

Welcome
New Families!

Tips & FAQs
for Your New School



Woodland Heights Elementary
288 Forest Lake Blvd.
Mooresville, NC 28117

Main Office: (704) 663-1370

<http://iss.schoolwires.com/woodlandheights>

www.WHEPTO.com

[Facebook.com/WoodlandHeightsElementarySchool](https://www.facebook.com/WoodlandHeightsElementarySchool)

Principal Kristie Spenner

Assistant Principal Stephanie Coggins

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WHE Glossary

BOG

Beginning-of-Grade test. These are the state standardized tests that all 3rd, 4th and 5th grade WHE students take in the beginning of the school year to establish a baseline measure of your child's ELA (English Language Arts) and math skills.

ConnectEd

Weekly messages from the principal sent via phone and email regarding news and events for the upcoming week. PTO information will also be included in these messages.

Early Release

Dismissal time is changed to 11:00am with normal transportation procedures.

EOG

End-of-Grade test. These are the state standardized tests that all 3rd, 4th, and 5th WHE students take at the end of the school year. The North Carolina End-of-Grade Tests are designed to measure student performance on the goals, objectives, and grade-level competencies specified in the *North Carolina Standard Course of Study*.

Enhancements

Often called "specials" at some schools. These are the out-of-classroom academics that include physical education, music, art, science lab and media.

Media Center

WHE students check out library books from the Media Center during their scheduled class library time, as well as utilize technology.

PowerSchool

PowerSchool is a web based software application that allows parents, teachers and school administrators to track and share information about students. This medium allows you to access your children's grades, attendance records and assignments. Contact your child's teacher for information to enroll.

Primetime

Before and after school care provided by the Iredell-Statesville school district.

PTO

Parent Teacher Organization

Woodland Heights Academy

Woodland Heights Academy (WHA) is an after-school program designed to enrich the curriculum for Woodland Heights students. It is sponsored and administered by the WHE PTO and offers students exposure to a wide variety of extra-curricular activities such as foreign language, sports, music, art and much more. Classes are taught by local businesses and individuals who bring their passion and expertise to our students.

The First Day of School

How Does Arrival Work?

The doors to the school open at 7:00am.

Bus Riders

Bus riders will be welcomed into the school at 7:00, or when their bus arrives, and will go straight to their classroom, or to the cafeteria if they purchase breakfast.

Car Riders

Our car rider line is long; therefore, you may find it more convenient to send your child to school on the bus. Contact the front office if you have not been assigned a bus route. The school doors open at 7:00 am. Please do not get in line prior to 6:50. Please pull all the way up to the mailbox in the carpool line and have your child ready to get out of the car. Please keep in mind, with over 700 students to get in the door each morning, efficiency is important. For those parents wanting a picture of their child with their teacher or at their desk, we encourage you to take those at Meet the Teacher Night rather than the busy first day. Students should be in the classroom by 7:30 when the tardy bell rings.

What Should Your Student Bring?

School Supplies. If your child will be starting school the first day of the school year, please bring your school supplies to Open House. If your child is moving to WHE during the school year, please send their school supplies with your child on their first day. A school supply list for each grade can be found on our school website: www.iss.k12.nc.us.

Backpack. All classrooms have cubbies where students can store their belongings.

Snack. All students eat a snack each morning. Please check in with your teacher about any restrictions specific to your classroom due to food allergies.

Lunch. You can either send in a packed lunch or have your child buy a hot lunch from the cafeteria. More lunch information can be found on page seven of this book and menus are available on the school website.

Water Bottle. North Carolina is hot! Children are encouraged to bring a water bottle to stay hydrated in class during the day. Teachers will allow the children to keep the water bottles on their desk or in their cubbies.

How Is Dismissal Handled?

The final bell rings at 2:20pm. Teachers will walk their classes to their designated spots: out to buses for bus riders, to the cafeteria for car riders, and to the gym for Primetime. If your child is a car rider, you need to have your yellow car rider tag displayed in the windshield with your student's name on it. Hanging tags will be distributed at Meet the Teacher Night or through the office once school starts. As you drive into school, spotters will see your tag and radio into the cafeteria to send your child out to your car.

Schedule

- 7:00am - Doors open and students may enter classrooms. Breakfast is available for purchase.
- 7:30am - Tardy bell rings. Any student arriving after 7:30am must have an adult sign him/her in at the office.
- 10:45am-1:05pm Lunch is held. Each class will have a scheduled 25-minute lunch period sometime during this time frame.
- 1:40pm - No students may be signed out after this time to prevent dismissal confusion.
- 2:20pm* Dismissal bell rings.

*Throughout the year, WHE will have several **Early Release** days to allow for teacher work days and professional development. On Early Release days, the dismissal bell rings at 11:00am with normal transportation procedures.

Visiting WHE

All WHE visitors are required to sign in using a computer system in the front office, indicating why they are at the school and where they are going. Visitors will receive a sticker to wear while in the school. The first time you visit the school, please have a government-issued photo id available to verify your identity.

Visitors may park in the paved parking lot in front of the school. Please be respectful of the 15 Minute Parking spots, and do not park in the car rider loop directly in front of the school, as this needs to remain open for any emergency vehicles if necessary.

School Communication

Consistent and effective communication between WHE and your family is a priority. Your first point of contact regarding your child's education should always be your child's teacher.

- **Classroom Communication**

Watch for newsletters via email from your child's classroom teacher which will include academic updates and reminders about important school dates and events. This will be the primary means of communication from the school.

- **ConnectEd messages from Principal Spenner**

Weekly updates, school information and important dates are sent via telephone and email. Typically messages are sent on Sunday. If you are not receiving these messages, contact the front office.

- **Facebook**

Follow Woodland Heights Elementary School and Woodland Heights Elementary PTO on Facebook for fast and interactive communication about school events, announcements, and occasional pictures of what's going on during the school day.

- **WHE Website**

<http://iss.schoolwires.com/woodlandheights>

This is your go-to source for all of the information about WHE. Check out our website featuring a current calendar of events, school and PTO news and announcements.

The school communication plan can be found on the PTO website:

www.whepto.com.

Attendance & Absences

The tardy bell rings at 7:30am each morning. If your student is tardy, an adult will need to park and walk in to sign in your student. If you need your student to leave early for any reason, you must come in to the office to sign out your student. Remember, there are no student sign outs after 1:40 pm. If your student is absent, you must fill out the absence form on the school's website or send in a note to your child's teacher within two days of returning to school. If the absence required a doctor's visit, an official note from the doctor is needed.

Transportation

Car Riders

- AM: Many parents opt to drive their students in the morning. There is a lot of traffic in the morning so be sure to leave enough time to avoid being tardy. Pull all the way forward to the mailbox and make sure your child is ready to get out of the car when you are stopped. Please do not line up in the morning prior to 6:50 am.
- PM: If your child is a car rider in the afternoon, you will need a hanging tag for your rear view mirror. Hanging tags will be available at Open House or in the office once school starts.

Buses

- You can get your stop, bus number, pick up time, and route from the office (or at Open House if joining us at the start of the school year).
- Most bus routes include a community stop at the end of the route to accommodate families who have early bus pickup times. To learn more about your bus route, contact the school or ask your bus driver.
- Many bus drivers are also Teacher Assistants here at WHE! It's nice that the drivers often know the kids from being in the classrooms.

One-Day Transportation Changes

- If your child will be going home a different way than normal (car rider vs. bus), please complete the transportation change form located on the school website under quick links. Additionally, please call the main office to confirm receipt of your change request. The office number is 704-663-1370.

School Calendar

The district and school calendar can be found online at <http://iss.schoolwires.com/woodlandheights>.

Curriculum

North Carolina adheres to the Common Core Curriculum. All children use I-Ready Math and Lucy Calkins framework for reading and writing. To learn more about these programs and what is happening in your child's class, please communicate directly with your child's teacher.

Homework

Homework assignments are at the discretion of your child's teacher. What is reasonable may be subject to opinion. Studies have shown a good rule of thumb is ten minutes of homework per grade level (ex: 4th grade, no more than 40 minutes).

For questions about homework, please communicate directly with your child's teacher.

School Handbook

For more details and a complete explanation of all the student rules for Woodland Heights Elementary, please read the official WHE Student Handbook available on the school website:

<http://iss.schoolwires.com/woodlandheights>

Cafeteria

Breakfast is available for purchase for \$1.40 in cafeteria each morning when the first bell rings. For lunch, students may pack their lunch or purchase a hot lunch from the school cafeteria for \$2.80. Reduced price lunch for those who qualify is \$.40. Cafeteria payments can be made either online at the WHE website, or via check or cash sent in an envelope to your child's teacher with your student's name. Forms for free and reduced lunch can be found on the school's website.

Please note that all sorts of special treats (ice cream, potato chips, carbonated beverages, donuts, etc.) are available for purchase during lunch; teachers and staff are not allowed to prohibit students from purchasing these items. Please talk to your student about what is permissible and, if you would prefer, you can contact the cafeteria and put a restriction on your student's account.

Family dining tables are available in the cafeteria. To eat with your child, check into the front office just before your child's scheduled lunch time.

Recess

All WHE grade levels enjoy one outdoor recess (weather permitting) each day. Please ensure your child is dressed according to the weather and has a jacket or sweater, as needed.

Enhancements

Woodland Heights students have an Enhancement every day, rotating between:

- Music
- Art
- Science
- Physical Education (sneakers required)
- Media

School Nurse

WHE has a school nurse on Mondays and Wednesdays. If a child is injured or becomes seriously ill at school, parents will be notified. The school district requires that all medication, including over the counter medication, be brought in by a parent and the appropriate paperwork must be filled out and signed by both the parent and the Physician. Emergency medications will be kept in the emergency yellow bag in the classroom and all other medication will be stored in the nurse's office.

If your child has any severe allergies and/or any other medical condition please contact the school nurse.

The school nurse, Laura Marino, can be reached at lmario@iss.k12.nc.us or 704.663.1370.

Volunteering

- **In your child's classroom**

Each teacher uses volunteers in different ways. Talk with your child's teacher about specific classroom opportunities.

- **With the PTO**

All parents are automatically members of the WHE PTO with no dues or membership fees. The PTO meeting schedule can be found online at www.whepto.com. All parents are invited and encouraged to attend PTO meetings. We always need volunteers to help with planning and running events, raising money, decorating bulletin boards, sharing ideas and feedback, and much more. If you'd like to get involved, plan to attend a meeting or email woodlandheightsppto@gmail.com.

School Clubs

Woodland Heights Elementary offers the following extracurricular clubs and competitions sponsored by our amazing teachers! Details to will be sent home during sign-up time or ask your child’s teacher for more information on how to join.

Clubs

Beginning Chorus

(Grades 3; auditions in Sept.)

Chess

(Grades 2-5)

Chorus

(Grades 4&5; auditions in Sept.)

Eco Squad

(Grades 3-5)

Safety Patrol

(Grade 5)

Student Council

(Grades 4&5)

Competitions

Battle of the Books

(Grades 4&5; Jan.- Mar.)

Fire Safety Bowl

(Grades 4&5)

Math Expo

(Grades K-5)

Odyssey of the Mind

(Grades 4&5)

Science Fair

(Grade K-5)

Science Olympiad

(Grades 3-5)

Spelling Bee

(Grades 4&5)

After School Care

Iredell-Statesville School District offers Primetime as an after school care option for working parents. Please contact (704) 832-2514 for more information.

In addition, the following local after school care programs send a bus to pick up students at WHE: Goddard School, KPAC, Primrose, and the Lowe’s YMCA in Mooresville.

VISION

Ensure exemplary K-5 education that inspires excellence and success within every learner.

MISSION

Woodland Heights Elementary will challenge our students to be responsible and caring problem-solvers and life-long learners.

MOTTO

Soaring to New Heights

SLOGAN

We Help Everyone Succeed

CORE VALUES

Woodland Heights maintains the following core values:

Student and learning focus

Highly qualified, motivated faculty and staff

Partnerships and Teamwork

Continuous improvement focus

Management by fact

Results focus