

FAQs FOR WILLARD FAMILIES 2018-19

Provided by the Willard PTA

Welcome to the Willard Middle School 2018-2019 school year! We hope this information answers most of your back-to-school questions. If not, feel free to stop by and chat with any PTA representative at Welcome Back Day (August 24) or at the parent coffee on August 27. Si necesita información en español, llame a la oficina de la escuela, 510-644-6330.

What should I expect on Welcome Back Day?

Welcome Back Day is on Friday, August 24th and is a day for turning in important forms and registering for activities like Music and the Afterschool Program. On Welcome Back Day you are expected to:

- complete a meal eligibility form (or, if completed on line, just bring in form received in the mail and confirmation number),
- turn in an Emergency Card (if you haven't done so for 2018-19 yet), and
- purchase a student planner for \$5 (all students are expected to have a planner).

The required forms are included in this summer mailing but will also be available at Welcome Back Day if you have misplaced or did not receive your forms.

You will also have the chance to turn in PTA membership and directory forms and learn more about different activities offered at Willard. Once required forms are turned in, 7th and 8th graders may receive their schedules.

What about 6th graders, when do they get their schedules?

6th grade families must also come to Welcome Back Day to turn in all their forms but 6th graders will not receive their schedules until after the first week of school. During the first week of school, the 6th grade teacher team spends time getting to know the 6th graders and then makes class placements at the end of the week. On the first day of school, all 6th graders meet at 8:45 AM (school start time) in the Willard Cafetorium.

What time does school start and end?

School begins at 8:45 AM. Once students get their schedules, they should be in their Advisory class by 8:45 so they are not marked late. For the first day, 6th graders should be in the Cafetorium by 8:45. School is dismissed Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at 2:51. On Wednesdays (early release day), students are dismissed at 2:00.

Do I just drop my child off on the first day of school?

Yes, you do just drop your child off. But we encourage parents to join us after drop-off at the PTA coffee chat. Look for signs for location. Come meet other Willard families!

How do I sign my child up for Music activities (band, orchestra, jazz band)?

On Welcome Back Day there will a registration table for music activities where you can meet the teachers, ask questions, and sign your child up. These activities meet before school at 7:45 AM. Jazz band meets after school and you can also sign up on Welcome Back Day.

Is there Music on the first day of school?

Yes! Even 6th graders start Music on the first day of school during 0 period. Students should come to the appropriate room in Building D at 7:45 AM. Instruments will be given out to students during that first week of school.

What afterschool activities are available and how do I sign up for them?

The Berkeley LEARNS afterschool program at Willard offers students academic as well as enrichment opportunities after school. Grade level Homework Centers will be in place to assist students with academic success. Students may also take advantage of enrichment activities. Information about the afterschool program will be available on Welcome Back Day, and parents can also always contact Willard LEARNS coordinator Kemal Stewart (kemalstewart@berkeley.net) with questions.

Students may also sign up for afterschool sports teams throughout the year, even if they are not enrolled full-time in the LEARNS program. During that sport season, you will receive information about how to enroll/pay for the season.

When do afterschool sports start and which sports are offered?

Below is a general schedule for Willard sports (subject to change based on availability of coaches, etc.). Specific tryouts details for all sports will be promoted via the Willard Update (etree) as soon as it becomes available (to sign up for the etree, go to willardpta.org). Tryouts will be promoted via flyers in the gym and locker room areas as well. More information about sports and required forms can be found at www.willardpta.org/learns-afterschool-program/.

FALL SPORTS: Cross Country, Girls Volleyball (7th and 8th grade), Flag Football, Co-ed Soccer

WINTER SPORTS: Girls Basketball, Boys Basketball

SPRING SPORTS: Girls Softball, Co-ed Ultimate Frisbee, Baseball, Girls Volleyball (6th grade), Track and Field

Where should I drop off my child in the mornings?

The suggested drop off area is on Telegraph Avenue near the garden for 8:45 drop offs. Students who come early for Music may be dropped off at the Stuart Street entrance. For safety reasons, students should only be dropped off on the school side of the street.

Will my child have a locker at school?

All students are assigned a PE locker in the Willard gym where they can leave their PE clothes/shoes during the week. Students will need to bring their own locks (combination, not key--adults are encouraged to have students practice using a combination lock). Willard does not have day-use lockers; students will keep their books and belongings with them throughout the day.

Will my child need PE clothes or a PE uniform?

Yes, your child will need a change of clothes for PE, however there is no required PE uniform. During the first week of school the PE staff will provide guidance on what your child should bring for class.

How does lunch work, how do I pay for school lunch?

Students eat lunch in the Cafetorium and may either bring their own lunch or buy school lunch. You can put money on your child's school lunch account by going to www.ezschoollpay.com. You will need your child's BUSD student ID to set up an account. This ID number can be found on old report cards or contact the Willard Office if you do not have this ID. You will receive notifications when lunch money runs out. No child will be left hungry, but only fruit or salad will be offered to a child with no lunch or money in their account. Many families may qualify for free or reduced lunch and the meal eligibility form for this is one of the required forms you will fill out on Welcome Back Day.

How do I sign up for e-mail information from the school?

The Willard Update is Willard's email newsletter (or etree) system and is run by PTA parent volunteers. This email newsletter is used by the Principal, staff and PTA to communicate all school related activities and announcements so it's very important to be signed up. **Go to willardpta.org/etree right now to sign up!**

How do I join the Willard PTA?

Great question! You can join online at willardpta.org or come see us at the Willard PTA table on Welcome Back Day to turn in membership/directory forms and get any questions answered.

Have more questions? Contact us! Email addresses for PTA Executive Board members can be found at www.willardpta.org/parents.