



# Wissahickon

## CHAPTER SCHOOL



### WCS Fernhill Campus

4700 G Wissahickon Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19144

## Weekly Wissahickon 9-12-25

### [Message From CEO](#)

Dear Families,

Thank you so much for coming out to Back to School Night this week! We had wonderful turnouts at each school and I know there were many fruitful conversations. It's a great way to start the year as partners. If you missed the event, feel free to be in touch with your child's teacher to say hello and communicate anything you want them to know about your child. At Back to School Night, we shared our [Family /Student / Staff](#) Compacts and I am sharing them again here. Please review them if you were not able to attend.

The first days of school were really focussed on helping students to acclimate to the routines of the school day. We have now begun teaching our curriculum and you will start seeing homework come home. It's a great time to create the systems for getting homework done in your home. Simply identifying the time and space where homework will happen is a great first step. Adding a few school supplies nearby really sets kids up for success! The most important thing is your engagement with and interest in what they are doing. Ask questions and be a resource (though never cross the line of actually doing the homework **for** them- this is your child's work). As always, thank you for your partnership.

Warmly,

Kristi

### Essentials

#### **NEW: WCS Fernhill Absence Form**

Wissahickon is always looking for ways to support our environmental mission and reduce paper use. We're excited to share a new, convenient option for families—absence notes can now be submitted online through the [WCS Fernhill Absence Google Form](#). This easy-to-use form ensures your child's attendance records are updated quickly while helping us stay green.

#### **Documentation Required for Excused Absence**

**Parents - can provide a signed note from you for a total 10 absences these are noted as PE (Parent Excused). Please note that submitting a Parent excused note does not mean that an absence qualifies to be excused!**

- **Exceptions: 3 consecutive absences due to illness = doctor's note**
- **Medical and dental appointments: doctor's note**
- **Funerals announcement card or obituary**
- **Court appearance: court summons**

**Notes must be provided within 3 days of the student's return to be excused.**

**Please notify the school nurse if your child is ill with a communicable disease, i.e., chicken pox, strep throat, etc.**

#### **September 22-29th is Screener Week**

From September 22nd through September 29th, students will take our fall universal screening assessments. These help us understand each child's progress, guide instruction, and help us identify students in need of intervention.

Please make sure your child comes to school well-rested and with a good breakfast. For your child's specific schedule, reach out to the homeroom teacher.

Assessments by grade level:

- DIBELS 8th Edition (K–4): Measures foundational reading skills—phonics, fluency, and comprehension.
- NWEA MAP Math Growth (K–8): Adaptive test that shows math knowledge and growth over time.
- NWEA MAP Reading Growth (3–8): Adaptive test that measures comprehension, vocabulary, and overall reading growth.

Thank you for helping your child come prepared. These assessments are an important step in supporting their learning and growth.

### **PLEASE READ: Important Student Health Services Message**

Dear WCS Families,

Your child's health and safety continue to remain a top priority at WCS. We appreciate your continued partnership to help WCS stay compliant with all PA Department of Health Laws.

Please read the following health reminders in their entirety:

#### **Required Physical & Dental Exams**

Students in Kindergarten, 1st, 3rd, 6th, and 7th grades must undergo Physical and Dental Exams as mandated by PA State Health Laws. If your child's exams are not on record, the School Nurse contacted you via letter. Prompt submission of these exams is crucial. WCS will make several attempts to obtain necessary physical & dental records for your child. In addition to the summer mailing, the first letter this school year was sent home on September 3, 2025. The second letter will be sent on September 17, 2025.

**If required grade physical and dental exams are not submitted to the school immediately, students will not be allowed to participate in any non- academic activities. This includes, but not limited to, recess, school dances, assemblies and field trips.**

#### **School Vaccination Requirements (Immunization Records)**

Per Pennsylvania code 23.84 all students must have an up to date immunization record on file at the school **on the first day of school**. These updated immunization records may require your child receive a new vaccination depending on their age. See the attached fact sheet for more information. WCS will make several attempts to obtain necessary immunization records for your child. In addition to the summer mailing, the first letter this school year was sent home on September 3, 2025. The second letter will be sent on September 17, 2025. Phone calls to parents who have not responded to the letters will begin the week of September 22nd. **Any WCS student who does not have an up to date immunization record, or exemption on file at the school, will be excluded from school beginning Monday, November 3, 2025.** Your child will only be admitted back to school once we have the complete immunization records or exemption on file. Absences will not be excused.

Attached are the guideline for immunizations and a copy of the exemption form if needed. Exemptions will require a parent signature to the student's health card in the Nurse's Office in addition to the completed exemption form.

#### **Mandated Student Health Screenings**

Our School Nurse will begin student health screenings in the next few weeks. Health Screenings are a "mandated" part of public education that falls under the umbrella of school health services. The screening includes height, weight, vision, hearing and scoliosis (grades 6th & 7th). Parental permission is not required. However if you do not want your child screened by the school nurse, please be sure submit a private health exam in lieu of the screening.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the School Nurse at [fcnurse@wissahickoncharter.org](mailto:fcnurse@wissahickoncharter.org) or Ms. Tiffany Days at [t.days@wissahickoncharter.org](mailto:t.days@wissahickoncharter.org)

Thank you,  
Ms. Tiffany

#### **WCS Afterschool Program**

Our Afterschool program is currently full. All families that apply will be added to the waitlist

#### **8th Grade Families ONLY:**

High school applications for the School District of Philadelphia will open September 8, 2025 - October 23, 2025. We will begin our mandatory high school advising meetings on Monday, September 22, 2025. Applications can be submitted at any time during the application period. The Counselors will send instructions on how to schedule the advising meetings in the coming weeks. Please **do not** complete this application alone. Completing the application with your counselor assures that it is done correctly and that all required documentation is submitted.

The Great Philly Schools High School Fair is happening on Saturday, September 20th, from 10 AM to 4 PM at the PA Convention Center. We are starting our High School Advising Meetings after the fair to allow families and students time to attend. Use this

[this link](#) to register for the fair.

Please email Ms. Aitiya (Last Names A-L) at [a.hobson@wissahickoncharter.org](mailto:a.hobson@wissahickoncharter.org) or Ms. Meskun (Last Names M-Z) at [l.meskun@wissahickoncharter.org](mailto:l.meskun@wissahickoncharter.org) with any questions or concerns.

### **Flat Rate Program**

Use the [link](#) to complete the monthly payment form.

### **On Radar**

### **School Lunch**

All enrolled students of Wissahickon Charter School are eligible to receive a nutritional breakfast and lunch each school day at no charge to your household. No further action is required of you.

Please see the link to check out our <https://www.fdmealplanner.com/#Wissahickon>

### **WCS Sports**

Please click the links for information regarding sports teams.

[Soccer](#), [Cross Country](#), [Volleyball](#),

### **Girls in Gear**

We are a nonprofit, volunteer-led program that teaches confidence-building through bike riding for girls ages 5+. Our no-questions-asked scholarship policy (which includes bikes and helmets) means that everyone can ride with us. For the seventh consecutive season, we're hosting our eight-week program in Philly! Click the link for more information. [Girls in Gear](#).

### **School Day Off Camps and After-School Programs at Awbury Arboretum**

Please click the links below for more information

[School day off Camp](#)

[Afterschool Program](#)

### **Reminders**

#### **Reminder of Safety Policies**

WCS is an Alcohol, Drug and Weapon Free School Zone. If you notice any of these prohibited items on school grounds please contact a WCS School Leader immediately.

#### **Wellness Committee**

Below are some updates for the 2025-26 school year. These changes have been added to our school Wellness Policy that can be found on our website.

The Wellness Policy is to ensure the health & well being of all students at all times during the school day, and all staff are a part of making this happen.

Some of the changes include:

- Classroom Birthdays / Celebrations - No cupcakes or cakes will be allowed. All snacks MUST pass the Smart Snack Product Calculator <https://foodplanner.healthiergeneration.org/calculator/> AND MUST be approved by the Food Service Coordinator.
- (1) celebration per month per classroom at the discretion of the teacher.
- Parties/celebrations shall include foods or beverages that meet established nutrition standards. Parents/Guardians will be informed through newsletter or other efficient classroom communication methods of what foods/beverages should be brought in when a party has been scheduled.
- No pizza parties - We will work with the kitchen for a healthier alternative.
- Sales of foods & beverages that meet the smart snacks standards and sales of nonfood items ( e.g., wrapping paper, plants, apparel or items that need to be baked at home - cookie dough) are not limited under the Federal policy .
- Fundraising activities that occur during nonschool hours, on weekends, or at off-campus events are not limited under the Federal policy.

#### **Attendance Notes**

Please complete the [Fernhill Absence Google Form](#).and upload any absent notes or attendance questions.

#### **Reminder of Early Dismissal Cutoff Times:**

Normal dismissal days the cutoff is 2:30pm

Early dismissal days the cutoff is 11:45am

### **Front Office Hours:**

In order to ensure the safety of our students during arrival and dismissal all of our staff have been assigned an arrival and dismissal post. This means that the front office will be closed from 8-8:30am and 3-3:30pm. Please communicate any dismissal changes before 2:30 to ensure that this information is communicated to your student in a timely manner.

### **Lost and Found**

If your child is missing items and you think they could be in the lost and found, please come in and give a look. Lost glasses are kept in the front office. Due to limited space all unclaimed items will be donated at the end of each month.

### **School Calendar**

As a reminder our school calendar for 25-26 is [here](#). Please plan accordingly.

### **Follow Wissahickon Charter on Social Media**

Follow WCS on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) for important school updates and to see student learning and fun in action! And don't be shy- we love it when you like, comment, and share our posts!

### **Important Dates**

**Tuesday, September 23,2025 Rosh Hashanah- School Closed**

**Thursday, October 2,2025 Yom Kippur- School Closed**

Fernhill Weekly Wissahickon

Sep 12, 2025

See more: <https://o.ss.ly/l/6amD5znL>

 **SchoolStatus** Connect

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WCS Fernhill Campus  
4700 G Wissahickon Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19144

# READING OPENS THE WORLD

## FAMILY LITERACY FAIR

**30,000 FREE BOOKS for Families and Educators!**

*Attendees will also enjoy free food and music, free Lego Brick Boxes (While supplies last), Free laptop giveaways and more!*

**SATURDAY**  
SEPT., 20, 2025

**STARTS AT**  
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

**Salvation Army Haven of Hope, 1340 Brown Street Philadelphia, PA 19123**  
Parking lot entrance located on Fairmount between 13<sup>th</sup> Street & Broad Street

Parents and Families  
Register Here:

Educators  
Register Here:

- Parents and guardians are welcome to choose up to 10 free books per child for home libraries, with a 30-book maximum limit per family.
- Educators and school staff may choose up to 50 free books for their classrooms.

Office of Katherine Gilmore Richardson Councilmember At Large, Majority Leader | City Hall Room 581 | (215) 681-1111

#CouncilmemberKGR #CouncilmemberKGR #CouncilwomanKGR #PittCouncil

# Wissahickon in the Wissahickon

## 2025

**5-8<sup>th</sup> Grade: September 26**  
**K-4<sup>th</sup> Grade: October 3**  
**9:00-2:30**  
\*Rain Date: TBD\*

### What is Wissahickon in the Wissahickon?

Wissahickon in the Wissahickon is an all day whole school field trip to Bluebell Park Meadow/Trails. It is a time to build our community and really get to know our neighborhood and the beautiful Wissahickon, that is our backyard. Your children will work with each other to build our community connection and enjoy hiking, fall fun, snacks and activities.

### Keep in Mind

- "Students MUST arrive at school on time."
- "Students cannot be picked up at the park."
- "There is no early dismissal."

Grades K-3rd will take the bus to and from the park. Grades 4th - 8th will walk there and bus back

### All Students Should

All students should:  
wear good walking shoes (no dress shoes)  
wear appropriate clothing for the weather.  
bring a bagged lunch and a water bottle.  
If your child has a need for an inhaler or any other medications, make sure that it is given to the nurse prior to 9/22/25.  
Please Note:  
Because of the size of this event every child will attend unless you choose to opt out your child. If you choose to opt out your child for this trip, we are requesting that you notify your child's homeroom teacher by Monday, September 22, 2025.

# BOOK LAUNCH EVENT

Heather Adelman

**AFTER**  
A SURVIVOR'S STORY

With Author Heather Adelman AT CHILDREN'S BOOK WORLD

**SUNDAY OCTOBER 12<sup>TH</sup>, 2025**  
**11:00am-12:30pm**  
Children's Book World | 17 Haverford Station Rd, Haverford, PA

**BRING FRIENDS!!**  
**PRE-ORDER OR DONATE A BOOK**

Since 2020 our launch parties have helped distribute over **14,000** donated books to underserved classrooms, schools, and kids.  
Thank you for being a part of Team Books.

[www.childrensbookworld.net/adelman-assorted-titles](http://www.childrensbookworld.net/adelman-assorted-titles)  
**@WAYPASTBOOKS**