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# West Point Middle School

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New Student Orientation

14 August 2009

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# Agenda- Schedule Session

- Welcome!
  - About WPMS
  - Must-knows for Parents
  - Calendar, SY 2009-2010
  - Block and Bell Schedules
  - Exploratory Classes
  - Seminar
  - Lunch, Lockers, and other Logistics
  - Questions?
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# Welcome!

- Thank you for taking the time to learn about our school! Parent interest and support make our school an ideal learning environment for our students.
- This thirty-minute information session will be followed by a short, voluntary tour.
- Self-guided tours with maps are encouraged, but please allow teachers to complete their last-minute preparations.

# About WPMS

- Built in 1934 (School on WP since 1821)
- National Blue Ribbon School 1997-1998
- Part of the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA)
  - Chain of Command:
    - Principal, West Point Middle School
    - District Superintendent, Mr. Michael A. Gould (Quantico, VA)
    - Acting DDESS Director, Dr. Bruce Jeter (Peachtree City, GA)
    - DoDEA Director, Dr. Shirley A. Miles (Alexandria, VA)

# About WPMS (cont'd)

- DoDEA students take *TerraNova, Third Edition*, norm-referenced standardized test
- 50<sup>th</sup> percentile represents national average

	Reading	Lang Arts	Math	Science	SS
Grade 5	74	71	65	75	73
Grade 6	83	86	81	93	88
Grade 7	74	80	79	73	83
Grade 8	85	89	82	86	88

# Must-knows for Parents

- Newsletters sent by email on school web site only (saving trees and money)- please provide office with current email address!
- Teachers meet as grade-level teams during conference days and upon request.
- Parents must sign students in and out- no drop-offs or walk-homes! Absence notes required upon return.
- Immunizations requirements strictly enforced- disenrollment will result for noncompliance.

# Must-Know for Parents (cont'd)

- Weather delays and closures- telephonic notification by One Call Now, local radio, USMA web site
  - Decision made after consulting with USMA
  - Only two days allowed- must be made up after 2
- No POV's in bus loop at any time- closely monitored, tickets issued
- School Resource Officer on site all day- Officer Kris

# Must-knows for Parents (cont'd)

- Gradespeed- online access to grades and attendance information
  - Set up an account- must bring form to office to verify identity
  - Teachers have five work days to post grades
  - Most also communicate upcoming tasks in GS
- School Web Site
  - Course outlines, calendars, newsletter, just about everything else is posted there

# 2009-2010 Calendar

- First day- tomorrow!
- Open House- 26 August at 1630- 1800 hours
- Last day- 4 June 2010
- Created using cadet calendar
- Hard copies available in the office
- Soft copy is on the school web site
- Calendar changes announced using newsletter, channel 23, and “Pointer View”

# Block Schedule

A two-day rotation

## GOLD DAY

- Period 1
- Period 2
- Period 3
- Period 4

## BLACK DAY

- Period 5
- Period 6
- Period 7
- Period 8 (Seminar)

# 2009-2010 Bell Schedule

BELL	PURPOSE
7:45	First Bell
7:50	Begin Period 1, 5
9:12	End Period 1, 5
9:16	Begin Period 2, 6
10:38	End Period 2, 6
10:42	Begin Lunch (Grades 7 & 8) and Pd 3, 7 (Grades 5 & 6)
11:18	End Lunch (Grades 7 & 8)
11:22	Begin Period 3, 7 (Grades 7 & 8)
12:04	End Period 3, 7 & Begin Lunch (Grades 5 & 6)
12:44	End Lunch (Grades 5 & 6) and Period 3, 7 (Grades 7 & 8)
12:47	Begin Period 4, Seminar
2:09	End Period 4, Seminar
2:15	Buses Depart

# Required & Elective Classes

- Grades 5 & 6: English, Math, Science, Social Studies, and Reading
- Grades 7 & 8: English, Math (8<sup>th</sup> may take Algebra 1), Science, and Social Studies
- Every student has opportunity to take 18 weeks of PE
- Students in grades 7 & 8 may take Spanish
- Band available at all grades; Chorus & Guitar 1 offered at grades 7 & 8

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# Quarter-long (9-Week) Wheel Classes

- 9-week exploratory classes provide students with four different exploratory classes during the SY for grades 5 and 6 (Art, Drama, Research Project, Study Skills)
  - Wellness wheel combines two 9 weeks of PE with one 9-week of Health and one 9-week of Video Production (grades 5/6) or Pathways to Careers (grades 7/8)
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# Semester-long (18 Week) and Other Elective Classes

- Semester-long classes for students in grades 7 & 8
  - Art, Drama, Video Productions, Guitar
- Other Electives
  - Yearbook (grades 7 & 8); AVID (grades 7 & 8); ESL (eligible students in grades 5-8); Reading Lab (eligible students in grades 5-8); Special Education classes (eligible students in grades 5-8)

# Seminar Overview

- Every student has Seminar period 8
- Focused on academic support and enrichment
- Provides additional time to complete essential learning tasks
- When assemblies will be held, including monthly enrichment presentations by community members-  
volunteers needed!
- Character Counts, DARE (grades 5 & 7), and other affective activities
- Includes silent reading time and library rotation

# Seminar Expectations- Students

## Students will

- Actively engage in the following learning tasks, listed in order of priority:
    1. Individual assistance from a teacher on a recent lesson
    2. Completion of assignments missed due to absence(s)
    3. Completion of quizzes/tests not finished during class
    4. Completion of in-class assignments not finished during class
    5. Completion of late homework assignments
    6. Completion of current homework assignments
    7. Reading for school or leisure
  - Take responsibility for arranging visits to other teachers before Seminar class begins.
  - Fully participate and cooperate throughout all Seminar activities.
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# Seminar Expectations- Teachers

## Teachers will

- Schedule students to visit them during Seminar to engage in the following learning tasks, listed in order of priority:
    1. Individual assistance on a recent lesson
    2. Completion of assignments missed due to absence(s)
    3. Completion of quizzes/tests not finished during class
    4. Completion of in-class assignments not finished during class
    5. Completion of late homework assignments
    6. Completion of current homework assignments
    7. Reading for school or leisure
  - Ensure that students assigned to their Seminar class engage in the tasks listed above.
  - Fully participate and cooperate throughout all Seminar activities.
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# Seminar Schedule

- First 20 Minutes- School-wide silent reading except classes rotating through Information Center
- Next 30 Minutes- Academic support activities listed on previous slides
- Final 30 Minutes- Enrichment activities including GE services, band/chorus practices, self-selection of guest speaker or special-interest opportunities (or additional academic support)

# Lockers

- Will be issued to every student on Tuesday (18 August) during Seminar
  - Students need to bring a lock- standard master lock recommended- that secures locker
  - NO KEY LOCKS- easy to lose a key, hard to lose a combination
  - Interior decorations and accessories allowed
  - Locker access times established by grade-level teacher teams at grades 5 & 6

# Lunch

- Mrs. Georgi Nappo is cafeteria manager
- Free and reduced lunch available to eligible families
- Monthly menu emailed with newsletter and posted on web site
- Food purchasing system with student PIN access, web payments, and low account balance email feature

# Logistics

- Teacher email address format:  
firstname.lastname@am.dodea.edu
- Student-Parent handbook posted on the web site
- Student drop-off and pick-up in designated area only
- Students may not display or use electronic devices including cell phones and MP3 player from 0745- 1409 hours. Please call the office to contact your child during these times.

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# My Door is Always Open to Parents!

- Please call 938-2923 if you would like to discuss anything that arises during the school year
  - My email address is [david.rudy@am.dodea.edu](mailto:david.rudy@am.dodea.edu)
  - Feel free to drop by- just know that I might be in classrooms or meetings. Making an appointment through the office is always your best bet.
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Questions?

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