

Welcome to Washington Middle School



Harrison School District Mission Statement

The Harrison School District serves a multi-cultural pre-K to twelfth grade student population through partnerships with teachers, parents and the community by providing comprehensive educational programs which encourage all students to:

- *Develop to their fullest potential,*
- *Welcome the challenge of higher order thinking as a means of understanding complex issues,*
- *Become well-adjusted, productive and contributing citizens, ready to confront the challenges of an advancing technological society,*
- *Take pride in their community and country,*
- *Show concern for their environment, and*
- *Develop self-esteem and respect for others.*
- *The Harrison School District will be guided by its strategic plan and evaluation process in the delivery of its educational programs.*

WMS Mission Statement

Washington Middle School is a community of learners and educators working together to:

- Foster a challenging learning environment that promotes high expectations for success through developmentally appropriate education that allows for differentiated learning and multiple learning styles.
- Promote a caring, safe, and supportive environment that meets the academic, emotional, social and physical needs of our students.
- Develop creative minds, compassion for others, and the courage to support beliefs.
- Help multicultural learners to strive to become productive citizens that can exceed in the technologically advancing twenty-first century.

Communication



973-483-2285



Student Planner



www.harrisonschools.org

Follow us on Twitter @WMS_Patriots

Attendance

- Students are expected to be in attendance at school each day and on time. Excessive absences or tardiness will be reported to the district administration for legal action.
- In the event of an absence:
- Parents are to call the school between 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. each day a student is to be absent.
- Upon returning to school a student must submit to the main office, a written note from a parent or physician indicating both the reason for, and the dates of, any absence.
- Students will receive an excused absence only for bona fide medical reasons, and only for the period specified by the physician.
- Vacation during the school year will not be considered an excused absence.
 - In accordance with Board of Education policy, students who have accumulated eighteen unexcused absences may be retained.
- Students must be present in school the entire day in order to participate in or attend an extracurricular activity. This includes, but is not limited to, school dances, sports events, and any after school program.
- Students are responsible for making up their missed schoolwork.
- In the event of tardiness, students automatically have detention to be served that same afternoon until 3:30pm or at any other time deemed appropriate by the administration.

Parent Contact Information

- **In the event of an emergency, it is imperative that the school have current telephone numbers to reach parents during the school day.** The handbook contains an emergency form that all parents must complete and return to the school at the beginning of the school year.
- The school office must have updated contact information on file for all students. **If at any time during the school year parents change their address or phone number (home, work or cell), they must notify the main office and the residency office immediately.**
- Under very unusual circumstances a student may request permission to use the office phone. The practice of calling the school to relay messages to students is not allowed except under the most unusual circumstances. In addition, parents should not call students on cell phones during school hours.

Webpage and Social Media

- Our district website is www.harrisonschools.org
- All Washington Middle School information will be listed on the website.
- Follow us on Twitter @WMS_Patriots
- All Washington Middle School staff's email addresses are listed on the website
- Follow grades on Powerschool

Planners

- Each student receives a planner the first week of school.
- Our school handbook can be found in the beginning pages of the planner.
- It is designed for students to record their daily homework.
- Parents are to review and sign their child's planner nightly. If your child is in an after school program, the teacher will sign the planner upon completion of their homework. However, the parents are still required to sign the planner.
- This is an excellent tool for parent-teacher communication.
- If your child loses their planner, there is a \$5 fee to replace it.

State Testing Policy

- Each student is expected to take the PARCC test in the spring. 20% of Cycle 4 Grade.
- Students who Do Not meet expectations are scheduled for Math/LA Intervention Classes.
- Students who meet PARCC expectations are assigned Math/LA Electives.
 - Hands on Math, Art in Math, Intro to Geometry, Personal Finance, History of Math, Consumer Math, Social Issues in Lit, Sports in Literature, Diversity in Literature, Multimedia Composition, Utopian Literature, and Poetry.

Emergency Calls

- Our school district has instituted the school messenger system.
- Families will be notified by phone of any emergency closings, delayed openings, early dismissals, and any other pertinent school information.
- This is why it is imperative to keep phone numbers up to date.



Parent-Teacher Conferences

- Parents are encouraged to contact their child's teachers for any academic or behavioral concerns. Please call the school to schedule an appointment as needed.
- Washington Middle School does have a procedure in place to advise parents of student performance on a regular basis. In addition to report cards, parents of students whose classroom work or behavior is substandard receive deficiency reports mid-quarter to this effect. Teachers can also notify parents by telephone or e-mail.
- It is equally important that parents keep the school informed of any developments which might influence the student's performance at school. Please be assured that we welcome your involvement and that the information you share enables us to better meet the needs of our students.

Breakfast/Lunch Programs

- The Harrison School District sponsors a free and reduced breakfast and lunch program. At the beginning of the school year all parents must complete federal forms pertaining to food services offered through the school district, whether they qualify for this program or not.



Breakfast

- Students will receive breakfast during their homeroom period every morning. **Special Honor Roll Breakfasts each cycle**

Lunch

- Students will not be allowed to leave the building at any time during the school day. Therefore, students must have lunch at school:
- Students may bring a bagged lunch to be kept in their lockers. NO deliveries are allowed!
- They may purchase lunch through the program offered at the school.
- Qualified students may benefit from the district's free and reduced lunch program.
- **At no time are students allowed to take food outside the lunchroom.**

Field Trips

- Field trips for educational outings are scheduled periodically by staff. All field trips require expressed consent by a parent in the form of a signed permission slip. Trips are a privilege that can be removed for infraction of our school rules.
- If a student is not going on a scheduled school field trip for any reason that student must still report to school for the day.



School Dances

- School dances run from 7:00-9:00 p.m.
- No one is admitted after 7:30 without specific permission.
- No Student will be admitted without School ID.
- No student will be allowed to leave before 9:00 unless picked up by a parent.
- If a child is absent from school, they are not allowed to attend the dance that evening.

After School Programs

Family Friendly

- Washington Middle School sponsors an after-school program which combines academic reinforcement with recreational activities.

Chip

- Washington Middle School sponsors an after-school program for students with special needs which combines academic reinforcement with recreational activities.

Enrollment in these programs is subject to specific criteria due to state funding. These programs require a commitment to stay until 5:15 in the evening.

Extracurricular Activities

- There will be a number of after school activities offered at Washington Middle School. (i.e.: Art Club, Drama Club, Chorus, Band, Yearbook, Photography Club, Dance, Chess, Newspaper, Sportsblog, Scholars Club, Debate, Entrepreneurs Club, Environmental Club, Student Council, Basketball, Soccer, Baseball, Softball, Swimming and Volleyball)
- Parents must sign permission slips and Physical must be completed for all sports must.
- Students are responsible for making a commitment to whatever club(s) they join.

Medical Concerns

- If a student is ill before coming to school, parents are requested to keep the child at home. If a child is injured or becomes ill during the school day, the student should ask the teacher for permission to see the school nurse. If the nurse decides that a student should go home, proper arrangements will be made to release the student to an authorized adult. Students **MUST NOT** call or text from their cell phones to be picked up at school they **MUST** be seen by the nurse!!!!
- Students who have to be excused early from school for medical appointments must present a written request to the office from a parent prior to the scheduled time. Students must be signed out of school by an authorized adult. No child will be permitted to leave school during the school day without the legal parent or guardian.

The following guidelines are set forth by the State of New Jersey regulating the administration of medications in school:

- All medications must be prescribed by a physician. Parents must provide written orders from a doctor stating the reason for the medication, dosage, time of administration, and duration of medication administration.
- The parent or guardian must also provide a **written request** for the medication to be administered.
- The medication must be brought to school in its original container, appropriately labeled by the pharmacy or physician. The labeled container is to be kept in school and secured in the nurse's office with enough medication for the week. Most pharmacies will provide an additional labeled container for school purposes.
- The school nurse or her designee will administer the medication in school and/or on a school trip.
- Students are **not to bring over-the-counter medications to school**, nor can they be administered by school staff unless, so designated.

Code of Conduct

- Please be advised that the Harrison Public Schools has a Board of Education approved Code of Conduct. This policy specifies what is appropriate in school and during school-sponsored activities. You may review this document on the district website: <http://www.harrisonschools.org> or obtain a copy in our main office.

Deficiencies

- Deficiencies are emailed out mid-quarter.
- Report cards are emailed to parents at the end of each cycle.
- If the teacher requests a parent conference, please call the office for an appointment.

Homework Policy

- School work includes homework. Students are to write daily homework assignments in the planner which is provided free of charge by the school at the beginning of each school year.
- Completed homework is to be neat and legible, and must be submitted on time. In the event of absence, it is the student's responsibility to complete all missed assignments.

Dress Code

- The Harrison Public Schools have adopted a student dress code which is intended to promote self-discipline and avoid distractions during the school day. The full version of the dress code is available through the school office. A condensed version follows:
- The shirt must be navy blue with three buttons and collar.
- The shirt must be embroidered with the school's name, Washington Middle School, in block letters.
- All pants, shorts, skirts, or skorts must be made of a khaki fabric. **Stretch, fleece, corduroy, and sweat materials are not allowed.**

- All clothing must fit properly. Excessively tight or baggy clothes will not be allowed.
- School IDs and lanyards must be worn at all times, **May effect Lunch choices!**
- Please note that only low-heeled shoes or sneakers are to be worn with the school uniform. Flip flops, sandals, slippers, platform shoes, or the like are not allowed. Students will be held responsible for their attire. Violations of the dress code will not be tolerated.
- In cooler weather students may wear a white, navy, black, or gray long sleeve shirt under their uniform shirt which must be tucked into their pants. No hoods are permitted. **NOTHING may be worn OVER their uniform shirt!**
- Shorts may be worn to school from May 1st of the current school year to October 15th.
- **In all cases of questionable attire, the Principal's decision will rule.**

Student Responsibilities

- No cell phones/devices
- No gum
- No uniform violations
- No tardiness
- No destruction of school property
- **NO EXCUSES!!!**



We are not responsible for loss or theft if these items are brought to school. Students must bring a lock for PE Classes!

Our Goals

- To welcome our new sixth graders and make them feel as comfortable as possible at WMS.
- To lessen the anxiety of:
 - New Schedule
 - Changing classes
 - Lockers
 - Combination Locks
 - The pool
 - New building
 - Being “youngsters” again

- To encourage them to participate in school activities
- To continue character building. **Students learn from failure and consequences. Its OK.**
- To challenge them to be the best they can be
- To increase parent involvement while decreasing parent rescue.
- To make their 3 years at Washington Middle School a positive, fun, enriching, maturing experience.

Enjoy your summer!!!



...check your summer reading assignments!!!

