



The Paw Print



WMES is "PAWS"-itively the Best!

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2022 SCHOOL REPORT CARD RATING—AVERAGE

OCTOBER 2023



Dear WMES Family-

It is hard to believe the first quarter is coming to an end, and Fall is here! Fall means time will be changing soon, and that means shorter daylight hours. We want to make sure our students are safe boarding the bus in the morning, so please make sure there is adult supervision at the bus stop. The weather will be getting cooler this month, so please make sure your child is dressed appropriately. We are also asking that you label your child's coat or jacket. We do not have a Lost and Found, so we want to make sure coats and jackets are returned to their rightful owner.

October is a very busy month! The Gifted and Talented Referral Window will open this month, so please check our website for the dates. Forms will be available in the front office and on our school's website. Our second graders will be taking the CoGAT October 10th-12th and ITBS October 17th & 18th, and information is in the lower right corner of this page. We will also celebrate Red Ribbon Week October 23rd-27th (information is on the back). Please make sure you check out the Calendar of Events on the back page and our marquee in the front of the school for events happening in October.

We are also sending with this month's newsletter an Attendance Fact Sheet. Attendance letters will also be sent home this month. If you have any questions concerning chronic absenteeism or truancy, please either contact the front office, your child's guidance counselor, or an administrator.

Thank you for your continued support and positivity as we strive to do what is best for all of our students! We hope to see you at our Literacy Night that will be held Thursday, October 19, 2023. Our Scholastic Book Fair will also kick off that night!

Ruth Mims

Our Mission Statement

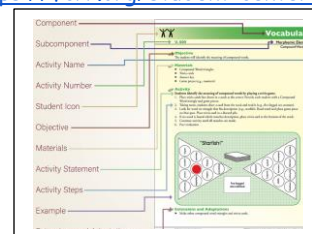
The children, parents, and staff of Williams Memorial Elementary School are unified in their purpose of accelerating the learning of all students through shared decision-making and powerful learning experiences.



From Our Literacy Coach

On September 21st, you received your child's first interim report. Included was their first i-Ready report. In this report, your students' areas of strength and weakness were stated, and you were given suggestions to support their learning. The six areas addressed were Phonological Awareness, Phonics, High Frequency Words, Vocabulary, Comprehension in Literature and Comprehension in Informational Text. A great resource to utilize for free and easy to follow mini-lessons and activities to support your students' learning can be found at the Florida Center for Reading

Research: <https://fcrr.org/student-center-activities>.



2nd GRADE

All second graders in South Carolina will take the CogAT and ITBS Test October 10-12 (CogAT) and October 17-18 (ITBS). It is very important for our students to be at school on these dates. Here are some tips to help you do your best on these tests:

****Come to school on time each day of testing.**

****Make sure your brain is alert by getting a good night's sleep each night before and by eating a healthy breakfast each morning of testing.**

(Breakfast is served at school between 7:00 and 7:40 A.M.)

****Above all else, believe in your abilities. You can do your best on all tests, because...**

YOU are "PAWS-ITIVELY" the BEST!



Dates to Remember in October

October 2—Stomp Out Bullying Day (Wear Blue)
 *October 2-6—Anti-Bullying Spirit Week
 October 2—National Custodians' Day
 October 6—Early Release @ 12:35 P.M.
 October 9-13—Fire Safety Week
 October 10—School Picture Day
 October 10-12—CoGAT Testing (2nd Grade)
 October 16-20—Parent/Teacher Conferences
 October 17—DD4 Board Meeting @ 6:00 P.M. (WHS)
 October 17 & 18—ITBS Testing (2nd Grade)
 October 19—Great Shakeout (Earthquake Drill)
 October 19—End of 1st Quarter
 October 19—Literacy Night & Scholastic Book Fair 5-6:30 P.M.
 October 20—Teacher Work Day (No Students)
 October 23-27—Scholastic Book Fair
 October 25—1st Quarter Report Cards Home
 October 26—Virtual 1st Quarter Academic Celebrations
 October 26—SIC Meeting @ 4:30 P.M. in Media Center
 October 23-27—Red Ribbon Week (See Below for Days)
 October 30—Virtual Character Kids Celebration (Integrity) @ 8:00 A.M.
 October 31—Trunk or Treat



**Red
Ribbon
Week**



October 23—Wear PJ Pants (Dreams can take you places, drugs can't)
October 24—Wear Neon Colors (Always be the spark & never in the dark)
October 25—Wear Red (Put drugs on red alert)
October 26—Wear mismatched clothes (Drugs are a fashion disaster)
October 27—Wear Our School Colors (YOU are "Paws-i-tively" the BEST)

Our Vision Statement

The vision of Williams Memorial Elementary School is to create a community of academic excellence for our students by establishing high expectations and academic rigor, providing effective and innovative educational practices in a safe and supportive environment, and helping our students develop world-class skills and to graduate with a 21st Century education and to be globally competitive in their chosen career path.



The Book Fair, which will take place in the gym **Monday October 23rd–Friday October 27th**.

- Williams Memorial's Book Fair website is <https://bookfairs.scholastic.com/bf/williamsmemorial>.
- Our Book Fair offers a cash-free payment option called **eWallet**. It's a convenient digital account that allows you to use your credit card for your child to shop at our Fair. Grandparents, friends, and others can contribute, too! **Students do not receive change from e-wallet**. The leftover money will be kept until the next Book Fair.
- Please remember when you send money on the day your child goes to the Book Fair, 7% tax is collected.
- Check your child's Homework Folder the week of October 23rd–October 27th to find your child's Wish List, the Book Fair flyer, and more about the eWallet.
- You can shop online at our school's Virtual Book Fair. All orders ship directly to your home, and shipping is free for book orders over \$25. Your online orders will also benefit our school. The Online Book Fair is open from Thursday, October 19th–Friday, October 27th. The website is <https://www.scholastic.com/bf/williamsmemorial>
- If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Ms. Stephenson at lstephenson@dd4.k12.sc.us.

The Book Fair will be open during our Literacy Night that will be held **Thursday, October 19th**.

We Hope to See YOU There!



**Make Kindness
Count...Stomp Out Bullying!!!
Anti-Bullying Spirit Week—
October 2-6**

Williams Memorial Elementary will recognize Blue Shirt Monday, October 2, 2023. Stand up for kindness and against bullying by wearing our favorite blue shirt. Let's turn WMES blue on October 2nd!

Support kindness by wearing a blue shirt!

Dorchester District 4 Attendance Policy at a Glance

Parents/guardians have the responsibility to ensure that all school-aged children in their care are in school and on time every day. Unlawful/unexcused absences, tardies, and sign-outs may result in school-based and District-level interventions.

ABSENCES

The front office staff cannot excuse absences without a written excuse. Excuses for absences can be sent by fax or e-mailed. Text messages and phone calls will not be accepted. Please submit a handwritten and signed parent or medical excuse within three (3) days of return from an absence. Notes must include **student's name, date of absence(s), reason for absence(s) and a parent/guardian signature**. If needed, parents may e-mail the child's teacher to let him/her know the child will be out, although teachers cannot excuse absences.

*Automated absence calls are sent by the District Office, not the school, to parents regardless of the reason.

The following are considered **EXCUSED ABSENCES**:

- Student illness/medical appointment—Parent Note or Medical Note is Permissible
A MEDICAL NOTE IS REQUIRED AFTER A TOTAL OF TEN (10) ABSENCES
- Religious Holiday
- Death in the Student's Immediate Family

The following are considered **UNEXCUSED ABSENCES**:

- Vacations/Family Trips
- Weddings
- Family in Town for Visits
- Trips scheduled during Designated Make-up Days on the DD4 Calendar

TRUANCY

A student is considered truant when he or she is between 6 and 17 years old, and has accumulated **three consecutive unexcused** absences or **a total of five unexcused absences**. Truancy intervention meetings will be scheduled for parents of students who fall into this category.

TARDIES

Students can enter the building starting at 7:10 A.M. A student is considered tardy if they enter the building after 7:45 A.M. Parents are required to walk students who are tardy into the building and to sign them in.

The following are considered **EXCUSED TARDIES**:

- Arrival on a Late Bus
- Doctor or Dentist Appointment Accompanied by a Medical Note
- Observance of a Religious Holiday
- Court Appearance or Activity Accompanied by Court Documentation

The following is a list of some (not all) examples of **UNEXCUSED TARDIES**:

- Oversleeping
- Traffic/Car Trouble
- Missed Bus/Carpool Trouble
- Time Change

EARLY SIGN-OUTS

Sign-outs after 2:00 P.M. are not allowed unless the Principal determines that it is an emergency. Please plan to pick up your child before 2:00 P.M. if he/she has a dental or doctor's appointment. Parents may not opt to sign children out early to avoid traffic, etc.