

# Westfield Public Schools Transition Newsletter

## School Schedules

### GRADE 5-6 SCHOOL

The school schedule at our Grade 5-6 school will have seven periods and include double instructional blocks of 80 minutes for Mathematics and English Language Arts (Reading, Writing, Speaking, and Listening). Social Studies and Science classes will meet 40 minutes per day, and students will take two 40 minute elective courses each trimester. All students in grades 5 and 6 will take Physical Education, Health, Music, Band, Chorus, Art, Digital Literacy, and Computer Science over the course of the year.

### GRADE 7-8 SCHOOL

The school schedule at our Grade 7-8 school will have seven periods. Students will have a double instructional block of English Language Arts (Reading, Writing, Speaking, and Listening). All students in grades 7 and 8 will take Physical Education, Health, and Computers and Digital Literacy. Students will also be able to take Music, Band, Chorus, Art, Tech Ed, and Spanish in grades 7 and 8. In addition, a workgroup of stakeholders will be created in the fall of 2018 to look at alternative scheduling options for the 2019-2020 school year.



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## TRANSITION UPDATES

### NAMING OF SCHOOLS

Please join us for an Education and Planning Subcommittee Meeting on April 23, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the auditorium at South Middle School. Options and procedures for naming our new Grade 5-6 and Grade 7-8 schools will be explored and reviewed.

### SCHOOL TIMES

For the 2018-2019 school year, Fort Meadow Early Childhood Center will continue to operate from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. There will also be no change to the high school start and end time (7:15 a.m. – 1:56 p.m.). Both the grade 5-6 and grade 7-8 schools will begin at 8:00 a.m. and end at 2:29 p.m., the same as our current middle school schedule. In fact, the only change to school times will be at the elementary school level. School will begin fifteen minutes later at 9:15 a.m. and students will get out at 3:15 p.m., also fifteen minutes later. This change was made to allow our buses more time to complete their afternoon runs. It will also save the district over \$250,000 in additional busing costs. WPS will be working with the YMCA and Boys and Girls Club to expand before school programming to assist parents with this change. More information will be shared as it becomes available.

### INTRA-DISTRICT TRANSFERS

Westfield Public Schools will honor existing elementary school intra-district transfers. New grade K-4 intra-district transfers for the 2018-2019 school year will only be considered for siblings and extenuating circumstances. Please contact the Superintendent's Office at 413-572-6403 extension 5 for more information.

### ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

The closing of Russell Elementary School and district transition plans have created a change for our elementary English Learners (ELs). Next year, Highland will no longer be the only elementary site to service ELs. The district is expanding the English Learner Education (ELE) Program to include a second site in order to more efficiently serve the needs of our growing population. EL students that live in the Abner Gibbs, Munger Hill, Paper Mill, and Southampton Road regions of the city will now attend Munger Hill Elementary School. For more information, please contact Denise Ruzsala, Director of Assessment and Accountability at [d.ruzsala@schoolsofwestfield.org](mailto:d.ruzsala@schoolsofwestfield.org).

**Into the Arts**  
WESTFIELD HIGH SCHOOL  
April 6 & 7  
ART VIEWING  
Friday 5:30-8:30 PM  
Saturday 10-2:30 PM

*Performances (in auditorium)*  
Friday: 5:30 p.m. Southampton Road Chorus  
6:00 p.m. South Middle School Chorus  
7:00 p.m. Paper Mill Elementary Choir  
7:30 p.m. Franklin and Russell Fourth Grade Recorders  
8:00 p.m. Westfield High School Jazz Band

*Performance (in Gymnasium)*  
Saturday: 1:00-2:00 p.m. It's Band-Tastic!  
All Westfield School Band Performance

*Performance (in Cafeteria)*  
Saturday: 10:00 a.m. Fort Meadow Sing-a-long

Friday and Saturday band parents will hold a food/bake sale, VIPs will hold a beverage sale and 50/50 raffle!

## STEP UP DAY

June 11, 2018 is "Step Up Day" in our district. Current K-8 students that are attending a new school next year will be participating in school tours, teacher meet and greets, and team building activities. Students in grades 4 and 5 will be visiting North Middle School. Students in grades 6 and 7 will be visiting South Middle School. Students in grade 8 will be visiting Westfield High School or Westfield Technical Academy. Russell Elementary School students will be visiting Highland Elementary School and some current English Learner students from Highland School will be going to Munger Hill Elementary School. Approximately 30 students currently attending Highland School that will now attend Abner Gibbs Elementary School will visit there as well. Students will return to their current schools after lunch. For more information about "Step Up Day", please contact Mrs. Susan Dargie, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, at [s.dargie@schoolsofwestfield.org](mailto:s.dargie@schoolsofwestfield.org).

## WPS BUDGET MEETING

Please join us for the Westfield Public Schools 2018-2019 budget presentation to the Finance Subcommittee on Monday, April 23, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at South Middle School. This meeting is open to the public.



## ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BOUNDARIES

**2018-2019 Elementary School Street Map**

- Southampton Rd ES
- Paper Mill ES
- Highland ES
- Franklin Avenue ES
- Abner Gibbs ES
- Munger Hill ES

This map reflects the changes in elementary school boundaries for the 2018-2019 school year. Current Russell Elementary School students will be attending Highland Elementary School. Some current EL students attending Highland School will now attend Munger Hill Elementary School. Approximately 30 current Highland School students will be attending Abner Gibbs next year as well. For more information, please contact our Transportation Office at 413-572-6599.

### ONLINE REGISTRATION

We look forward to partnering with you to provide you a comprehensive education experience that prepares your child for a bright future. Kindergarten Registration will take on a new look this school year, as Westfield is moving to electronic registration for the 2018-19 school year. Directions for accessing electronic registration can be found on the Westfield Public Schools District Webpage at [www.schoolsofwestfield.org](http://www.schoolsofwestfield.org). To access the online registration form, click the *Parents* link at the top of the page and then click on the *Registration* link. Online registration will be available beginning on **Wednesday, April 11, 2018**. Families wishing to enroll Kindergarten students are asked to complete the online registration form. In addition to completing the online form, the following documents should be submitted to your child's school: Birth Certificate, Complete Immunization/Health Records, Proof of Westfield Address, Current IEP (Individual Education Plan) or 504 Documents, if applicable, and Proof of Custody, if applicable. According to Massachusetts law, only those students who are living in Westfield are eligible to attend the Westfield Public Schools unless accepted through the School Choice Program. If you require assistance with completing the registration process or have any questions, please contact us at 413-642-9320.

### EARLY RELEASE DAYS

The last day of school for the 2017-2018 school year is June 21, 2018. This was already a scheduled early release day for students. State law requires that all schools be in session for 180 days. In order to provide our teachers with time to prepare for our transition and resulting moves, June 19 and 20 have been added early release days for students. High school students will be dismissed at 11:00 a.m., middle school students at 11:30 a.m., and elementary school students at 12:00 p.m.

The Westfield CFCE grant, in collaboration with the Westfield Public Schools and our community partners, presents:

# COUNTDOWN TO KINDERGARTEN

**Wednesday, April 11, 2018**  
**6:00-8:00 PM**  
**The Boys and Girls Club of Greater Westfield**

Families with incoming kindergarten students will meet their school principal and other school staff, and learn about:

- the registration process
- school lunches and see a sample menu
- local before and afterschool programs
- sports and literacy programs available in the community

Children can enjoy a kindergarten themed StoryWalk, a craft table, face painting, games, puzzles, and stories.

**This is a FREE event. For more information, please call the Westfield CFCE office at 413-568-5242.**

The CFCE grant is administered by the Westfield Public Schools and is funded through the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care.

