



INTO THE WOODS: Where Children Learn to Explore, Think, Problem Solve

&

CHOOSE TO BE EXTRAORDINARY!!

From the desk of Audrey Dell

Breakfast: \$1.55

Lunch: \$2.60

**August 2020
Teacher Homeroom Updates**

***ALL STAFF IS TENTATIVE DUE TO
FLUCTUATING ENROLLMENTS**

Kindergarten

102: Mrs. Keegan
103: Mrs. Barbato
105: Mrs. Duvall

First Grade

101: Mrs. Altman
104: Mrs. Hutchinson
107: Mrs. Graham

Second Grade

108: Mrs. Rost
109: Mrs. Proudfit
110: Mrs. King
111: Mrs. Hensler

Third Grade

113: Mr. Yusko
114: Miss Smelko
118: Mrs. Giles

Fourth Grade

122: Mrs. Krueger
124: Mrs. Hamill
126: Mrs. Bell

Fifth Grade

115: Mrs. Irons
117: Mrs. Adams
119: Mrs. Hyatt

Open House Schedule

**Kdg. Orientation
(Parents & Students)**

AM: Aug. 18 6:00-7:00

PM: Aug. 19 6:00-7:00

**1st day for Students: Aug. 27th
Buses arrive from 8:30-9:10**

A **huge** LONG AWAITED welcome back to all of our West Point family: my dedicated staff, our amazing students, and our supportive and caring parents. We have been ANXIOUSLY waiting for this RE-OPENING TO OCCUR! Let's look forward to a healthy new start and one that brings many teachable moments for the 2020-2021 school year at West Point. Please know that if you are now Cyber families, you are still a very strong part of our West Point community, and we will be including you in all of our updates and occurrences.

- ★ We happily welcome back to West Point the West Hempfield itinerant teachers: Mr. Dan Tarabrella, Phys. Ed.; Mrs. Angela Long, Library; Mrs. Jill Rakvic, Technology; Mr. Matt Clark, Art.
- ★ Mr. Tim Kearns, Mr. Jared Lombardi, Mr. Justin McCauley, and Mrs. Jody Morani will be joining us as well, as we share them with Maxwell.
- ★ We welcome Mrs. Caitlyn McGaugh as our new music teacher.
- ★ Mrs. Proudfit has willingly moved to 2nd grade to accommodate our high numbers in that grade level.

As always, a MORE THAN well-deserved, THANK YOU, to our custodial team and maintenance staff, who diligently worked all summer, in the heat, to renew our building. Not only have they made our building sparkling clean and shiny, they have transformed every classroom, gym and library to provide adequate social distancing. WE THANK THEM SO MUCH for their hard work. Please join us in officially thanking them for their efforts on August 28th, our Custodian Appreciation Day. I am sure a simple card would put a smile on their faces.

Teachers will have the opportunity to return to the building to begin the process of preparing classrooms, any day the week of August 17th. Our first In-Service is Friday, August 21st. As they prepare the classrooms, they will not be moving desks as they are set up for social distancing. Everything that is out will be sprayed daily.

Teachers will be sharing a virtual Open House soon. More information will be coming about that. You will also be notified via REMIND when the homerooms are available in Skyward.

PBIS: Our PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention and Support) team met this summer, and there will be some new signage around the building.

OUR NEW MOTTO: WE ARE Responsible, WE ARE Safe, WE ARE Respectful: That's the West Point Way - Stay tuned to hear more about the PRINCIPAL 100 CLUB, which will reside on the Wall of Fame..

The New Normal: As we move toward the "new" normal for school, the three main areas to consider for each child's success are (1) physical safety, (2) academic needs, and (3) social /emotional needs.

Social Distancing: I am so excited to share that West Point's plan for social distancing is going to be great. West Point's new plan now includes these exciting changes: All children,

**Carpool door opens at 9:10
School day starts at 9:40
Dismissal for bus and carpool
will begin at 3:30pm**

except kindergarten) will be in the gym for instruction only ONE DAY PER WEEK. Students in each homeroom will be divided into 5 cohorts. A different cohort will use the gym with cohorts from their grade level homerooms. They will receive guided instruction from Mrs Stahl, Mrs. Schrock, Mrs. Mylant, and a Teaching assistant. While in the gym they will tune into homeroom instruction for ELA, Math, and Itinerant classes, via Lesson Bot. Itinerants will provide 30 minutes of their corresponding instruction in the homeroom following our existing schedule. Even though our day is shorter, our children will be receiving better instruction with less students per teacher. Let's think positive! THIS WILL BE A GREAT YEAR FOR LEARNING!!!

Masks: Children will be required to wear masks on the bus and when walking through the hallways. The classrooms are designed for social distancing, so students will not need their masks unless receiving close instruction from the teacher. We know dropping of masks could be an issue, so some very wonderful West Point students made lanyards for all students. Additional masks will be available as needed.

Hand hygiene: Students will be permitted and asked to wash hands often. Hand sanitizer stations have been set up in the cafeteria, office and gym. Materials and classrooms will be sanitized daily and in between the morning and afternoon kindergarten sessions.

Earbuds/Headphones: Each child will need to provide their own earbuds or headphones. We will not be sharing these devices.

Academics: Our dedicated staff will be using Google Classroom from Day 1 to get children used to using a Flipped classroom. They will make every attempt to ease children "back into school life," while providing the great curriculum that Hempfield provides in meeting all state standards.

Social/Emotional Well Being: The transition back to school this year may be both exciting and stressful, for adults and children. Here are just a few things we as teachers and parents can do to help support our children's emotional and social growth during this new school year.

- Have calm and open conversations with your child. Remind them of all the adults in their life who are there to help them, and that they can always talk to them. (You , school counselor, teacher, principal, nurse, etc.) We will be reviewing new school plans to provide a Positive Environment for all students. As we share lessons with students, we will share them with you as well.
- Demystify some of the procedures that may be in place in school, such as mask wearing. For example, wear masks at home for short periods of time, even while playing games or reading to simulate what it will be like in school.
- Practice hand washing and filling bottles of water if you plan to send one in with your child. There is ONE bottle filler in the front hallway.

PTS: We know that in the past our PTS has provided many opportunities for community engagement, and we are most appreciative of the time they put into planning these worthwhile activities. Unfortunately, most events are cancelled at this time. We will continue to monitor the area and follow CDC and District guidelines to allow for upcoming events and keep you all informed. For now, VISITORS ARE NOT PERMITTED IN THE BUILDING. There will be no "birthday lunches," or PIE volunteers at this time. If you need to drop off your child "late to school," please buzz the door. Mrs. Yatsko will help you through the appropriate procedure. If you need to pick your child up for any reason, you will need to fill out the [Visitor](#)

[questionnaire](#) before you come or when you arrive. Once again, Mrs Yatsko will help with this new protocol.

PIKMYKID will be used again this year. It will be paramount for the number of students that will be carpooling. I appreciate your support as we try to get ALL families to use the PIKMYKID app so that we may expedite carpooling. Updated information for PIKMYKID will be coming soon. The **carpool** door will open at 9:10 and close at 9:35. Carpool will begin dismissal at 3:30 **Buses** will start arriving at 8:30 and continue until 9:30. Bus dismissal will also start at 3:30. If you plan on picking your child up as a **Walker**, you will walk to the front door, show your carpool number, and your child will be called to the front door. You **MUST** have your carpool number in hand for safety purposes.

CHROMEBOOKS: Elementary chromebooks are to be returned upon student arrival back to school. If your Chromebook is in need of repair, please take it to the HS according to the letter that was shared via REMIND.

I know that you may still have questions about our NEW NORMAL. Please reach out with questions via phone or email: 724-850-2268; della@hasdpa.net

I am so excited to welcome your children BACK to West Point, and I look forward to seeing their wonderful faces, even behind a mask!

Most sincerely,

Mrs. Dell

Principal

West Point Elementary School