



***"Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."
Psalm 46:10***

WSCS COMING EVENTS:

November 19-21: 8th Grade Play "Mary Poppins" - **POSTPONED**

November 25-27: No School - Thanksgiving Break

December 1: WSCS #GivingTuesday

December 21 - January 1: Christmas Break

January 4: Classes Resume

TWO WEEKS FROM TODAY (DECEMBER 1) IS #GIVING TUESDAY AT WEST SIDE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL! The focus for this year's fundraiser will be our Transportation Department. As our bus fleet ages and maintenance bills increase, the decision has been made to purchase a newer bus and retire one of our less reliable units. We're working to raise \$75,000 to make this plan a reality. A matching gift program is in the works so stay tuned for all the details.

WSCS CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS are being planned. More details will be shared in the coming weeks.

COVID HEALTH AND SAFETY UPDATES

Students must **stay home** if any of the following items are true:

1. if they are experiencing two or more symptoms (fever, chills, headache, extreme tiredness or fatigue, sore throat, congestion/runny nose, body aches, nausea/vomiting/diarrhea, shortness of breath)
2. if they are experiencing one of the following (new cough or lost of taste or smell).
3. if they or someone in the household is getting *or* waiting on a COVID test result
4. if they have been identified as a close contact to someone who has COVID (per school or health department contact tracing)

This is one way we can care for one another and mitigate the spread in our school community.

CONTACT TRACING UPDATE: With the remarkable increase in new COVID-19 cases in our community, KCHD contact tracers simply cannot keep up. If you are identified as close contacts by school, you might not receive communication from the Kent County Health Department in a timely manner. We will let you know what it means to be in quarantine, and that your child should not return to school for 14 days from the last day of contact, and that you should monitor for symptoms. KCHD is continuing to do contact tracing, with high priority placed on the schools. They do not plan to stop contact tracing because it is an invaluable tool to help control the spread of infection. However, their efforts are bogged down and their workforce is overwhelmed. With the upcoming holidays, the situation is even more complicated. Be assured of KCHD's persistence in this important effort, and join with them by communicating quickly and accurately to those who are impacted by COVID-19 in our school.

COVID-19 WEEKLY DATA UPDATE FOR WSCS

- The number of new confirmed positive cases in our school (These individuals have tested positive for COVID-19 and are in isolation) = 4
- The number of cumulative confirmed positive cases in our school (including current cases) = 8
- The number of students who are in quarantine (These individuals have been in close contact, had exposure within and/or outside of school and/or have tested positive) = 28
- The number of staff members who are in quarantine (These individuals have been in close contact, had exposure within and outside of school and/or have tested positive) = 4

MIDDLE SCHOOL MASK REMINDER: We wanted to take this time to remind you of our mask wearing policy. Per our reopening plan, MDHHS epidemic orders, and recommendations from the CDC and Kent County Health Department, students K-12 are required to wear a face covering. It is important to properly wear your face covering. Gaiters and masks must be worn over the nose and mouth. This has proven as a way to slow the spread. Due to the recent rise in positive cases and the care we have for one another, we ask for your help in following this mandate. If this becomes an issue, families will be notified by school, and if this continues to occur, you will be called to pick up your child. This is for the safety and health of the individual and all of our students and staff and their families.

TRIP

Tuesday TRIP orders for this week are due today by 4 p.m. Emails will be sent out when the orders are ready for pickup.

Additional TRIP reminders:

- There will be no TRIP orders processed during the week of Thanksgiving.
- Start thinking about Christmas now! Order your gift cards ahead of time to guarantee delivery before Christmas!

TECH BYTE

TODDLERS ENGAGE MORE WITH PRINT BOOKS THAN TABLETS: "The print book is really the gold standard in eliciting positive interactions between parents and their children," says Dr. Tiffany Munzer from Yale New Haven Hospital. A recent study found that toddlers engage more with print books than tablets. Find out more about this interesting study [here](#).

PLAYGROUND VOLUNTEERS:

Wed., 11/18	E. Koopmans
Thur., 11/19	M. VanSingel
Fri., 11/20	R. Hendricks, E. O'Neal
Mon., 11/23	E. Geerlings
Tues., 11/24	K. Jasperse

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

PLAYGROUND VOLUNTEERS are needed on Fridays! If you are able to help out, please sign up [here](#).

YEARBOOK COMMITTEE: We have several spots available to help on the yearbook committee. Please consider helping out with this and earn your PTA points! Sign up [here](#).

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

LOYALTY DRIVE UPDATE: We are grateful for the 140 individuals and business organizations who, to date, have positively responded to this year's Loyalty Drive mailer which just went out a couple of weeks ago. We are off to a great start to achieve our goal of 350 participants. If you did not receive your mailer or have questions, please contact Dale Burghgraef at dburghgraef@wschristian.org, Phone 616-453-3925, ext. 109. Your prayers for this important fundraising effort are appreciated!

SCHOOL BOARD / PTA / FOUNDATION NOMINATIONS: As a school we are entering a time where we are seeking nominations to serve on our School Board, PTA Board, and Educational Foundation Board. Find more information regarding nominations [here](#). We thank you for your continued prayers and consideration throughout these nomination processes!

AS AN OUTDOOR EDUCATION SCHOOL and as a way to continue to embrace God's creation and spend time in it, for learning and play purposes, students and staff will be going outside during designated times unless it is downpouring precipitation, thundering or lightning, or below -10 degrees F. Please dress appropriately for the predicted weather.