



Wyngate Elementary School
9300 Wadsworth Drive
Bethesda, MD 20817
240-740-1080

Nichola Wallen, Principal
Karlin Hirschfeld, Assistant Principal

August 5, 2022

Dear Wyngate Families,

Welcome to the 2022-2023 school year at Wyngate Elementary! We are excited to welcome everyone back to school. We are busy preparing classrooms and gathering resources to support instruction for our students. This letter contains a great deal of important information including our current bus routes and student supply list. When school begins, I will also communicate with you regularly in my weekly Sunday message to staff and parents of the Wyngate Community. Please check your email and our website frequently for updates.

I know that we have all been through a few difficult years because of the Covid-19 pandemic. We may face some challenges as we continue to move towards to some sense of normalcy for our school community. I have no doubt that the Wyngate community will rise to the occasion. We will support each other and get through this together as a strong school community. We will work to ensure that our students have the tools necessary to be successful, as we continue to provide high quality instruction wrapped in care. Our work will continue to align with our vision and mission of building strong and meaningful relationships and providing rigorous and effective instruction for our students. We will continue to prioritize instructional time in order to give our students what they need to be successful now, and at the next level.

I am very excited about the upcoming school year! To ensure a great start for each child, the staff and I have spent time analyzing student performance data, identifying successful strategies for teaching, and reaffirming our commitment to make Wyngate an environment that reflects high expectations and opportunities for our students. Please know that we are committed to the education and success of each child and seek to nurture a strong partnership between home and school. I look forward to many years of working collaboratively with you to ensure we continue to have a high-quality instructional program, where all students are learning and thriving. It is an honor to serve the Wyngate community. In this packet, you will find several pieces of information. Please read them carefully. I look forward to an amazing school year. Go Wildcats!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nichola Wallen".

Nichola Wallen
Principal

School Operation Hours

Office hours: 8:15am-4:15 pm

School hours: 9:00am-3:25 pm

Students enter building/eat breakfast: 8:40 am

Early Release Dismissal Time: 12:55 pm

Delayed openings & Closures: Check MCPS website [Emergency Information - Montgomery County Public Schools, Rockville, MD \(montgomeryschoolsmd.org\)](https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/Information/Emergency-Information.aspx)

Breakfast and Lunch in MCPS

The Division of Food and Nutrition Services (DFNS) is excited to resume regular meal services during the 2022–2023 school year.

Meal Prices:

- **NEW:** Students in Maryland who qualify for reduced-price meals will not be charged for meals!
- **Breakfast:** Regular Price- \$1.30, Reduced Price- No Cost
- **Lunch:** Regular Price: \$2.55 (Elementary), Reduced Price: No Cost

Applications: Free and Reduced-price Meals System (FARMS) Applications have been updated for the new school year, and now are available online at www.MySchoolApps.com; this is the preferred application method.

Start-up Process: FARMS eligibility from the 2021–2022 school year will expire after the 30th scheduled school day, unless a new 2022–2023 application is processed. Once the 2022–2023 applications are processed, that eligibility determination carries through the school year or until another application is processed. After October 12, 2022, all students without a current year approved meal application will default to full paid status

- All interested families must reapply each school year. Families should only complete one application for the household. Use only one application (online or paper) for all children in a household who attend Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), even if the students attend different schools

Arrival and Dismissal

Students are dismissed multiple ways:

- Walkers
- Car Riders
- Bus

Walkers- Students who are walkers are expected to exit the school building and walk home. If you plan on picking up and walking home with your child, please let them know to wait for you in the designated areas below. Parents and caregivers should be outside at 3:15pm to wait for their child/children who are walkers to exit the building.

- Kindergarten- Exit out exterior door of classroom.
- First grade- front of building on far right
- Second grade- Front of building at main entrance
- Third, Fourth and Fifth grade- front of building far left

Car Riders-

- Previous car rider families keep the same car rider number until their child leaves Wyngate. If you need a new car rider tag, please let us know.
- New to Wyngate families who will be picking up your child via car, please let the main office know that you need a car rider tag.

- Join the car rider line in the car loop, display your tag on the rear-view mirror, do not exit your vehicle. We must keep the car rider line moving. A staff member will see your car rider tag number and communicate the number to the coordinator. The number is displayed in the classroom on the promethean board.
- **Important- You must teach your child their car rider number.** When their car rider number is displayed on the promethean board, they will get up and leave the classroom and exit to the car loop to enter the vehicle.

Bus Riders- We have six buses at Wyngate. Please see attachment for specific bus stops

- Red- **Route: 1304**
- Orange- **Route: 1309**
- Yellow- **Route: 1311**
- Green- **Route: 1318**
- Purple- **Route: 1325**
- Blue- **Route: 1330**
- **Important- If your child is a bus rider, please teach them their bus color.**
- Note: for the first few days of school please allow some grace as buses drivers adjust to their bus routes, pick up time, and drop off time.

Early Pickup- for doctor appointments, early parent pick-up, etc..

- Sending a note or email to the classroom/ homeroom teacher so they are aware that your child is leaving early is appreciated, but not required. Parents can pick up their child at any time for any reason.
- Parent must come inside to the main office to sign out your child
- Please arrive way before your doctor appointment to give enough time for your child to gather what they need, and come to the main office
- Students will not be called out of instruction to wait in the main office for your arrival. Students will remain with their class until you arrive. Please plan your travel time from Wyngate to your destination accordingly.
- If you plan to pick up your child right before dismissal, please plan to be here to sign out and pick up your child before 3:00pm.

Attached will be an **Arrival and Dismissal card**. Please complete one for each of your children and send it with them to school on the first day; this is especially important for our K, 1st, and 2nd grade students. This will help us to ensure our youngest and most vulnerable students go home the correct way.

Kindergarten Orientation

Parents received information about Kindergarten Orientation that will be held on August 17, 2022, and August 18, 2022. Parents must register in advance for a time slot.

Please use the link below to sign up for Kindergarten Orientation on August 17th or 18th. Please sign up for a Kindergarten Orientation time slot after you have submitted the registration documents.

Link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4aaec2ba6f94-kindergarten>

New Families to Wyngate Orientation- Grades 1-5

This meeting is voluntary. This is an informal opportunity for parents and students in Grades 1-5 to hear information about the school, meet some of the staff and to take a tour of the building. We will have student ambassadors of Wyngate who will be supporting our new students. Students should attend with a

parent. **New Families to Wyngate Orientation Meeting, August 26, 2022, from 9:00-10:00am** - No registration needed.

If you have any questions please contact Terry King, Counselor, [Theresa L King@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Theresa_L_King@mcpsmd.org) and Philip D'Agnese, Counselor, Philip_A_D'agnese@mcpsmd.org

Welcome Back Parent Meeting

We will be holding a Parent Meeting at Wyngate on **August 25, 2022, from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.** Topics will include arrival and dismissal, meals, health and safety protocols, academics and what to expect as we begin the new school year.

Wyngate's Sneak Peek

Question- When will I know who is my child's teacher?

Answer- On August 24, 2022, homeroom teachers will email families an introductory message through Synergy.

Question- Will I get to visit the class before school starts on August 29, 2022?

Answer- On August 26, 2022, students and families may visit the building according to the schedule below to see the classroom and meet the teacher in-person. Please note that this is not a time for a parent-teacher conference. Sneak Peek is a way for us to welcome our families, to familiarize them with the arrival and dismissal points and to meet their amazing teacher! Parents may also drop off donations and supplies to the classrooms, this will lighten the load of the backpack for the first day!

- **Last Names A-L, 10:00-10:45 am**
- **Last Names M-Z, 11:00-11:45 am**

Question- Will we post a list of classes?

Answer- No. A list of classes will not be shared publicly until after all parents have the opportunity to complete the Annual Notice for Directory Information and Student Privacy. Directory Information includes any combination of the following items: Student's name (first and last), teacher's name, grade level, parent's name, address, e-mail address, and telephone number; student's date of birth, awards received (including honor roll); most recent school attended; dates of attendance; photograph, or other likeness; and other similar information. Wyngate's class list information will be released by early October to the PTA and our NAACP representative.

Important Dates and Events

- **August 15, 2022:** The Cafeteria News informational flyer will be mailed to all students the week of August 15 by MCPS Division of Food and Nutrition Services
- **August 17, 2022:** Kindergarten Orientation- Must Sign up for a timeslot
- **August 18, 2022:** Kindergarten Orientation- Must Sign up for a timeslot
- **August 24, 2022** - Parents are notified of their child's homeroom assignment via email.
- **August 25, 2022** – Welcome Back Parent Meeting, 6:30-7:30 p.m. in Wyngate's All Purpose Room/Cafeteria (APR)
- **August 26, 2022-** Grades 1-5, New to Wyngate Orientation 9:00-10:00 am
- **August 26, 2022** - Wyngate Sneak Peek, 10:00 a.m. – 11:45 p.m.
 - Last Names A-L, 10:00-10:45 am
 - Last Names M-Z, 11:00-11:45 am
- **August 29, 2022** – First Day of School for Students
 - Doors open at 8:40 a.m.
 - School starts at 9:00 a.m.

- Students are late for school when the 9:00am bell rings.
- **September 1, 2022**- Back to School Picnic. 5:30-7:30pm
- **September 5, 2022** – Schools and Offices Closed, Labor Day Holiday
- **September 13, 2022**- Back to School Night (BTSN): 6:00-8:15
 - 6:00-6:30 General Meeting with School Administration and PTA
 - 6:30-7:15- Session I
 - 7:30-8:15- Session II
- **September 14, 2022**: Early Dismissal at 12:55pm
- **September 26, 2022**: No School for Students and Teachers
- **September 30, 2022**: Early Dismissal at 12:55pm

More dates and events will be shared in the coming weeks as details are finalized.

Homeroom/Teacher Assignments

Creating classes that are balanced to meet the varying needs of students is a tremendous undertaking that we take great pride in at Wyngate. School staff analyzes student performance data, monitor enrollment, and plan for instructional programming that will best meet the needs of our students. We also balance our classes by students’ performance data, gender, race, and provide inclusion for students who access special education services, ESOL services and other considerations. We have worked hard to ensure that all of Wyngate’s students are placed in optimal learning environments. To that end, **we do not accept any requests for changing teacher assignments**. All of our staff members are incredible educators, and all of our students will learn at high levels with them! We are strongly committed to building relationships and remain focused on social emotional learning as we welcome our students back to school.

Medical Forms and Medicine

New students will need to have submitted immunization records. Required immunizations must be completed within 20 days of registration. All students must have current immunization records in the health room to start school. The Health Inventory, form SRS-6, must be filled out by a physician within the first few months of the beginning of school. A physical examination is required for students entering Maryland public schools for the first time or transferring from a private school. The examination must be done within nine months before or six months after enrollment. Physicals are not required each year nor are updated immunization forms. If your child was previously enrolled, you do not need to submit anything new each year.

Students who take medication at school will need to have a health plan and proper documentation from the child’s physician. Please contact the health room staff about this beginning August 22, 2022. Ms. Anna Waites, Anna.Waites@mcpsmd.org

Synergy Parent Vue

Synergy ParentVUE is the main communication portal used by MCPS. Synergy ParentVUE is the Parent Portal that serves as the primary home-to-school communication vehicle for schools to share information regarding grades, attendance, scheduling, access into myMCPS Classroom, and more. All parents must ensure that their accounts are activated and that they contain the most updated contact information. Information about logging into the Synergy ParentVue will be sent to all parents by MCPS. Please use this link for more information about Synergy ParentVUE- [Technology Information and Support for Parents - MCPS \(montgomeryschoolsmd.org\)](https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/technology/information-and-support-for-parents)

Highly Skilled Staff

As with any summer, there are some changes regarding staffing to share. We are thrilled to welcome our amazing teachers and staff members who will be working with our students this year! We are very excited for our new staff members, and you will find them to be Highly Skilled and excited to be a member of the Wyngate community! What is shared here is our current staffing but is subject to change per enrollment numbers.

Mr. Karlin Hirschfeld will join us as our Assistant Principal.
Ms. Angela Collins will join us in the main office as our School Secretary.
Mr. Philip D'Agnese will join us as a fulltime Counselor
Mr. Shaun Spencer will join us as one of our PE teachers
Ms. Jenna Smith will join us as our Reading Specialist
Mr. Jonathan Dworin will join us as one of our ESOL teachers
Mr. Bryan Wildschut will join us as one of our Special Education Teachers
Ms. Diona Rezendes will join us as one of our Special Education Teachers
Ms. Jennifer Guam will join us as a Speech Pathologist
Mr. Raymond Gustini will join us as a Paraeducator
Ms. Chrysa Crickman will join us as a Paraeducator
Ms. Shirleeta Sewell will join us as a Paraeducator

Grade-Level Teachers

Kindergarten: Ms. Justine Carr, Ms. Catherine Harwood, Ms. Erica Kim, and Ms. Julie Kim
Grade 1: Ms. Bethany Buel, Ms. Michelle Fitz, Ms. Kristin Horton, Ms. Ashley Palmer, and Mr. Evan Welsh
Grade 2: Ms. Lindsay Benjamin, Mr. Matthew Gamard, Ms. Madeleine Ketner, Ms. Rachel Sammon and Ms. Cori Sheckman
Grade 3: Ms. Kate Elgin, Ms. Megan Farrell, Mr. Christopher Higgins, Ms. Elizabeth Hum, and Ms. Kristin Worley
Grade 4: Ms. Marina Asslanian, Ms. Heather Beeman, Ms. Lindsay Goldstein, Ms. Alexandra Karia and Ms. Danielle McCarthy
Grade 5: Mr. James Avitabile, Ms. Sarah Chairnoff, Mr. Shawn Berg, Ms. Kathryn Bolen, and Ms. Kelly Geist

School Cash Online

Montgomery County Public Schools has transitioned to a new online payment system called School Cash Online as its preferred method of payment for school-related fees such as fundraisers, field trips, obligations, etc. **(Please note that the new payment system is NOT related to school cafeteria accounts)**

School Cash Online helps parents/guardians and community members pay school-related fees safely, quickly, and easily. School Cash Online will help increase efficiency and security at schools by making payments directly into schools' bank accounts and eliminating the need for teachers to handle money. In addition, once registered, you will be immediately informed about school activities!

Powered by KEV Group, School Cash Online is the industry leader in the management of school fees. The new system puts all of the school-related fees online for purchase so users can make purchases online using a credit card or e-check. A processing fee will be included on all items available for purchase, regardless of the type of payment used on School Cash Online or at the school.

Parents/guardians can register now at - <https://mcpsmd.schoolcashionline.com/>

Out of Class for Short Term Absences

MCPS is committed to ensuring that there are learning experiences for your child to engage in while at home in isolation or quarantine due to COVID safety protocols OR other short term absences. MCPS provides families with access to a set of pre-recorded videos of instruction in reading and math for students not able to attend school in person due to COVID safety protocols or associated short term absences. The name changed from quarantine instruction to OutClass.

Link to OutClass- <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1gxqkzxqagszqRFHyIWq0B-OlzmzH22iCV0o2WuRWggY/edit?usp=sharing>

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

- Families in need of technical support, please check the Community Tech Support Portal (Links to an external site.) for support guides and other helpful resources. [Community Tech Support Portal \(Links to an external site.\)](#)
- For support on navigating the portal, please refer to the [Community Tech Support Portal guide \(Links to an external site.\)](#).

School Supply List

- See Attachment

MCPS 2022-2023 School Calendar

- See Attachment

Find the Wyngate Bus Routes

- See Attachment