



Message from the 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. Please review them if you were not able to attend.

The first days of school were really focused 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  
Important Dates

September 13th - Back to School BBQ

September 19th - Early Dismissal @ 12:45 for Professional Development

September 23rd - School CLOSED for Roah Hashanah

Back to School BBQ

It's finally here, our our Back to School BBQ tomorrow Saturday, September 13th! Parents, families and staff who donated, THANK YOU for always being such an important part of our school community. The weather looks beautiful for tomorrow so if you have even been to our Back to School BBQ you know we have a great time. We can't wait to see you on tomorrow September 13!



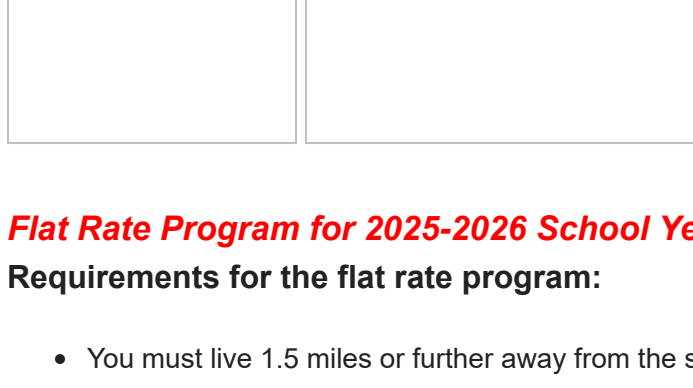
Reading Rock Stars

Congratulations to our first group of Reading Rock Stars! These students moved up 1 or more reading levels over the summer. Awesome work!!  
111:Kaiden, Anthony, Cori, Zakia, Azara, Calvin, Aria, London, Teyanna, Zola  
112: Nasai, Gus, Iris, Jared, Denver  
211: Alaina, Daniel  
212: Mikayla, Jacob, Evie, Chase



Back to School Night Raffle Winner

Thanks to everyone who came to Back to School Night and we logged onto our app- School Status Connect and Unified Classroom Behavior. Congratulations to Ms Serita Johnson, mother to Chase and Isabella for winning the raffle!



Flat Rate Program for 2025-2026 School Year  
Requirements for the flat rate program:

- You must live 1.5 miles or further away from the school
- Must be in grades 1-6 (kindergarten, 7th & 8th grade students are not eligible)
- Must complete the form the first week of every month. With the exception of the month of September. You will complete the form the first week of October for the month September.
- The form will be housed in the Weekly Wissahickon in reminders starting the last week of September.
- All transportation issues should be directed to [Ms. Shonda](#)

Please note, if a family is unsure of their eligibility, or status for '25-26, filling out the Enrollment Form (application) is probably a good idea.

Students that will be eligible in 2025-26, and finish the 2024-25 school year within the program, will roll-over (with no application needed). They will be placed in the portion of the program they participated in at the end of the 2024-25 school year. Any student that will need busing, and/or wishes to change portions, a TAR will be needed (please explain the change in the TAR referencing the program).

Any family that transfers, and/or changes addresses, will need to re-apply through the Enrollment Form to re-determine eligibility.

Any family that has participated, but the sibling that was registered is no longer eligible, will need to apply for the other sibling(s) if they were not already registered.

Any family that was not registered in the program previously, or was removed at some point during the 2024-25 school year, will need to apply through the Enrollment Form.

Any student with a transportation-specific IEP, that includes busing, will need the IEP attached to their profile within the transportation system to ensure they are properly rolled-over. If this applies to you please reach out to [Ms. Shonda](#)

Please reach out to [Ms. Shonda](#) if you have any questions.

Enrollment Form 2025-26:  
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSo3bAE31gU7VRUUCDWpTgh6GZcbXFZx6cU8xu180nQgJwIviewform>

On Radar  
Farm for City Kids Trip Applications for 4th-6th Grades

The week of October 20th, a group of WCS students will have the opportunity to participate in a free program called Farms For City Kids. This is a week-long, residential program at Spring Brook Farm in Vermont. On this thousand-acre farm, students are immersed in farm life, participating in most of the daily operations. Through hands-on farm tasks, cheese making, and animal care, students build on their skills in reading, writing, math, social studies, and environmental science. Students are empowered, building on our social curriculum of teamwork, leadership, communication, respect and responsibility. Farms for City Kids programming complements and furthers our mission here at the school. For more information about the farm, go to their website: [www.farmsforcitykids.org/](http://www.farmsforcitykids.org/). Interested students in grades fourth, fifth, and sixth can choose to apply to participate. Applications are now available and are due Tuesday, September 16th. Students can see Ms. Liz for an application.

Awbury in Awbury

On October 1st, WCS staff and students will spend the afternoon in Awbury Arboretum to celebrate the fall season with our community. In small groups, students will participate in many activities exploring the Arboretum and enjoying fall. We will hunt, discover, make crafts and have lots of FUN outdoors. If you are interested in volunteering to help at a station or with your child's class, please reach out to your child's teachers.

The PA Child Abuse and PA Criminal Record check are now free for volunteers

These clearances are specifically for volunteering and will not be accepted by employers. Once you have obtained the clearances, you should bring a copy to the front office or email them to [l.bailey@wiscacharterschool.org](mailto:l.bailey@wiscacharterschool.org), and we will keep it on file.

PA Criminal Record Check

The PA Criminal Record Check can be completed online [here](#). At this site, click on "New Record Check" (Volunteers Only). You will need to have access to a printer in order to print out the clearance. If you do not have access to a printer, please email the control number, the exact name you entered (first, middle and last), and the date of the request to [l.bailey@wiscacharterschool.org](mailto:l.bailey@wiscacharterschool.org), so that we can access the results. If you have any questions about the process for applying for the PA Criminal Record Check, please call the PATCH help desk at 1-888-QUERY-PA (1-888-783-7972).

PA Child Abuse History Clearance

The PA Child Abuse History Clearance can be completed online [here](#). Click on "Create a new account". For Application Purpose, select "Volunteer". Then for organization, select "other" and type in Wissahickon Charter School. Where it asks for a Keystone ID, it is really just asking you to create a username. The system will then email you a temporary password which you can use to log on. Once you receive your results please email to [l.bailey@wiscacharterschool.org](mailto:l.bailey@wiscacharterschool.org) we will file them in your child's folder.

If you have any questions about the process for the PA Child Abuse clearance, please call 1-877-343-0494. They will provide customer support. When placing a call, you should be on the website.

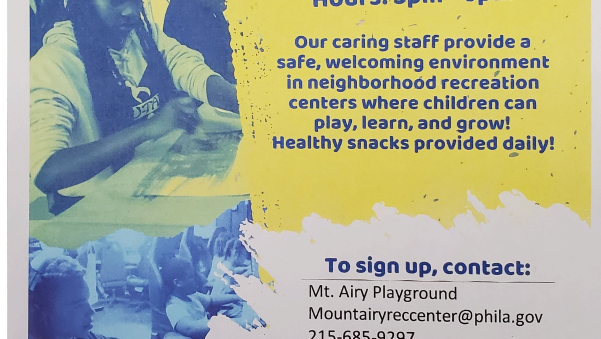
Awbury Arboretum

Awbury Arboretum, a cherished green space in Northwest Philadelphia, to share that we'll be offering another session of our after-school programs this September. We'd love your help spreading the word and getting future green stewards enrolled!

Attached below you'll find two flyers: one for our School Day Off Camps and one for our After-School Programs.



Philadelphia Parks and Recreation Afterschool Program



Youth sewing Workshops



Extras

2025-2026 School Calendar

Here is our [2025-26](#) school year calendar.

Food Menu

[Here](#) is the link for breakfast and lunch menu

School Store

[Here](#) is the link for the school store. Purchase all of your WCS school apparel.

IMPORTANT: 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. 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.

The Wellness Committee

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.

- Classroom Birthdays / Celebrations - No cupcakes or cakes will be allowed. All snacks MUST pass the Smart Snack Product
- Calculator <https://foodplanner.healthgeneration.org/calculator/>
- See [THIS LIST](#) for approved snacks

Reminders

Has your address, phone number or email address changed?

Please inform the Front Office of ALL changes to your student's demographics. [Reminder...](#) in order to change your address, you must submit (2) proofs of residency in addition to the change of address form.

Attendance

If your child will be absent, late or you need to send in a note or any documentation pertaining to attendance please do not send them to your child's teacher. Please email all correspondence and documentation to [aw.attendance@wiscacharterschool.org](mailto:aw.attendance@wiscacharterschool.org). Make sure you include your child's first and last name and grade.

Reminder of Early Dismissal Cutoff Times

Normal dismissal days the cutoff is 2:30pm

Early dismissal days the cutoff is 11:45am

Reminder of lunch drop off

The Front Office will no longer accept lunches dropped off. If your child forgets their lunch or does not have a lunch, they will be able to get a lunch from the cafeteria.

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!



