

Mrs. Stacey Hiltner
Principal

Dr. Christine Samuels
Assistant Principal

Mr. David Early
Assistant Principal



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July 2017

Dear Walkersville Students, Parents, and Guardians,

Welcome Lions to the new 2017 - 2018 school year! It seems like “end of the year events” were just celebrated and now summer is coming to an end! We hope you are as excited as we are to begin the 2018 school year and set our new goals for the upcoming year.

WMS received the P.B.I.S Maryland **GOLD** Recognition Award for the 6th straight year. This is the highest level of achievement for our Positive Behavior Intervention and Support initiative. We are extremely proud of our students and staff for their hard work in keeping this recognition. Our *ROAR* group advisories allow class meetings, team building, and time to facilitate lessons on a variety of topics to ensure our students feel safe at school and confident when experiencing peer and social situations common in middle school. Additionally, WMS is still partnered with John Hopkins for the MDS3 project on maintaining a safe school culture.

Last school year, WMS celebrated many student academic achievements; we look forward to another year where our students will compete and share their talents at the school, county and state levels! While our focus is on learning, we offer many wonderful opportunities to enhance the middle school experience at WMS! Watch for opportunities to become a morning announcer, join the Student Government Association, participate in school performances and plays, or be a member of an academic team or club.

This summer my administrative team, counselors, and staff members have worked diligently to strategically plan for the new school year. I am also working closely with our PTSA Executive Board, feeder schools, and community members on upcoming events. WMS will continue to offer a positive, productive learning environment and differentiated instruction to meet the needs of every student. Our staff welcomes your partnership in education as we work collaboratively to support your child this school year. Our educational program is academically challenging and engaging; encouraging inquiry, problem solving, collaboration, and creative thinking. Together, our collaborative partnership makes our school an even better place for our students to become active learners and grow as young adults and lifelong learners in the 21st century.

The first day of school is **Tuesday, September 5th!** We will host an **Open House on Tuesday, August 22 from 9:00 am – 12:00 noon and 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm.** Students and families can pick up schedules, purchase agendas and locks, join the PTSA, put money on cafeteria accounts, and informally tour our building. Our **Back to School – “Meet the WMS Staff”** evening will be on **Wednesday, August 30 from 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm.** Our classrooms will be open and teachers will be here to meet you and your family. Middle School is such an exciting time and I can’t wait to see our “new and returning Lions”. It is my hope our students, parents, and community will partner together to help our students “*Believe It, Achieve It!*”. Please make sure you are signed up for Find Out First to receive all of our electronic news and notices. Visit www.fcps.org and click on the FOF icon for more information.

Should you ever have any comments, questions, or concerns, please feel free to contact me at any time. Enjoy the remainder of your summer; I look forward to seeing everyone soon!

Sincerely,

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“Believe it; achieve it!”

We act on the belief that every child can learn and master a challenging curriculum given the appropriate support.