Kenneth Gardner News

September 2026

News from the Principal

Keyanna C. Hampton, Principal

Thought to Ponder:

"A child's success becomes more powerful when the people at home and the people at school are moving in the same direction!" There is enough division and separation in the world. The one place where students should be able to see and feel the unity is between their educators and their families. We all have one common goal and that is to ensure our students are successful beyond their years as an elementary student. "There is POWER in WE!"



Discipline vs Instruction:

The teachers and staff of KGLA have a charge to ensure that every student is provided high quality instruction and opportunities to explore learning beyond our four walls. Academics and students' mental, social, and physical health are essential. We have to provide and promote a safe space for all learners. This means that classroom disruptions will never be tolerated because frequent classroom disruptions minimizes true instructional time and interrupts the social and emotional safety and well being of others. Please speak with your students about making good choices.

Childhood Cancer Awareness Month: "OPERATION MELACHI SEPTEMBER"

Childhood cancer is rarely ever mentioned until it hits close to home. Melachi is a 5th grade student at KGLA, and unfortunately, he has recently been diagnosed with a childhood cancer. September is childhood cancer awareness month, but we are going to coin it "Operation Melachi's September." During this month, we will host a donation drive for Melachi and his family, to support treatments and travel, medical support leaders will sponsor informational sessions for parents and students, and our school community will host a support rally to cheer Melachi on through the journey. We welcome all support and willing hands to ensure this is a "Melachi September" to remember.



Things to Note:

As we welcome in a new school year, we wanted to provide a few notes for all families to remember:

- ◊ *Birthday parties are not permitted in the classroom. We do allow store bought/ordered items such as cupcakes, juices, chips, candy, cookies during scholars' lunch block. No items will be allowed in the classroom at all.*
- ◊ *All medications must be submitted to the school nurse. No scholar is permitted to carry or administer their own medication on campus.*
- ◊ *Grades will be entered into Power School weekly.*
- ◊ *Our PTA community is looking for willing volunteers to come serve.*

Dates to Remember

09/01– "OPERATION MELACHI SEPTEMBER" begins

09/01– 1st Nine Weeks Interim Reports go home

09/04– JAG Dads Celebration—7:45 a.m.

09/07– No School/ Labor Day

09/08- "Go Gold for Melachi" Day– everybody wear gold

09/09- Early Release Day/ Staff Professional Dev

09/11– Grandparents Day– 9:00 a.m.

09/18– KGLA Beta Club Induction– 9:00 a.m.

09/18– PBIS Glow Party/ JAG Store

09/23– Early Release Day/Staff Professional Dev

09/24– Parent Academy– 5:00 p.m.

09/28– 30– WCSD Fall Benchmarks

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Important Notice: Grading and Assessment Retake Procedures

To support academic growth and mastery of standards, the Williamsburg County School District (WCSD) will provide middle and high school students with structured opportunities to recover grades on major assignments and assessments.

SC ACT 204 OF 2026(H.5073) PUBLIC SCHOOL GRADING PRACTICES

- Students in grades 2–12 will be allowed up to **two (2) redo/retake opportunities per semester** for major assignments or assessments.
- Students are eligible for a redo/retake opportunity when they earn a **59 or below** on a major assignment or assessment.
- Each redo/retake opportunity must be completed:
  - before the next major assignment/assessment is administered, or
  - no later than **five (5) school days before the end of the marking period** if no additional major assignment/assessment is scheduled.
  - Exceptions may be made for students with documented excused absences during the recovery window.
  - Students may earn a replacement grade of up to a **maximum of 79** on a recovered assignment or assessment.
  - Or Students may earn the average of the two grades, the lower grade and the higher grade.
  - Teachers may require students to complete additional practice, tutoring, corrections, conferencing, or intervention activities prior to the redo/retake opportunity.
  - Redo/retake opportunities are designed to encourage responsibility, perseverance, and mastery of academic content while maintaining high expectations for student performance.
  - **How does this work:**
  - A parent/guardian/teacher/scholar may initiate a retake.
  - A retake must be requested by contacting the teacher within 5 days of receiving the original grade.
  - Reteaching must take place before the retake is administered.
  - Prior to retake, the original assessment will be reviewed to identify misconceptions and errors.
  - The highest score that may be earned on a retake is 79.
  - The original assessment and retake assessment scores will be averaged. The retake score will be recorded if it is higher. If not higher, the original score will remain.

PARENTS CAN REACH OUT AND REQUEST A RETAKE. STUDENTS CAN REQUEST A RETAKE!

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