

10 IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW IF YOU ARE NEW TO WOODSON

Welcome to Woodson!! Most of this information can be found through the WT Woodson website. Visit here for links to important paperwork and information: <https://woodsonhs.fcps.edu/announcements/2019-20-woodson-opening-school-information>

Still have questions, contact WTW PTSO President, Melissa French at melissawtwptso@gmail.com

1. TOOLS TO STAY CONNECTED

SIS Parent Account (for parents only)- enables access to view grades, attendance, and personal information.

<https://woodsonhs.fcps.edu/announcements/sis-parentvue-accounts>

New students do not have access to their SIS Student Account until August 28th. Teachers will help the students set up their account.

Parents will have access as soon as they set up their SIS Parent Account. Schedules were posted at 6am on August 23. Parents use the same sign-in information for SIS and Blackboard. Same username and same password.

*** Pro Tip:** The teachers work hard to keep SIS up to date. Experience has shown that an unexpected grade is often because an assignment may not have been entered into the system yet. The grades in SIS are a snapshot in time, not a report card. Use SIS as a starting point with your student to ask about the situation. If there appears to be a discrepancy between expectations and what is showing in SIS, encourage your students to talk with the teacher to learn more.

Blackboard FCPS 24/7 – Your student uses this every day to find out about homework.

Blackboard gives you information about your child's current assignments, upcoming quizzes and tests for all of your student's courses.

Google classroom: Many teachers use Google classroom instead of Blackboard. Your student's teacher will explain how they will manage their class.

Bus Stop Information:

- Bus schedules can be accessed on Blackboard under the student's name.
- The Office of Transportation Services sent an email on 8/21/19 to all students with their bus route information.
- Here Comes the Bus Mobile App. See here for more details: <https://www.fcps.edu/resources/safety-and-transportation/transportation-services/here-comes-bus-mobile-app>. To use the app, you will need a SIS account and the FCPS School District Code (2898228982)

Schedules and lockers: Paper schedules will have your student's locker and combination. Student will receive their schedules in the smaller breakouts with your counselors following this session.

2. SCHOOL COMMUNICATIONS

Woodson Weekly – Sign up through the Woodson homepage to get this important email.

WeMail – Sign up through the Woodson PTSO homepage [<https://www.woodsonptso.org/>]. You can find the link through the Woodson homepage under "Resources." Woodson's PTSO (Parent, Teacher, Student Organization) Weekly Announcements, called WeMail, provide information about upcoming events and activities.

Calendar Information – Unfortunately, there is no one complete calendar of all the great activities happening at Woodson, but the Woodson homepage, the PTSO WeMail, and Daily Announcements (also posted on WTW homepage) will provide most of the information you need to know. READ your emails – they are full of useful

information. You should also visit links to the Woodson sports, band, and chorus homepages for more information about upcoming events.

3. STUDENT SERVICES

Student services is there to support your student! If your student wants to visit with their counselor, they should ask their current teacher for a pass. Student Services' mission is to address the academic, career, and personal/social development of all students and prepare them to be responsible citizens and life-long learners. School counselors collaborate with other educators, parents/guardians, and the community to ensure access and equity for all students and to create an environment where all students achieve, value learning, appreciate diversity, and demonstrate responsible citizenship. The department offers:

- individual and group counseling,
- educational and career planning,
- consultation with parents and staff,
- informational programs and activities,
- identification and support of students with special needs,
- crisis intervention/problem solving, and
- referrals to community agencies.

For a complete list of staff or services look at the WT Woodson website under the link to Student Life and Activities on the main menu.

4. PARENT-TEACHER-STUDENT ORGANIZATION (PTSO)

The W.T. Woodson (WTW) Parent-Teacher-Student Organization meets monthly every 2nd Tuesday at 7pm in the library. Our first meeting will be on September 11th. Whether you decide to join the PTSO or not, go to the meetings! Dr. Floyd makes it a point to attend our meeting every month so you will know what is going on at the school AND will have the opportunity to ask her questions.

*** Pro Tip:** The best way to get involved at a new school is to volunteer. There are many opportunities at Woodson! The Library, Hospitality Committee, Grants Committee, Career Center, All Night Grad Party/Cavalier Cruise, and many more. It is easy to sign up on line on the WT Woodson Website. Go to: <http://www.woodsonptso.org> or click on the link on the Woodson homepage. Membership is our primary fundraiser, so please consider joining. 100% of your \$20 membership fee stays right here at Woodson.

5. CAREER CENTER

Woodson's career center provides information about scholarships, financial aid, internships/apprenticeships or employment, college or post-secondary training. They also coordinate visits by many colleges from across the country. The career center requests that you schedule an appointment to ensure they can best serve you. For information or assistance during the school year, contact Kathleen Ishii, Career Center Specialist at 703.503.4661 or kaishii@fcps.edu.

*** Pro Tip:** The schedule of college visits is posted on the Woodson website under "Student Services." From the Student Services page, scroll down and click on College and Career Center. Your student must sign up in advance to meet with a college representative. Ms. Ishii also publishes a newsletter available through the College and Career Center page. It is chock full of information – read it!

Opportunities Information Night –Date TBD, but keep an eye out for this informative event. Ms. Ishii, will share info about everything you want to know about college prep but were afraid to ask. The Career Center is in the front hallway.

6. NEW SCHOOL YEAR EVENTS AND FORMS

Most information you need to know is available through Woodson's homepage on the link to Opening School Information. <https://woodsonhs.fcps.edu/announcements/2019-20-woodson-opening-school-information>

*** Pro Tip:** Be prepared for the first week of school – fill out the required forms posted on the opening school information page.

Cav Kickoff – today 11:30am-1:00pm in the in the main gym. Learn more about sports, clubs, etc. and buy PE uniforms and spirit wear. You can also use FCPS's buy online system to purchase items or add money to your students' lunch account through the above link to Opening School Information.

Back to School Night – Thursday, September 19, from 5:30-8:40 pm. This will be a chance to meet each of your student's teachers. Teachers will share what your student will be learning this year, how they will manage their class, and other expectations. From 5:30-6:30p.m., there will be information tables in the Cafeterias and Family Life Education information available in the Library. At 6:10p.m., School Board and WTW speeches will begin in the Auditorium. **Class rotations will begin at 6:30p.m.** beginning with Period 1. Watch your email for more information.

7. SCHOOL LUNCHES

Your student can pay cash for lunch or use money you've put into your student's account online. The menu is available online. In addition to a full lunch, Woodson also offers a snack line where your student can purchase cookies, snacks. We also have microwaves in the cafeteria, although these lines can get a little long.

8. SCHOOL SUPPLY LISTS

You will not find a grade-specific school supply list online. During Cav Kickoff, your student will have time to visit each classroom. We suggest they visit each class in the order of their schedule (including odd/even day). When they visit each classroom, they will find information outside each classroom that specifies the supplies they'd like their students to purchase for that class. Note: Many teachers teach multiple classes, so make sure you student is looking at the correct list for each teacher.

9. STUDENT ABSENCES and CLINIC

If your student is late or will be absent from school, you must call the attendance office, or the student may bring a note from his/her parent/guardian to the attendance office within two (2) days of their return to school. If the note is not received within two days (48 hours) of the student's return to school or if no verbal contact with the parent has occurred, the absence is marked unexcused

Regardless of whether you have called the school to report a late arrival, the school will send out an automatic call if your student has not checked in by 10am. You do not need to call the attendance office again.

If your student is not feeling well during the school day, they must get a pass from their teacher to go to the clinic. If your student requests to leave school from the clinic, the clinic will contact you to get your permission to be dismissed from school. If you choose to pick your student up, they will be dismissed from the main office. If your student drives to/from school, they may drive themselves home after the clinic receives your permission.

For more details about attendance including how to check-in and check-out of school, visit the attendance page <https://woodsonhs.fcps.edu/about-us/attendance>.

10. WOODSON SPORTS, CLUBS, MUSIC, and FINE ARTS

Woodson offers a wide variety of sports from football to field hockey to gymnastics and many, many more. For additional information on Athletics go to: <http://www.wtwoodsonsports.org>. Clubs, Music, and Drama info can also be found through the main Woodson webpage through the student life and activities link.

*** Pro Tip:** Do you have questions about a specific interest? We've compiled this list of experienced parents you can reach out to with questions about many of Woodson's sports and activities. These parents can give you general information about tryouts, general practice schedule, what to expect, etc. If you have questions about any other Woodson activities not on this list, visit the Woodson website and email the faculty sponsor or coach listed.

Other interesting information

FCPSON: All Woodson students are issued an FCPS laptop. Students are expected to bring this laptop to school every day – loaners will not be provided. Today is the last day to pick up your student's computer. If you have not already picked up your laptop, today is the last day to do so. Visit Cav Hall between noon and 7:00 pm.

Driver's Ed is required to for new drivers in Virginia. Woodson sophomores receive driver's education during PE class. If your student doesn't have their license and is a junior or senior, they will need to take driver's education on their own.

If your student wants to park at Woodson during the school day, they must purchase a parking pass. You will register and pay online and pick up your pass at school.

The library hours are posted. It is often open before school and students can print in black and white free of charge. There is a charge for color printing.

If you are a parent volunteer, bring your drivers license and sign in at the Woodson Main Office.

Daily announcements are posted each day on the Woodson website. Check these out – they include announcements like which clubs are meeting when (so you can encourage your student to try out some new interests), dance ticket sales, etc.

You may drop off/pick up your student in one of two kiss n ride lines. The first is in the front of the school (doors #1-3) and the second is in the back (doors #8-9). I find the line in the front to be very congested due to buses traffic. The back entrance flows fairly smoothly. However, please enter the area cautiously as there are many student drives AND students walking from the parking lot into the building. **Check these locations out BEFORE the first day of school!**

Your entire family should attend the home football games. The home sides is to the left as you enter the main stadium, on the side with the press box. You can purchase dinner there and support one of the many WT Woodson activities, such as band or other sports. Generally, fresh-grilled burgers, Chick Fila, pizza, and hot dogs are available.

If you park right along the front curb of the school to attend an evening activity – such as a PTSO meeting – I advise that you do not pull all the way up the curb. There are a number of activities that happen during the evening and some parkers are not as courteous as we hope they might be. If you pull all the way up to the curb, you may get parked in.

Your students will follow a block schedule. I am not going to attempt to explain how the rotation works -your students will figure it out much more quickly than we ever could. Their schedule is printed in their planner (which they must have with them at all times) AND is posted on the daily announcements. With a few exceptions, your student will not have the same class every day. The students love the block schedule. Essentially, it gives them two evenings to complete their homework for a class.

If your student forgets something at home and they are fortunate enough that you are able to drop it off for them, bring it to the front office. Jackie, who sits at the front desk in the office, will show you where you can leave items. I usually put the item in a bag and label it with my student's name.