Greetings Windsor Mill Family! This is the first installment of our school newsletter. In our monthly newsletter you will find important dates, grade-level information and updates on content-specific instruction.

The start of November marks the end of the first quarter of teaching and learning at Windsor Mill! Please make sure you are using the Schoology platform to see your student’s grades and teacher information. Schoology also allows you to communicate directly with your student’s teacher to request a parent/teacher conference. Please encourage your student to submit their missing assignments as soon as possible.

You may hear or see what we call, “The Windsor Mill Difference.” Our learning community (parents, students, staff, and community members) create the conditions for the “difference.” This includes the way we teach, communicate with each other, and how we guide our students. This will ultimately prepare OUR students for the rigor of high school and beyond.

We are #thewindsormilldifference

-Dr.Hobbs
6TH GRADE NEWS

This past month has been a new and exciting time for our 6th graders. They have had the opportunity to enter a new school building in their navy-blue polo shirts, meet new teachers, meet new classmates and reconnect with old ones. They have learned how to walk in our hallways, how to read their schedule, and how to stay safe by practicing our fire and lockdown drills. They have settled in their classes, learning Math, English, Science, and World History as well as our Specials, including Physical Education, Art, Music and Tech Ed. And finally, they have gotten a chance to be social with their classmates, at the beginning of the day, during class changes, during lunch and at the end of the day. It has been a joy to see them working so hard, hearing them laugh, and getting to know each and every one of them. We are so excited to see what next month will bring!

7TH GRADE NEWS

Congratulations to students for completing their Fall MCAP assessments. The 7th grade team is eager to participate in anti bullying week Oct 18 - 23, check the community page or the fliers posted around the school. As the weather gets colder, please keep in mind the uniform policies on jackets. A solid color (black, white or light blue) sweater with no hood. Students may also wear long sleeve shirts of any color under their uniform top. Basketball tryouts begin November 15th. Please turn in all forms in to Mr. Berkowitz before tryouts begin to participate. Listen for announcements about after school clubs to learn about joining.

8TH GRADE NEWS

As the seasons change, please make sure students are wearing appropriate outerwear to school. They can wear red, black, or white crew neck sweaters and sweatshirts that do not have logos or graphics on the front.

After school clubs will be starting next week so if your child is interested in a club make sure they sign up and look for flyers and information in their grade level community group in Schoology and on the announcements.

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

NELSON MANDELA
ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS/READING DEPARTMENT

In ELA students have been focusing on perspective and point of view in a variety of texts. Students are currently engaged in reading comprehension with a focus on determining the main idea and theme. Classes have spent a full class period having an orientation in the library with Ms. Washington choosing books they are interested in. In Reading students have been working on using different Reading Strategies, such as read aloud, predict, visualize, and talking to the text. Students have also been working on their vocabulary skills using digital tools such as Vocabulary.com.

MATH DEPARTMENT

Here at WMMS we have our Math Department whom I refer to as our Superheroes... ONLY a person with Superpowers can teach Math! We have the largest department here at WMMS with a new member to our family..... Mrs. K. Driver. Mrs. Driver teaches 6th grade and Pre-Algebra. We also have Mr. Roane who is by far meeting the challenge of teaching a new curriculum for 8th grade Geometry. Our students are demonstrating a high level of engagement and huge decrease in anxiety/intimidation in studying this course. Great Job 8th grade and Mr. Roane!

Our students across all grade levels have taken the Unit 1 assessments. Mr. Harris, 8th grade and Pre-Algebra teacher stated, “the level of confidence, engagement and focused energy during this time is phenomenal”. We want our students to go above the minimum requirements in Math... we encourage all of our students to become proficient in multiplication facts. Our students “mental math” will improve tremendously.

SPECIAL AREAS DEPARTMENTS

The music and dance department are extremely happy to be able to perform in class this year. While we are still not back to normal, we are getting closer. Look for details for a winter virtual performance that will showcase all of the performing arts. We are hoping for a live performance in the spring.

Students are expected to be taking instruments home to practice. Although dance students do not have to change or purchase anything, students are still encouraged to participate each class period.

In 4 weeks, those students who are currently participating in Physical Education will begin their Health curriculum.

WORLD LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT

The World Language/Language Acquisition Department is off to a running start this year! Intermediate Language students have been making VLOGs explaining their passions and preferences, while Novice students have been discussing their current and past lives and what they enjoy(ed) doing in their free time, ALL IN SPANISH! ¡Qué divertido! Next up is our Mid Unit Challenges, let’s see if our students are up for creating some Smash Doodles, Postcards, and dubbing some famous Spanish Movies!

SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

The 8th grade American History classes just completed the Stamped book study that Windsor Mill is piloting this year. They are now moving into the American Revolution and early government. The 7th grade classes are studying the spread of Islam and its effects on trade and culture. The 6th grade classes are gearing up fo the Unit I test on early man before moving into the early civilization of Mesopotamia.
SCIENCE DEPARTMENT NEWS

6TH GRADE

Ecologist/ inquirers
Our ecologists are working on thinking of saving our native species. They have inquired our school yard to observe all the local species and their importance in the food chain. Students were able to design a model of a closed ecosystem and observe how abiotic and biotic factors are interconnected. Soon we will be designing a biome for our specific species.

Save a species, save the world!

7TH GRADE

Thermal Engineers/ Inquirers
Our thermal engineers are classifying on energy types and forms and how they are used in daily lives. Students are designing solar cookers to conserve thermal energy. Engineers are to design, test, and modify their solar cookers to melt S’more. Engineers are thinking hard to find ways to build the most efficient machine. We wish them all the best!

8TH GRADE

Climate Detectors/ Knowledgeable
Our climate detectives worked hard on researching natural disasters of different kind and their effect on human society. Students created their presentation on how to mitigate before, during, and after a catastrophic natural disaster. Recently students are collecting data on temperature and precipitations to observe climate change. Global climate detectives are trying to find ways to predict weather soon… Our future meteorologists are on their way!
MAGNET/IB MYP NEWS

Windsor Mill Middle School has just launched a new slogan - “What Will I Be Today?”, highlighting the 10 International Baccalaureate Learner Profile Traits. These traits are: risk-taker, balanced, communicator, reflective, thinker, inquirer, communicator, caring, knowledgeable, and open-minded. Teachers in all classrooms will be highlighting one IB Learner Profile trait in each lesson to infuse our learning with the International Baccalaureate framework.

8th Grade: Magnet applications for high school magnet programs are due November 5th at 1pm. Windsor Mill will be hosting a High School Magnet Program Open House on October 27th from 5-6:30pm Details can be found on our school website or by contacting Ms. Magin (amagin@bcps.org).

PBIS NEWS
(POSITIVE BEHAVIOR INTERVENTIONS AND SUPPORTS)

Next month, students will begin receiving points for positive behavior using a program called LiveSchool! Points will be able to be redeemed for rewards such as monthly events.

October 18th - October 22nd, we as a school community will be showing our support for Anti-Bullying week in various ways.

COUNSELING CORNER

6 year plan conferences begin on 10/18 with the Social Studies Department. We are excited to discuss each student's college or career plan.

Please remind students to use the School Counseling Department’s QR code to make appointments with their grade-level school counselor. We have been receiving an influx of students without appointments enter into the School Counseling Office.

Referral form will be sent out very soon for teachers to recommend students for individual and group counseling.

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School Contacts:

Principal: Dr. Rodrick Hobbs
Assistant Principal (6th and 7th-A-J): Ms. Campbell
Assistant Principal (8th and 7th-K-Z): Mrs. Ridley
Dean of Students: Mrs. Benesch

School Counselor (6th and 7th-A-J): Mrs. Taylor
School Counselor (8th and 7th-K-Z): Mrs. Thomas-Aulu
School Nurse: Ms. Cothorne
Magnet Coordinator: Ms. Magin