



Dolphin Press

Another new and exciting school year is beginning at Willards Elementary School. There are a few changes to our faculty and staff this year.

First, I am pleased to introduce to you our new assistant principal, Mrs. Jennifer Rice. Though she is new to Willards, she is not new to the county or the job. Mrs. Rice has been an assistant principal at Northwestern Elementary, North Salisbury Elementary, and Chipman Elementary.

Also, Willards Elementary has a new special education teacher, Ms. Rachel Hansen, who is replacing Mrs. Jodi Sabo who has returned to Wicomico County's Infants and Toddlers Program. In addition to Mrs. Sabo's transfer to the Infants and Toddlers Program, we also lost a kindergarten teacher and assistant this year due to low kindergarten enrollment. Mrs. Dana Bisker was transferred to Glen Avenue to teach fourth grade to make class sizes more manageable. Mrs. Kristin Senger, the kindergarten assistant was transferred to East Salisbury Elementary to provide academic assistance in a fifth grade classroom.

Though we lost a kindergarten teacher and assistant our class sizes have maintained at a teacher/assistant ratio of 24 students to 2 adults throughout August and through the start of school.

The first through third grade students have had a smooth transition back to school and we are looking forward to September 8th when all of our prekindergarten and kindergarten students will join us to begin the 2015 -2016 school experience.

Mrs. Rice and I have an open door policy and are accessible in person, through telephone calls and email. If you ever have questions or concerns about your child's school experience, please feel free to contact us and we will gladly answer questions and discuss concerns. As parents and guardians, you know your children better than anyone else. We rely on your knowledge to make sure that all of our children reach their fullest potential.

Thank you for allowing us to teach your children and for working collaboratively with us so that we can best meet the needs of your children. The faculty and staff of Willards Elementary will work hard to make the 2015 -2016 school year the best ever!



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"Don't let what you can't do stop you from doing what you can do."

John Wooden

Special points of interest:

√ *Check your child's agenda book each day.*

√ *Drop off your child after 7:45am.*

√ *Arrive before 8:15am or your child will be counted tardy.*

√ *Send us a note about changes in transportation, illness, and/or contact information.*

√ *Students will not be dismissed from the office after 2:15 unless a note has been sent in stating they have an appointment.*

Attendance Counts! (coming next month)

Grade Level	Average Daily Attendance~	Our Goal is
	94% Required	95%
AM Pre-Kindergarten		
PM Pre-Kindergarten		
Kindergarten		
First Grade		
Second Grade		
Third Grade		
Overall Attendance		

THE ARTS ARE HAPPENING AT WWS!

Welcome Back!

This year our cultural study will focus on Australia. We are deep into research and planning for arts filled lessons. Second Grade will welcome Max Bent in November for a beat-boxing residency. Planning is underway for other arts enriched activities and this information will be shared each month.

Special Area teachers will continue to co-teach and work side by side with classroom teachers to teach arts integrated lessons. This is so special for the students. They are excited and ready to learn when they see two teachers collaborating and working together. We will keep you updated and informed throughout the school year. We are excited for another year and welcome you to share comments at any time.

Ms. Rittling, P.E. and Arts Integration Lead Teacher

Mrs. Phillips, Visual Art

Ms. Brown, Music

Mrs. Ewalt, Media

OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH SALISBURY UNIVERSITY

Wonderful Willards Elementary School is proud to be a Professional Development School (PDS) site for Salisbury University students. We have many new faces joining us for the 2015 / 2016 school year. They will be working hard to assist in educating your children.

Coming to our school for the first eight weeks are : Laura Poore with Janet Dutton, and Madison O'Leary with Kellianne Scholl. Joining us for one day per week, for the Fall Semester, are Christine Kedra with Carolyn Check; Mary Warren with Debbie Simpkins; Casie Brinck with Kaitlin Bailey; Christina Brown with Kellianne Scholl; Brittany Mech with Janet Dutton; and Alia Otwell with Mary Lynn Stavely. The following folks will be with us 1/2 day for the Fall Semester: Alexandra Foard with Juanita Briddell; Samantha Light with Valerie Oliphant; Leanne Mueller with Kaitlin Bailey; Christy Smith with Jim Ireton; Kayla Sommers with Kathy Jones; and Laura Thacker with Cristin Eurice-George.

WELCOME EVERYONE!!!



GOOD DOLPHIN CHARACTER MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

Welcome to a new and exciting school year at Wonderful Willards! I am looking forward to working with all of our students this school year. I will have the opportunity to visit each classroom and teach value lessons as part of our character education program.

The Willards school staff will focus on several character values throughout the school year, beginning with RESPECT in September. We will recognize students who exhibit respectful behavior throughout the month in several ways.

Throughout the year, I will be conducting individual and small group sessions. These sessions will focus on various topics; such as, friendship, getting along with others and attentiveness. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Your school counselor,

Christina Thompson



Dear Parent or Guardian,

Wicomico County continues to have a special partnership with Fuel Up to Play 60. During the 2015-2016 school year, our school will be participating in the *Fuel Up to Play 60 program*. This program allows students and staff to work together to choose and implement changes within the school so that Willards Elementary will “Fuel Up” on nutrient-rich food and “Play for 60” minutes each day. By doing this, the goal is to help everyone in the school make healthy decisions each day and then encourage friends and families to do the same!!!

In preparation for this year’s super exciting opportunities, we would like our students and their families to become familiar with the Fuel Up website and the student dashboard. Since Fuel Up to Play 60 is a county wide initiative, setting up an account and utilizing the website will also benefit the school you attend during the 2015-2016 school year. **If you would like, log on to <http://students.fueluptoplay60.com/login/> and create an account for your child.** If you have more than one child, please create an account for both children. Please choose a username that can be easily recognized so, I can reward and highlight their progress. Parents will need to check their email and confirm the Fuel Up account before logging onto the student dashboard. Once you have created the account and confirmed it through email, please log on and click on “my account”. Fill out the information including selecting your school as *Willards Elementary*. Please take the time to explore the site. Students and families can learn about physical activity and nutrition. Games, nutrition and activity trackers, and more can be found by clicking on the many areas of the dashboard. **If your child already has an account you should log on to update school, account information and grade-level. You are then ready to begin obtaining and collecting your points for this school year. Last year’s points do not carry over.**

Students who have created an online dashboard and show motivation for this program have the opportunity to become a “*Student Ambassador*”.

As we move forward with the Fuel Up program, students will be asked to get more involved by acting as student ambassadors, participating in school events, and helping to promote physical activity and nutrition. Please look for more information that will be sent home with your child in the near future.

Thank You for the on-going support and dedication to your child’s wellness ~Ms. Rittling



Pre Kindergarten

September is a busy month in Pre-Kindergarten! This month we will be getting to know our new friends, learning the classroom rules and routines, working on recognizing and writing our first names. Thank you to all the parents and grandparents for the wonderful support in helping the first few days of school run smoothly and thank you for the classroom supplies! Remember to check your child's folder each night for important papers from school! Mrs. Hoffman and I are looking forward to working with your child and having a great and fun year in Pre-K!

Kindergarten

Our first Kindergarten Unit, which will last six weeks, is My Friends, My Family, and Me. Our Kindergarten unit will focus on how are we better together, as we explore our senses, rules, routines and names. We will be using a variety of fiction and nonfiction texts to make connections as we explore the world around us. We will be focusing on making sets to 10 as well as counting aloud and identifying numbers.

First Grade

We are excited to welcome you back to an exciting new year in first grade! In September, we will be reading and exploring stories and literature about "Family and Friends". Students will review beginning and ending sounds, sight words, short vowel words and writing simple sentences. In math, we will review numbers to 20, adding and subtracting within 10, and counting to 25.

Please check your child's blue folder daily for any important papers. Also, read and sign your child's agenda every night. Remember to read with your child for 15 minutes nightly. We are looking forward to a great year with you and your child!

Second Grade

Our Second Graders are off to a great start! We have engaged our students in several "getting to know you" activities which revolved around read aloud texts. They look like they are going to be a great group of children to work with! This coming month we will be reading Silly Stories from our anthology and our leveled readers. We will be reading stories from Dav Pilkey, Angela Johnson, and Wong Herbert Yee to name a few. In math we will be working on sums and differences to 20 and using data to complete graphs. We will also have great fun working on a STEM activity involving junkyard robotics with the help of our 4-H representative, Barbara Barga, as well as exploring the changing of the seasons from Summer to Fall.

Third Grade

Welcome to 3rd Grade!

We are very excited about the upcoming school year. We were thrilled so many of you came to visit during the school Open House. Please help your child come prepared to school everyday ready to learn. Remember to check your child's agenda daily to help keep our lines of communication open. Remember to encourage your child to READ, READ, and READ. Third grade classes will be self-contained, which means that your child's homeroom teacher will be teaching all of the academic subjects. Everyone should have received a welcome letter on the first day of school with specific information about our classroom procedures. We look forward to meeting you and having a successful year at Willards.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	
	B	1 C	2 D	3 E	4	5	6
School Closed Labor Day	7 F	8 A	9 B	10 C	11	12	13
	14 D	15 E	16 F	17 A	18 B	19	20
	21 C	22 D	23 E	24 F	25 A	26	27
	28 B	29 C	30 D				

SEPTEMBER



NOTES:

IF YOU HAVE ANY DISMISSAL CHANGES
PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE PRIOR TO 2:15.
THANK YOU!