



WESTLAKE HIGH SCHOOL

Alexandra Bates, Ed.S
Principal

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August 4, 2014

Dear Westlake High School Family,

Seven days 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 review the following updates:

Softball Students Involved in Car Accident

Koryn McLeod and Myka Roberts, rising WHS juniors, were involved in a car accident on Saturday, August 2, 2014. Unfortunately, Myka did not survive the accident. Koryn is being treated in a local hospital. There will be a vigil held this evening at 8:30 PM on the softball field in honor of Myka. You are encouraged to attend to show your support for these two students and their families.

2014-2015 Back to School Event

Westlake will host a "Back to School" event August 6, 2014 from 10:30 AM - 3:00 PM. At this event, parents and students will receive student schedules, transportation information, lockers, information about our PTSA, School Governance Council, etc. This year, we are adding a Student Activities Fair where students can find out more information about our various clubs and organizations at Westlake. The Student Activities Fair will run from 12:30 PM – 3:30 PM in the Auxiliary Gym.

Please Follow Us On Twitter

In an effort to keep students, 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, but will use it as an additional means of communication. Follow us on Twitter @westlakelions.

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. Another change regarding school dismissal is that Westlake will have one afternoon bus run. This means all afternoon buses will leave our campus sharply at 3:38 PM. After taking our Lions home, our buses have to go make other school runs so it is very important that they leave our campus on time. This is a change for our students as last year they had at least 15 minutes to get to their bus if it was in the first run while second run buses would leave as late as 4:15 PM. We will give our students a few days to figure out their afternoon bus routine, but our buses will leave promptly at 3:38 PM.

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

New Bell Schedule

We will continue the same A-B-C academic schedule that we had last year with a minor change on C Day:

A Day: 1, 2, 4, 5, 6;

B Day: 2, 3, 4, 6, 7;

C Day: 1, Seminar, 3, 5, 7 (Seminar has been moved to the 2nd block of the day).

Old Schedule		New Schedule	
Student Movement	8:25 AM	Student Movement	8:10 AM
Warning Bell	8:34 AM	Warning Bell	8:19 AM
Block 1:	8:35 AM – 9:51 AM	Block 1:	8:20 AM – 9:31 AM

New Teacher Spotlight

We are blessed to welcome our new teachers and their expertise to the Westlake family. We highlight two of the new staff members below:

Science Department: Tierra Monteiro

Where did you go to school? Spelman College

What will you be teaching? Chemistry, Human Anatomy & Physiology

Why are you excited about working at Westlake? Westlake has so much school pride. Everyone here has been so kind thus far, and I am excited to join such an awesome family!

Mathematics Department: Jessica Armstead

Where did you go to school? Spelman College

What will you be teaching? CCGPS Coordinate Algebra

Why are you excited about working at Westlake? I am excited to work with Westlake because of the sense of family that the faculty have initially displayed. It shows the spirit of the school and the willingness of all the staff and faculty have to ensure that every student excels and displays success in the upcoming school year.

Data Spotlight: 9th Grade Magnet Students (2013-2014)

Westlake 9th grade Magnet students posted an 80% passing percentage on the Coordinate Algebra EOCT, outperforming North Springs (29%), Riverwood (35%), FCS (52%), and Georgia (40%). 100% of Westlake 9th grade Magnet students passed the Biology EOCT, with 78% of them scoring in the Exceeds performance category, as compared to Exceeds rates of 36% and 26% for North Springs and Riverwood, respectively. Way to go teachers, students and parents! It truly took a team effort to make this happen.

Tips for Success on First Day of School

- 1. Practice walking from class to class before the school year begins.** If you come to the Back-to-School event, you can do this!
- 2. Arrive to school early!** This applies to car riders, as students who ride the bus will all arrive at the same time.
- 3. Find your homeroom.** Homeroom rosters will be posted all around the school, alphabetical by student last name.
- 4. 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.
- 5. 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.

PTSA Executive Board

Please welcome the new members of our Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) Executive Board for the 2014-2015 school year. The PTSA meeting calendar will be published in the near future.

<i>Principal</i>	Alexandra Bates	batesa2@fultonschools.org
<i>President</i>	Kym Dove	kym.dove@gmail.com

<i>Vice President</i>	Toni Kidd	mak7298@comcast.net
<i>Secretary 1</i>	Tonya Lawson	msslwsn@yahoo.com
<i>Secretary 2</i>	Tangela Robinson	tjandnisamom@yahoo.com
<i>Treasurer</i>	Tamara Abdul	abdult@bellsouth.net
<i>Parliamentarian</i>	Delmar Whittington	delmar2@me.com
<i>Student Member</i>	Open	

Shout Out

I would like to send a special word of thanks to Mr. Harvey Davis, who has advocated and arranged for a traffic signal to be installed at the intersection of Campbellton Road and Union Road. He was also able to get GDOT to realign the approach to Union Road (westbound) on Campbellton Road and the related signage. Additionally, Mr. Davis indicated that there would be the addition of a sidewalk project on Union Road, but it is not yet funded.

New Addition to Administrative Staff

I would like you to please give a Westlake warm welcome to Mr. Jamar Robinson, who will be joining us in the position of Administrative Assistant. Mr. Jamar Robinson is a native of Atlanta having graduated from South West DeKalb High School in Decatur, GA. Mr. Robinson was an educator at Martin Luther King Jr. High School in Lithonia, GA where he contributed heavily to multiple successive years of increasing gains in student achievement as a vital member of the school's English department and 9th Grade academy. Additionally, Mr. Robinson was the head of the Data Committee, a member of the leadership team, and served as the Professional Learning Liaison. Mr. Robinson believes in the power of collaboration and community involvement and has been a new teacher mentor, the PTSA president, and a member of the Principal's Council. Mr. Robinson passionately believes that education is the great equalizer and is purposefully dedicated to providing the best educational environment for all students. He is honored to serve the exceptional students, faculty, and staff at Westlake High School and looks forward to his role in facilitating student success.

"What can I do to help?"

Here are some ideas about how our parents can support the work we do at Westlake:

- 1. Make sure your students come to school every day that they can.** While students who are ill should stay at home, we cannot teach your student if he or she is not here.
- 2. Keep up with your student's academic progress.** Provided by the School District, Westlake has a great program called Home Access Center. This allows parents to check their student's grades online. We are expanding the program this year to include a *Student Access Center* so students can keep up with their own grades. I encourage you to get your password (which you can do from the Front Office) and monitor how your students are doing in their classes. Please don't lessen your involvement as your students get older. They need you more in high school than ever (although they won't admit it!).

3. Volunteers are needed! There are many opportunities to become involved at Westlake. We are always looking for parents to help in the front office, at sporting events, or to assist teachers. If you are interested, please contact the PTSA through our website and we will get you plugged in.

4. Communicate with us! Please do not rely on the local rumor mill for information. Please contact us via phone or email with your questions or concerns. We will always be happy to help and to provide you with accurate information.

Important Dates

Back to School Event: August 6th @ 10:30 AM – 3:00 PM; Cafeteria and Auxiliary Gym

9th Grade Orientation: August 7th @ 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM; Cafeteria

First Day of School: August 11th @ 8:20 AM

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Interim Principal

Westlake High School

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