

## Why Join Your PTA ?

The **number** one reason to join your Parent Teacher Association is to benefit your child. In doing so, you also help your school. However, there are many more advantages. Here are just a few:

**Get Connected.** There's no better way to know what's happening in your daughter's school.

**Discover Great Resources.** The PTA offers a variety of programs for parents as well as students.

**Tap into a Network.** Share concerns, ideas, and experiences with other parents and educators.

**Watch Yourself Grow.** Gain valuable experiences while putting your skills and hobbies to good use.

**Speak up.** Exchange ideas and make suggestions for improvement.

**Witness Improvement.** You will be part of the solution as you assist in making positive changes in your daughter's school.

**Be a role Model.** By becoming a PTA member, you'll be demonstrating to your daughter the importance you place in education.



**WELCOME  
BACK**



**September 2008**

### Contact Information

✓Principal

**Eleanor P. Matthews**

epmatthews@bcps.k12.md.us

✓Asst. Principals

**Stephanie D. Farmer**

sfarmer@bcps.k12.md.us

**Kelly Caswell**

kjcaswell@bcps.k12.md.us

**Rhonda L. Clyburn**

rcllyburn@bcps.k12.md.us

### PTA MEETING DATES

### TIME: 6:30 P.M.

September 8, 2008

February 9, 2009

October 13, 2008

March 9, 2009

November 10, 2008

April 20, 2009

December 8, 2008

May 11, 2009

January 12, 2009

June 8, 2009

### Helpful Websites

High School Assessments → <http://hsaexam.org>

Voluntary State Curriculum → <http://mdk12.org>

Cool Math Website →  
<http://cte.jhu.edu/techacademy/web/2000/heal/mathsites.htm>

Math Website →  
<http://marian.creighton.edu/~dkath/mathsites.htm>

### Parent/Family Checklist for Academic Success

**Attend school everyday and on time. 8:00 A.M. ARRIVAL TIME**

**Check the attire before leaving the house. SCHOOL UNIFORM**

**Be respectful of staff, students as well as yourself.**

**Follow all WHS rules, policies and procedures.**

**Send a note if your daughter is absent from school.**

**Check homework. STUDENTS RECEIVE HOMEWORK EVERY NIGHT. GIVEN**

**Check for study notes, guides, or index cards.**

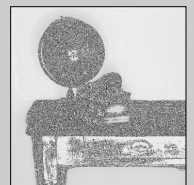
**Check the school website daily.**

**Notify the school if you have any problems or concerns.**

SEE WHS WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION

### Good Homework Habits That Will Guide Your Daughter To Success

Allot at least four (4) hours in the evening for studying and homework. Dedicate two (2) hours to complete written assignments. Dedicate one (1) hour to reading and one (1) hour for studying concepts, key terms and vocabulary. Create a work space at a desk or table with a chair. Turn the television and all telephones off. Students work better uninterrupted. Setting goals for how much you want to accomplish in a certain period of time is a guide to success.





**KUDOS TO OUR DOVES!!!!**

**Terri S. Chase—Grade 10**

Terri worked as a summer Youth Works student for the Baltimore City Dept. of Transportation. She was described as a "shining example of the positive that is being accomplished every day by students in Baltimore City." We are very proud of her accomplishments!

**Kelley Mason and Brook Thomas  
Grade 12**

Kelley and Brook have earned the coveted Girl Scout Gold Award. This is the highest award in Girl Scouting. It is achieved by adhering to rigid national standards and demonstrating an earnest commitment to serving the community. Congratulations on reaching such an astounding goal!!

**OUR AWESOME ROBOTICS TEAM**

On August 9<sup>th</sup>, members of the Western Robotics team, 11<sup>th</sup> graders, Kayanna Johnson, Ashley Van-Veen, Danesha Thomas, and 10<sup>th</sup> grader, Erica Hammond, participated in the Battle of Baltimore FIRST Robotics Invitational Competition sponsored by Baltimore County Schools at the Park School. The Western team, along with 25 other high school teams from New Jersey, Delaware, Washington DC, Pennsylvania, and Maryland raced robots around a track to determine whose alliance would win the competition. Western made it to the semi-final round before losing to the team that ultimately won the finals. Go Western!

**Things you need to be concerned about....**

**Service Learning Hours**

**Attendance**

**Your Daughter's**

**Overall Demeanor**

**Peer Relationships**

**Required Reading**

**Homework**

**WHY SCHOOL UNIFORMS?????????**

- ⇒ SCHOOL SAFETY
- ⇒ PROFESSIONAL ENVIRONMENT/CLIMATE
- ⇒ DECREASING VIOLENCE AND THEFT BECAUSE OF CLOTHING
- ⇒ INSTILLING DISCIPLINE AMONG STUDENTS
- ⇒ REDUCING NEED FOR ADMINISTRATORS AND TEACHERS TO BE CLOTHES POLICE
- ⇒ REDUCING DISTRACTIONS FOR STUDENTS
- ⇒ INSTILLING A SENSE OF COMMUNITY

**Important Dates**

- 9/11/08 Back-to-School Night  
5-7 p.m.
- 9/18/08 Fundraiser Assembly  
Spirit Day/PEP Rally
- 9/19/08 Spirit Dance  
7:30-11:30
- 9/20/08 WHS Family Picnic
- 9/21/08 School Improvement Team Meeting 3:15
- 9/26/08 Senior Inaugural (WHS staff & students only)
- 9/27/08 Eva G. Scott Scholarship Golf Tournament

**The Testing Center**

**PSAT October 15, 2008**

Freshman

Sophomores & Juniors

**SAT**

Junior & Seniors

**ACT Assessment**

Juniors & Seniors

**HSA, October 6-9, 2008**

Passing score:

Biology - 400

Algebra/Data Analysis - 412

English — 396

Government - 394

**AP Exams, April 2008**

**School Counselors**

410-396-7044 (office)

**Monteece Jones**

10th & 11th Grade Counselor

mjones@bcps.k12.md.us

**Susanne Gray-Rice**

12th Grade Counselor

spgray-Rice@bcps.k12.md.us

**Lee Griffin**

9th Grade Counselor

lgriffin01@bcps.k12.md.us

**REMINDER!!!!**

**You must have an emergency plan for your daughter when school is released early for an emergency or weather related dismissal.**

**Final Note From the Principal**

Parents,

Welcome to the 2008-2009 school year when Western will continue to provide your daughter with "Only the Best." We have gotten off to a very good start and wish to continue the year in the manner in which we began. Our mission is to prepare your daughter to enter the college of choice, compete with our nation's best and to become a lifelong learner. To that end, we need students to have the desire to learn and parents/guardians who are willing to invest in the future of our students. We welcome you to our school, and we want you to be committed to helping us provide the best possible education for your daughter in a safe environment.

We especially welcome to the Western family the parents of our new ninth graders, the Class of 2012. We look forward to seeing you at our PTA meetings which are the second Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the library.

Let's make it a good year.

*Eleanor P. Matthews*, Principal



**Breakfast Club**

No cost breakfast for

**ALL** students everyday!

7:45 a.m.—8:00 a.m.

**Lunch Bunch**

\$2.50 full price

\$.40 reduced

Free lunch (approved)

**Coming Soon**

- School Climate Survey
- Progress Reports
- HSA Summer Results
- Coach Class Schedule