

WILLARD 3-5 NEWSLETTER



Principal's Message

Dear Willard 3-5 Families,

As the end of the third grading period quickly approaches (March 15), we are very pleased with the progress we are seeing! :) Students should continue to work hard into the 4th grading period on their classroom work and during the state AIR assessment preparation. Student attendance is vital as each and every day instruction is being presented and lessons are reviewed which support the student's academic growth.

During the week of March 11th, Willard 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders will be celebrating diversity in children's literature by reading books by authors from various cultures and ethnicities. In the past, March has been dedicated to Read Across America and celebrating the works of Dr. Seuss and his birthday. While Dr. Seuss has greatly impacted the world of reading and enticed many young readers to read books, we hope to make a shift to include a more diverse group of authors. Our theme, "Lift Every Voice and Read", is inspired by the beautiful illustration from writer/illustrator Kadir Nelson and the song Lift Every Voice and Sing. We are very excited and looking forward to this celebration of reading! Please talk with your student about their guest readers and continue to encourage their love of reading. :)

Vicki Raptis
3-5 Principal



Willard Kindergarten Registration will take place on Thursday, March 21st from 2-6 pm at Willard. Children who will be 5 years old by Sept. 30th are eligible for Kindergarten in the 2019-2020 school year. Please bring your child's birth certificate, social security card, shot records, proof of residency, and any custody papers (if applicable).

If you are interested in having your 3 or 4 year old attend one of our WCS Five Star PRESCHOOLS, please call Larreka at 330-675-4321 for further information.

The Golden Rule for February-Effective Behavior:

Taking responsibility for our actions and words; following directions; active listening; active participation. Focus for March- NO EXCUSES

www.warenschools.k12.oh.us



For the continued safety of your child, all transportation changes require a note from a parent or legal guardian. Please make sure that we have a current emergency form on file for your student(s). Photo ID is required when picking up a student during the school day.



March 1- 3rd Grade Wax Museum presentations

March 6- NO SCHOOL, WAIVER DAY

March 11- Life Every Voice and Read Guest Reading

March 21—Kindergarten Registration @ Willard 2:00 pm—6:00 pm

March 15- End of 3rd grading period

March 28- 3-5 Grade Awards

Yearbooks are on sale for \$16.00. Please send in money in an envelope with you child's name and homeroom teacher's name. Yearbooks will be delivered in late May. Questions: 330-675-8700 xt 1301

**WILLARD 3-5
VICKI RAPTIS, PRINCIPAL**

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Phone: 330-675-8700
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Academic Updates:

A Glimpse into the Classrooms



Grade 3:

3rd grade readers will be finishing up their experiences with books by the same author. Setting, plot, and theme will be used to develop understandings of the events between books. Writers will continue to engage in the writing process and to get quicker with the process. Math students will be introduced to the concept of area of rectangles and squares that are measured in square units. Sort-

Grade 4:

4th grade students will be analyzing mythology in the month of March. Students will also revisit analyzing informational text. Writers will continue to write opinion and informational pieces based on a question or a prompt. In math, students will make connections between division and equivalent ratios. They will solve division problems, share strategies, and work together to create a class chart for division strategies.

Grade 5:

5th grade students will read informational texts again and work to understand how authors develop their information around a topic. Writers will utilize at least 2 sources of information to write a prompt using evidence to support their thinking. In math, students will model and solve problems that involve dividing whole numbers by unit fractions, and then model and solve problems in which fractions are divided by whole numbers.



The months of March and April are heavy in State AIR Assessments. These assessments check to see what your child has learned throughout the year this year. According to an article at www.pbs.org, here are 6 Tips to Help Kids Tackle Test Anxiety. Katie Hurley writes, "We think of test anxiety as something that crops up when teenagers take the SAT or some other important exam, but the truth is that even very young children can experience it. With the increase in tests and assessments at the elementary school level, more and more young children are experiencing symptoms of test anxiety."

- **Ask questions to clarify.** Often, the process of saying their worries out loud helps young children work through their feelings. Understanding the thought patterns that trigger anxiety can help parents develop strategies to target specific concerns.
 - **Teach test-taking basics.** Young children have very little experience taking tests. Kids may feel empowered simply by talking through basic strategies, such as reading the directions, asking questions about the directions, looking for questions they know they can answer right away, and passing over tricky questions for a moment.
 - **Talk to the teacher.** Some young children become overwhelmed by things like timed math computation tests and spelling tests because they look at the whole page instead of focusing on one answer at a time.
 - **Encourage positive self-talk.** Cognitive reframing is a great way to help young children cope with their anxious thoughts.
 - **Teach relaxation strategies.** Visualization exercises are great for little kids because they tend to have active imaginations. Practice these when your child is calm. Ask him to close his eyes and identify a place he feels happy, confident, and relaxed
 - **Bolster confidence.**

If you notice your child experiencing concerns about the upcoming State tests, please contact your child's teacher. We are here to help! ~Heidi Cope-Barker, School Improvement Supervisor