COMMUNICATION BETWEEN HOME AND SCHOOL

Each family can expect to receive:

- **Parent/Student Handbook included in the agenda**
- **Wake County Parent Student Handbook**
- **Connections for School Success**
- **Newsletters and school messenger phone messages from the Principal**
- **Frequent communication from the teacher**
- **Current information on our webpage at <http://wendellms.wcpss.net>**
- **Two parent/student/teacher conferences**

Classroom teachers will ask you to meet with them at least two times during the year. Parents may also initiate additional conferences where there is a need. To schedule a conference you may call the school office or send a note to school by the student. **We ask**

that parents not arrive unannounced immediately before, during or after school and expect to conference with teachers. You may be disappointed. Our teachers are very busy with planning, supervising students, and with other duties during these times. Conferences are most beneficial when they are scheduled and teachers have sufficient time to prepare for them. Conferences are excellent times to discuss strategies for working together for the benefit of your student.

ATTENDANCE

Please read the WCPSS attendance policy located on the Internet at www.wcpss.net policy number 6000 or in the WCPSS student handbook. Daily attendance is required. We cannot excuse beach trips, ski trips, and other types of family vacations planned for relaxation and enjoyment. While these activities provide wonderful experiences for youngsters, they also interfere with the instructional program planned for your student here at school. Please refer to the school calendar to plan vacations. North Carolina State law requires that a student who is absent from school for any reason must bring a note from home upon his return to school. This note should specifically state the reason for the student's absence. Absences are coded as unexcused if parents fail to send notes. Students should be checked in and out of school through the main office.

CAFETERIA*

Accounts may be established in the cafeteria and we highly recommend that parents establish an account for their student rather than send cash each day. The cafeteria operates a computerized payment system and each student is assigned a lunch number and an account. Cafeteria accounts help prevent lost money on the bus or at school and help the lunch line move more efficiently. Make checks payable to Wendell Middle School Cafeteria. **Please write the student's name and lunch number at the bottom of the check.** Payment can also be made on line at the Wake County Public School System's website. There will be no lunch loan program. **Students who do not bring lunch money will be served fruits, vegetables and water.**

Parents are welcome to join their students for lunch on any school day and there is no need to make advance reservations. The cafeteria offers a nutritious breakfast and lunch. Milk may be purchased for students who bring their lunch. Students who qualify, are served breakfast and lunch at reduced rates or free of charge. Applications for this service are available from the school office.

Meal prices:

Breakfast	Daily	Weekly	Monthly
Full price	1.00	5.00	20.00
Reduced	.30	1.50	6.00
Adult	A-la-carte		
Lunch:	Daily	Weekly	Monthly
Full price	2.00	10.00	40.00
Reduced	.40	2.00	8.00
Adult	A-la-carte		
Milk	.50		

ACCOUNTABILITY

The state of North Carolina and the federal government have established guidelines to measure student performance and learning. These are called the ABC Plan and No

Student Left Behind. Students are evaluated at the beginning of the school year and are expected to obtain at least a year's growth by the end of the school year when they are evaluated again. We believe strongly in the value of education and our responsibility is to see that every student receives a good education at Wendell Middle. We are committed to ensuring that each student learns how to learn, how to access information, how to use technology, how to work cooperatively and solve problems and to develop good character traits.

NORTH CAROLINA ACCOUNTABILITY STANDARDS

The legislature has mandated standards for students to move from one grade to the next. Students must have met grade level competencies to move to the next grade. Students at grades 3-8 must score at least Level III on EOG tests in reading and math and meet local promotion standards to be promoted to the next grade. Students take the state Writing test in seventh grade and computer competency skills in eighth grade.

It is critical that the school and home work together to provide support for our student. Parents can help by ensuring that students arrive at school on time with necessary materials and a good night's rest. Providing a routine time to complete homework, a quiet place and checking to make sure that it is completed and returned to school is another home responsibility. Keep in close contact with your student's teacher, read the information sent home from the class and school. Contact the teacher when you have concerns. With a support network that includes positive home and school communication and high student success can be achieved.

LOST AND FOUND

Parents/students are encouraged to put name labels or write the student's name on all items that come to school. This includes book bags, coats, lunch boxes, cell phones. This allows us to return lost items to their owners. Please do not allow students to bring extra money or valuable items to school. The school cannot assume responsibility for the security of such items.

STUDENT DRESS

The Wendell Middle School dress code requires that students should be comfortably dressed with tummies covered and pants that do not sag. Sleeveless shirts should have 3 fingers width on the shoulder. Shorts should be long enough that when hands are placed at their sides, fingertips touch shorts, not bare thighs. Students go outside for recess each day, weather permitting so they need shoes that allow them to play safely. We will alert you if there is a need for your student to "dress up" such as on picture day. **Cleats are not allowed.** They are dangerous and they scar the floors. **Shoes with built-in skates are not allowed.** They are not safe. Students should wear shoes and socks that protect their feet and are comfortable for running and physical exercise. We do not allow students to wear hats, scarves, doo-rags, and bandanas, or colored hair. Parents should monitor T-shirt pictures, written messages, or intended messages. Boys' shirt tails should be tucked into their pants.

MEDICAL MATTERS

When students become sick during the school day or are hurt in an accident, parents will be called. We need to have accurate directory information at all times. Please keep your

student's teacher and the school office informed of any changes that occur in addresses, phone numbers (work and home), and emergency contact persons.

If your student has a special health problem or condition that the school needs to be aware of and prepared to handle, it will be the parent's responsibility to provide written documentation of this need.

If your student needs to take medication during the school day, school policy procedures must be followed. Please take time to read the paragraph entitled **ADMINISTERING MEDICATION** in the Wake County parent and student publication. **All medication given at school will be kept and given out in the student's classroom by school personnel and will require a doctor's authorization form. No medications will be given without the doctor's form. The school does not have a nurse on site.** The nurse visits schools on an as needed basis and checks in on his/her scheduled time.

PTA MEETINGS

The PTA holds general meetings four (4) times per year. All parents are invited and encouraged to attend these meetings. Becoming a member of the PTA is one way to show support for the school and show that education is important in your life and the life of your student. We expect 100% participation from our parents on the PTA.

TELEPHONE

Plans for afternoon visits and other social engagements by students should be made at home. The school telephones must be reserved for business and emergency use only. In addition, parents are asked to clarify afternoon transportation plans with their students prior to beginning the school day. Please do not call the school at the end of the day with transportation changes as students may not get the message prior to dismissal.

LEGAL DISCLAIMER

All students are responsible for complying with and are expected to be familiar with the WCPSS Code of Student Conduct and school board policies governing student behavior and conduct. All Code of Student Conduct policies are contained in the WCPSS Student/Parent Handbook, which is distributed to all students and parents at the beginning of each school year or upon enrollment in the WCPSS. If there is a conflict between the rules expressed in this handbook/agenda/planner and the Code of Student Conduct policies, the WCPSS Code of Student Conduct policies shall take precedence.

Todos los estudiantes son responsables de cumplir con y familiarizarse con el Código de Conducta Estudiantil de WCPSS y las políticas de la Junta de Educación que gobiernan el comportamiento y la conducta de estudiantes. Todas las políticas del Código de Conducta Estudiantil se encuentran en el manual de WCPSS de Estudiantes/Padres, el cual se distribuye a todos los padres y estudiantes al principio de cada año escolar o al matricularse en el WCPSS. Si hay un conflicto entre las reglas expresadas en este manual de Estudiantes/Padres y el manual/agenda/planificador de la escuela de su hijo(a) las reglas expresadas en este manual deben tomar prioridad.

*** All fees and prices are subject to change based on revisions to School Board Policy after the printing of this document.**