

# WEST DEPTFORD HIGH SCHOOL

## Summer Newsletter

VOLUME X

AUGUST 2019

### Scholastic Aptitude Test

#### Dates for 2019-2020

\*Oct 5, 2019  
(deadline Sept. 6)

\*Nov 2, 2019  
(deadline Oct. 3)

\*Dec 7, 2019  
(deadline Nov. 2)

\*Mar 14, 2020  
(deadline Feb. 14)

\*May 2, 2020  
(deadline April 3)

\*Jun 6, 2020  
(deadline May 8)

The PSAT date is offered to every 10th and 11th grader on Wednesday, October 16th during the school day.

Please contact:  
[www.CollegeBoard.org](http://www.CollegeBoard.org)  
for further information.

### ADMINISTRATION

#### Principal

Dr. Brian C. Gismondi

#### Assistant Principal

Curriculum/ Instruction

Ms. Kelly Clark

#### Assistant Principal

Discipline/Attendance

Mr. Tim Cammarota

#### Assistant Principal

Athletics/Activities

Mr. Jason Morrell

# 2019 WELCOME BACK 2020

On behalf of the entire staff, I want to welcome all of our students to WDHS for the 2019-20 school year – especially those who will be attending for the first time. Our goal is to provide our students and parents with timely information. To ensure that possibility, we will post updated information on our high school website each month. There will be links to websites for the following: Guidance, Curriculum, Student Activities, Athletics, and general information. We will include information about coming events, changes in procedures, and other timely items.

This newsletter for the 2019-2020 school year contains information that all parents should have before the school year begins. Please remember that we are as close as your telephone – do not hesitate to call with your questions and suggestions. All high school information will be accessible on the high school website. I hope everyone is as excited as we are to begin our school year! We will see you soon!!

Brian C. Gismondi, Ed.D

## FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

Wednesday, September 4, 2019 (FULL DAY of School) 7:31 am - 2:06pm

School hours are 7:31 am to 2:06 pm.

A complete school calendar is located on the home page of the West Deptford High School web page.

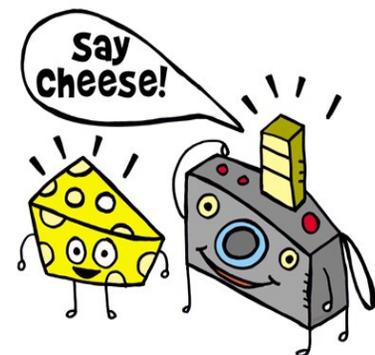
Class schedules may be viewed online on Power Parent after August 10th.

WDHS Counselors will be in August 27th and August 28th to assist with any scheduling conflicts from 9am-1:45pm.!

## School Pictures

Pictures of all students will be taken on **Monday, September 9, 2019** for **Student I.D. cards**.

A packet for your picture purchase will be emailed home and located on the High School Webpage!



# GPA / Class Rank System



As many parents and students already know, every course at WDHS is included in determining a student’s grade point average and class rank.

A **weighted** system is used in the computation of the GPA and rank. Courses are “weighted” according to the academic rigor required. For example, an Advanced Placement (AP) or Honors course will be weighted higher than a College Prep (CP) course. Please keep in mind that a course failure will not receive any additional weighting.

All Advanced Placement courses

will receive a weight factor of 115%, all Honors courses will receive a weight factor of 110%, all CP classes will receive a weight factor of 105%, and all Special Education classes will receive a weight factor of 100%.

For instance, if a student earns a numerical grade of a 93 in AP Biology, that grade will be multiplied by 1.15 (weight factor) to estimate a weighted grade of 106%. These weighted grades will then transfer into quality points and be added with all of the remaining course calculations for that particular student and a

weighted GPA will result. When you ask for your child’s GPA, you will no longer receive a result out of a 5-point scale; instead, a student will be given a numerical weighted average. The following equation calculates the weighted GPA:

**Weighted GPA** = Final Grade for each course x weight factor x credits earned for the course and then divided by the total credits attempted. A more detailed description of this calculation system can be explained via your child’s guidance counselor.

## What is the 59% Rule?

Our grading policy allows a minimum 59% average for Marking Period 1 only for all full-year courses and Marking Periods 1 and/or 3 only for all semester courses. As students transition from one year (or one semester) to the next, we want to give them the opportunity and support to adjust to a new teacher and new course. However, after that initial marking period, the grade your child earns in the respective course will be reflected as such on his/her report card. Please remember to check Power Parent daily for your child’s grades and stay in contact with your child’s teachers.

• *“Learning is not attained by chance, it must be sought for with ardor and attended to with diligence.”*  
- Abigail Adams

## Intervention & Referral Services

Again, in the 2019-2020 school year, West Deptford High School will provide an Intervention & Referral Services Team. Under N.J.A.C. 6A:16-8, this team must assist students who are experiencing learning, behavior or health difficulties by supporting the staff who are addressing/teaching these students.

We are very excited to work together to provide the best education and opportunities to your children! Stay tuned for more information regarding I&RS plans as the committee meets throughout the year.



## BREAKFAST/LUNCH PROGRAM



The cafeteria will serve breakfast and lunch starting with the first day of school. We will use last year's eligibility list for free and reduced-price lunches until new application forms are processed. These application forms will be sent home via School Messenger. All parents are requested to fill out the forms online for each student as soon as possible, especially if you believe that you qualify for free or reduced lunches. The price of a regular student lunch will be **\$3.10** and Breakfast is \$2.25.

### PLEASE NOTE:

**PER FEDERAL REGULATIONS, WE MAY NOT ACCEPT DELIVERIES FOR STUDENTS FROM FAST FOOD CHAINS SUCH AS MC DONALD'S, BURGER KING, TACO BELL, ETC.**

**STUDENTS CAN ONLY PURCHASE LUNCHESS PROVIDED BY THE SCHOOL CAFETERIA.**

**“Do what you can, with what you have, where you are.”**

**-Theodore Roosevelt**

## STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOK

All incoming freshmen and transfer students will find the Student-Parent Handbook on the high school website under the **“For Students”** tab titled Student Handbook.

Please encourage your son/daughter to become familiar with the contents of the handbook. You may want to view a copy of the handbook so that you can familiarize yourself with our High School. Please pay particular attention to the **Discipline Policy Chart and the Attendance/Lateness Policies!**

Please make sure you read this information. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Cammarota in the Discipline/Attendance Office.

### Emergency School Closing

It may be necessary from time to time to close the school because of inclement weather or some other emergency. If this occurs, you will receive a message via our School Messenger communication system. The West Deptford Township School District Code is 804. The station that appears to offer the most accurate and timely information is KYW (1060 on the AM dial). The school closing information will also be posted on the district website.

It is also possible that, if weather conditions are such that we believe road conditions will be safe by approximately 8:00 am, there would be a two-hour delay in opening school. If that occurs, you will receive a message via our School Messenger communication system. In that situation, high school students will simply report at 9:31am instead of 7:31 am. All bus routes would start two hours later than the usual time.

In the event of an early dismissal due to inclement weather or other emergency closings, you will receive a message via our School Messenger communication system.



# MESSAGE FROM THE NURSE'S OFFICE

Many students are in need of medication from time to time during the school day. To ensure that medication (even everyday items like Aspirin and Tylenol) is taken only in the appropriate dosage and with proper permission, please adhere to the following stipulations:

**The parent or guardian (not the child) must bring the medication to the school.** Should any student be found to have medicine or drugs in his/her possession, these will be delivered to the nurse and contact made with the parent.

1. The doctor must send a written order to the school nurse giving the prescription, name of the medication, and the name of the child.
2. The pharmacist or physician must label the medication, and the label must give the name of the medicine, the strength and the amount to be given.

The parent must also complete the **INFOSNAP** form to give permission for the administration of the medication. Please contact the school nurse, **Mrs. Lynn Zoll**, if you have any questions.



## Athletic Physicals/ Drug Testing

Specific information about athletic physicals was emailed to all parents in June. Students who have not had a physical by the start of practices, **will not be permitted to practice.**

Athletes, and students participating in extra-curricular activities, and seniors with parking privileges will be subject to random drug testing throughout the school year. Please see the separate memo that explains the Board of Education Random Drug testing policy #5536.

## PTO - Parent/Teacher Organization

The WDHS Parent Organization meets on the second Thursday every other month during the school year in the high school library. All parents are welcome to attend and participate in the various activities of the organization.

Services this group provides to our students include scholarships and **Project Graduation** activities. Your involvement and support are greatly needed to continue providing our students with various activities. We hope to see you at our first meeting.

## Meet the Staff

Our annual **OPEN HOUSE** will be held on **Thursday, September 5, 2019.**

This is a great opportunity to meet your child's teacher, purchase gym uniforms, walk the building and become a part of this great school community.

Hours: 6:00pm-7:30pm

## FROSH FEST - Class of 2023

"Frosh Fest" will be held on **August 28th from 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm.** This event is for all incoming 9<sup>th</sup> grade students only, and it replaces our traditional Freshman Orientation program. Students, please join us for an evening of information. Transportation will not be provided. We hope to see the CLASS OF 2023 students on August 28th!



## HS Office Hours

During the school year, the high school offices are open from **7:00 am to 4:00 pm** (3:30 pm on the last day of the week).

During the summer, the offices are open from **7:30 am to 12:00 pm** and **1:00 pm to 4:30 pm** (All offices closed on Friday).

Occasional exceptions to these hours are posted on the front doors.



*“The beautiful thing about learning is that no one can take it away from us.”*

*B.B. King*

## STUDENT PARKING

Due to a large number of students who desire to drive to school, and the limited number of parking spaces available, parking on school grounds will ***ONLY*** be permitted to members of the ***SENIOR CLASS*** who are in:

- **GOOD ACADEMIC STANDING, (NO FAILURES IN THE PRECEDING MARKING PERIOD)**
- **HAVE NO OUTSTANDING FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS**

Parking decals will be issued beginning August 19th. For a cost of \$5.00 for seniors who are eligible. Decals can also be issued /purchased during

the school year .

To get a decal, a twelfth -grade student must present:

1. **A completed parking application form, including a signed Random Drug testing consent form**
2. **A valid NJ driver’s license**
3. **A valid NJ registration for the vehicle to be parked**
4. **Proof of Insurance**

No Senior will be permitted to park on school property starting with the first day of school unless a valid 2019-2020 parking decal is placed on the vehicle.

The application can be found on line under the summer mailing or in the attendance office. All stu-

dents who drive to school must also participate in the Random Drug Testing.

These forms must be completed and returned to the **Attendance Office** when you come to register for a parking decal. Underclassmen who choose to drive may park, ***at their own risk***, on the “Bulldog” lot across from the lacrosse field.

**The West Deptford Board of Education cannot be held responsible for this parking area since it is not considered school property.**

## Renaissance Program

West Deptford High School will continue the Renaissance Program again this year. The goal is to provide students with an incentive program to motivate each individual to achieve successfully, behaviorally, academically, and socially. Students can earn different cards to receive incentives such as discounts to various school events, discounts at stores who will participate in the Renaissance program, luncheons, and other forms of recognition.

More information about this program can be found in the **Student/Parent Handbook**.

## Insurance Information

Please be advised that the school district provides accident insurance for all students attending West Deptford Public Schools. While students are covered for all student activities including inter-scholastic sports, it is important to note that the student’s accident insurance is secondary coverage to ***your health care provider***. The student accident insurance becomes primary coverage only in the event you ***do not*** have health care coverage. In the case of an accident, please contact the school nurse to determine whether or not an accident report has been filed. Submit all bills to ***your*** health insurance carrier.

***After your*** insurance has paid the medical expenses up to the policy limits, send any unpaid itemized bills along with copies of payments to the ***schools insurance carrier***.

# LOCKERS/LOCKS

All students are assigned a hall locker at the beginning of the school year. Students in Grades 10, 11, and 12 who did not purchase a lock last year must purchase a lock from the school **at the cost of \$5.00 cash or check payable to “West Deptford High School.”** The student will be required to use this lock during the time s/he attends WDHS. Incoming freshmen who purchased locks in the Middle School will be permitted to use their lock at the High School. Please note that a student may only use a lock purchased at the High School or Middle School. Any other locks are not acceptable and will be cut off if identified as such.

If a student loses a lock during the year, a new one may be purchased from the Attendance Office for a \$5.00 fee. Please make sure students have a lock for the first day of school.



**PLEASE NOTE:**

**LOCKERS ARE LOANED TO STUDENTS BUT ARE THE PROPERTY OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT. THEY ARE SUBJECT TO INSPECTION BY SCHOOL AUTHORITIES AT ANY TIME.**

**STUDENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONTENTS OF THE LOCKER ISSUED TO THEM. STUDENTS ARE NOT TO WRITE OR PLACE STICKERS OR TAPE, ETC. ON THE INSIDE/ OUTSIDE OF THEIR LOCKERS.**

Please Note: The above information applies to **HALL LOCKERS** only. Locks will continue to be issued to students by the physical education teaching staff for use in the gym.

## DRESS CODE

The dress code for students can be found in the **Student/Parent Handbook**. We believe that students whose dress is neat and clean feel better about themselves so they can benefit the most from the educational program.

If a student is dressed inappropriately, s/he will need to change the attire and parents

may be contacted.

Particular attention should be given to **tight-fitting, short skirts/ shorts**, which can prove to be unsafe especially in an emergency situation.

Also prohibited are hats, bandannas, tank tops and clothing imprinted with double meaning or crude phrases, or with draw-

ings or slogans which appear to promote or condone the use of drugs/alcohol, contain profanity, sexual references or advocate violence.

**The cooperation of students and parents is appreciated and will ensure a wholesome learning environment for the entire student body.**

*“It is never too late to become what you might have been.”*

**George Eliot**



## Homecoming Information / Outstanding Fines

West Deptford High School’s Homecoming Weekend will be held on October 25th—October 26th. During the week prior to Homecoming, Student Council will be designating special activities as part of “Spirit Week.”

All students will be given the opportunity to show their “Eagle Pride” by participating in this fun-filled week. The Eagles of West Deptford will host our football game on Friday evening, October 25th. During halftime, the

Student Council will present the introduction of the Homecoming Court and the crowning of the Queen.

The semi-formal Homecoming Dance will be held on Saturday evening, October 26th. The Junior class sponsors this activity.

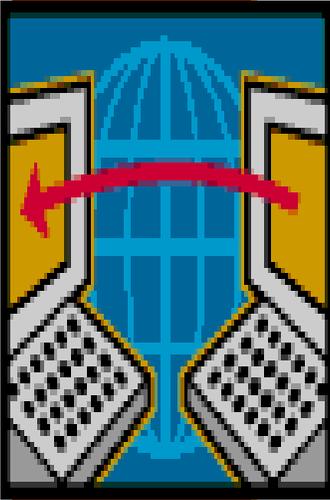
All students that owe fines from the current and/or previous school years are advised that failure to pay outstanding obligations will result in the student not being permitted to take part

in athletics, extra-curricular activities, or to secure a parking decal.

Additionally, no student with an unpaid fine will be permitted to purchase tickets or attend the Homecoming Dance. If you have questions about a fine, please contact the Athletics/Activities office on ext. 2218. (Mrs. Danze)

## CUSTODY

## Section 504/ADA



Some parents have legal papers which limit who can have access to their children and/or to the school records of their children. If you are in this situation, you should contact the Attendance Office and Guidance to arrange for the school to have a copy of this document.

Children who have substantial limitations of one or more life functions may be entitled to special services in school under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act and various State and Federal laws. These laws protect the rights of students with disabilities who might have difficulty attending school or participating in regular school activities, without related aids or modifications.

To find out if your child qualifies for Section 504/ADA services, contact **your assigned GUIDANCE COUNSELOR** at the high school.

*“Team Work is  
working  
together—even  
when apart.”*

*Unknown*

## Internet/E-Mail Use Agreement

Internet/Email access is available to students in the West Deptford Township schools. Our goal in providing this service is to promote educational excellence by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, and communication. With access to computers and people all over the world also comes the availability of material that may not be considered to be of educational value in the context of the school setting. The West Deptford Township School District has taken precautions to restrict access to controversial materials.

Throughout the school year, we like to recognize student achievement through the publication of students' work and photographs of our students. The law requires that we ask for your permission to use information about your child. Please make sure you sign off via our new INFOSNAP to allow student access!

### TRAFFIC PATTERN

We will be using traffic patterns that were implemented years ago for dropping off and picking up students during the school day. These patterns have been established in conjunction with the school district and West Deptford Township Police Department.

Upon entering the school from Old Crown Point Road, parents are to drop off their student(s) along the **SIDE OF THE BUILDING** closest to the Guidance Office and shop areas (right side of the building). There will be two lanes along the right side of the building, one for student drop-off and the other for through traffic.

The lane closest to the school will be for student drop-off/

pick-up, the right lane will be for through traffic only.

When you are dropping off in front of the building, please pull all the way up towards the end of the auditorium for more cars to drop students off safely and efficiently. Please do not hold up traffic and allow students to exit from vehicles where there is on going traffic.

To maintain safety and order parents are requested not to drop off students in the through lane. Please be advised that at no time may parents drop-off students or park along the curb in front of the school.



## DATES TO REMEMBER

### Late Arrival/Early Release

Students in Grades 11/12 who have a scheduled study hall at the beginning or the end of the school day may apply to arrive at school late (at the end of study hall) and to leave school early (after their last regular class).

Assistant Principals will distribute applications to participate in this program and will also determine approval for participation in this program.

Students who have earned an “F” in any course and/or are in non-credit status due to absences will not be permitted to participate in this program. Any student who has accumulated eight discipline points anytime during the school year will not be eligible to earn or maintain late arrival and/or early release privileges.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Cammarota, Assistant Principal.

#### August

- 12 Fall Sports OFFICIALLY Begin
- 21 NHS Assistance Meeting (6pm)
- 27-28 Guidance Scheduling Conflict Days
- 28 Frosh Fest

#### September

- 4 School Opens
- 5 WDHS OPEN HOUSE (6pm-7:30pm)
- 6 PEP RALLY—Students Only @ 1:30pm
- 7 1st Football Game 11am @ Paulsboro
- 9 WDHS PICTURE DAY

#### October

- 7 NHS Sponsored BLOOD DRIVE
- 11 Teacher In-Service—School Closed
- 12 Annual “Cavalcade of Bands” @WDHS
- 14 Columbus Day – School Closed
- 16 10th/11th grade PSAT TESTING
- 25 Homecoming Football Game
- 26 Homecoming Dance

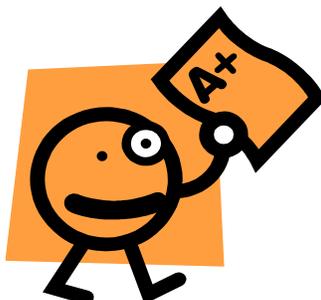
#### November

- 6-8 All Schools Closed for In-Service

## INTERIMS

Parents/guardians will receive an interim report mid-way through each marking period indicating areas of commendations and areas of deficiency. These reports will be emailed home on the dates listed below:

- Oct 7, 2019
- Dec 12, 2019
- Mar 4, 2020
- May 8, 2020



## STUDENT RECORDS

All student records must list students by their correct names. We will use the name as it appears on the student’s birth certificate unless we are provided another legal document with a different name.

If we become aware of a difference between the name in our records and the name as it appears on the birth certificate or other legal document, we will change our records.

If you have any questions, you should contact the Guidance Office.

## REPORT CARDS

### Schedule for reporting grades is as follows:

First Marking Period ends on 11/4/19  
Report Cards issued on 11/11/19

Second Marking Period ends on 1/22/20  
Report Cards issued on 1/30/20

MID TERM EXAMS (1/2 day schedule) -  
1/23/20- 1/28/20

Third Marking Period ends on 4/1/20  
Report Cards issued on 4/6/20

Fourth Marking Period ends on 6/9/20

FINAL EXAMS (1/2 day Schedule)  
6/10/20 - 6/15/20

Report Cards *emailed* five days after school closes via School Messenger.