



WESTLAKE HIGH SCHOOL

Alexandra Bates, Ed.S
Principal

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August 10, 2014

Dear Westlake High School Family,

Twenty-five hours and 20 minutes until the first bell rings for the 2014-2015 school year! We are so excited to greet our students on the first day and have high expectations for a successful academic year. Please read the follow updates because they will help navigate you through the first week of school.

Please Follow Us On Twitter

In an effort to keep parents and our community better informed we will use our Twitter page much more this school year. The administrative team will live tweet the first day of school with pictures and news you can use. Please follow us on Twitter @westlakelions the entire school year. Our goal is to have 1,500 followers.

School Start and Dismissal Times

Please note that our school start and end times have changed. School will now start at 8:20 AM and school will dismiss at 3:30 PM. It is critical that students arrive to school on time. If students are car-riders and wish to purchase breakfast, please ensure that they are here no later than 8am. There is an 80% chance of rain for our first day of school. Please, please, please plan to leave your home at least 30 minutes earlier than you usually would if you are a car-rider. Please expect heavy traffic entering the campus on the first day as a result due to the rain.

School Level	Start Time	End Time
Elementary	7:40 AM	2:20 PM
Middle	8:55 AM	4:05 PM
High	8:20 AM	3:30 PM

First Day & Week Frequently Asked Questions

Where does my child go on the first day of school?

When students arrive to school there will be posters listing their homerooms in the cafeteria, in each zone, the main lobby and in front of the media center. Once the warning bell rings, students will be asked to transition to their homeroom class.

What will happen in homeroom?

Student will receive their opening day materials such as their student handbook, lunch information, and other documents. In addition to that, teachers will walk them through the schedule change process, dress-code policy, tardy policy, and other Westlake procedures.

What if my child believes his or her schedule is incorrect?

Students should continue to follow their printed schedules until the schedule change process is completed. Schedules will not be changed without parental permission.

How do I request a schedule change for my student?

Students requesting a schedule change should have their parents/guardian complete the electronic schedule change form below or fill out the schedule change documents your student will receive during homeroom tomorrow and submit it to their homeroom teacher by Friday August 15, 2014. No schedule change forms will be accepted after Friday August 15, 2014.

Please click the link below to submit your electronic change form **after** you have seen the schedule your student has been given on the first day of school.

[Schedule Change Request Form](#)

(Please submit no later than Friday, August 15, 2014)

How long does it take for my request to be completed?

All schedule change requests that are received by August 15, 2014 will be processed (accepted or denied) by August 22, 2014.

Can I request a particular teacher for a course?

No. Due to high enrollment, we cannot accommodate specific teacher request when there are multiple teachers scheduled to teach the course.

Will my child's schedule change after the first day of school?

Due to our high enrollment, we may receive additional teacher allotments. This would mean that student schedules would need to change in order to reduce class-size. However, our goal is to cause the least amount of disruption to student schedules.

Who is my counselor and when can I speak to them?

The first day of school, all counselors will be working feverishly to schedule newly registered students. However, you may schedule a time with your counselor in Student Services for a later time. Please be patient with this department due to the high volume of requests and new students the first two weeks of school.

Counseling Case-Load

Cecelia Johnson, Curriculum Assistant Principal, johnsonc5@fultonschools.org

9th Grade: Julie Krause, Krause@fultonschools.org

10th-12th (A-D): Anthony Decosta, decosta@fultonschools.org

10th-12th (E-K): Beatrice Ford, fordb@fultonschools.org

10th-12th (L-Q): Sheila Reese-Jackson, reeses@fultonschools.org (Head Counselor)

10th-12th (R-Z): Dawn Perry, perrydb@fultonschools.org

Transportation

It is imperative that students be on time for school. Please allow your child to ride the bus if possible. Students that ride the bus are never marked tardy for school. Due to our new school schedule it is critical that once the final bell rings at 3:30pm **that students are on their buses by 3:38pm. All 43 of Westlake's buses will be present at 3:30pm.** All buses must leave on time in order to remain on schedule to pick up middle school students. If your child misses the bus, they will call a parent or guardian who is listed in eSchools must pick them up. **In order to ensure student safety is imperative that all students who are car-riders are picked-up no later than 4:30pm unless they are in tutoring.**

How do I find my bus stop and bus number? Please use the link below to determine the answer to this question: <http://tinyurl.com/whs-businfo>

All students within our attendance zone and magnet students will find their bus information here. If you can't find it here, please consult the South Transportation Office at (770) 969-6060.

Tips for Success on First Day of School

1. Arrive to school early! This applies to car-riders, as students who ride the bus will all arrive at the same time.

2. Find your homeroom. Homeroom rosters will be posted all around the school, alphabetical order by student last name.

3. Eat breakfast. Whether you eat breakfast at home or at school, start the day with the fuel necessary to make it through those morning classes until lunchtime.

4. Make first impressions count. Teachers are just meeting you, and first impressions count. When you are on-time to their class with all of your classroom materials (paper, pencil, calculator, homework, etc.), teachers notice. More than that, though, they notice when you don't. Teachers are rooting for you to be successful in their classrooms, but that doesn't mean they'll let you get away with disrespectful behavior. That means putting your cell phone away during class, paying attention, and doing your best work.

Important Dates

Advanced Placement (AP) Night- August 23rd 6:30-7:30pm, Westlake Auditorium

Alexandra Bates, Ed.S.

Interim Principal

Westlake High School

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“Education is the most powerful weapon that can change the world,” Nelson Mandela
