

## **FAQs FOR WILLARD FAMILIES 2019-20**

*Provided by the Willard PTA*

Welcome to the Willard Middle School 2019-2020 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 on August 23**, or at the **Willard Community Welcome Back Coffee on August 26** -- meet new and returning parents/guardians and PTA officers from 8:30-9:30 AM in the garden on the first day of school. 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 23<sup>th</sup> and is a day for turning in important forms and registering for activities like Music and the Afterschool Program. On Welcome Back Day families can:

- complete a meal eligibility form (or, if completed online, just bring in form received in the mail and confirmation number),
- turn in an Emergency Card (if you haven't done so for 2019-20 yet), and
- purchase a student planner for \$5 (all students are expected to have a planner).

These 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 join the PTA and learn more about different activities offered at Willard. 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders receive their schedules.

### **What about 6<sup>th</sup> graders, when do they get their schedules?**

6<sup>th</sup> grade families must also come to Welcome Back Day to turn in all their forms but 6<sup>th</sup> graders will not receive their schedules until the end of the first week of school. During the first week of school, the 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher team spends time getting to know the 6<sup>th</sup> graders and then makes class placements at the end of the week. On the first day of school, all 6<sup>th</sup> 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. Students should be in their Advisory class by 8:45 so they are not marked late. For the first day, 6<sup>th</sup> 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 at 7:45 AM on school days. Jazz band meets two days a week after school and you can also sign up on Welcome Back Day.

### **Is there Music on the first day of school?**

Yes! Even 6<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 [willardmiddleschool.org](http://willardmiddleschool.org)). Tryouts will be promoted via flyers in the gym and locker room areas as well. More information about sports, the tryout process, and required forms can be found at [www.willardmiddleschool.org/sports](http://www.willardmiddleschool.org/sports).

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

WINTER SPORTS: Girls Basketball, Boys Basketball

SPRING SPORTS: Girls Softball, Co-ed Ultimate Frisbee, Baseball, Girls Volleyball (6<sup>th</sup> 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.ezschoollunch.com](http://www.ezschoollunch.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 email 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 [willardmiddleschool.org](http://willardmiddleschool.org) right now to sign up!**

### **How do I join the Willard PTA?**

Great question! You can join online at [willardmiddleschool.org/pta](http://willardmiddleschool.org/pta) or come see us at the Willard PTA table on Welcome Back Day to sign up and get any questions answered. And please join us at our first PTA meeting which will occur in the Fall, look for announcements in the Willard Update for dates/times!

*Have more questions? Contact us! Email addresses for PTA Executive Board members can be found at [www.willardmiddleschool.org/pta](http://www.willardmiddleschool.org/pta).*