

FAQs FOR WILLARD FAMILIES 2021-22

Provided by the Willard PTA

Welcome to the Willard Middle School 2021-2022 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 **Registration Day on August 13th**. *Si necesita información en español, llame a la oficina de la escuela, 510-644-6330.*

What should I expect on Willard Registration Day?

Willard's Registration Day is on Friday, August 13th and is a day for turning in important forms and registering for activities like 0 period Music and the Afterschool Program. On Registration Day families/students 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 2021-22 yet)
- Receive your students schedule (7th and 8th only)

These forms will be available at Willard's Registration 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.

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 the end of 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. Students 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 families 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 Willard's Registration Day there will be 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 by Showing Up" on the first day of school at 7:45am.

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 after school 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 Willard's Registration Day, and parents can also always contact Willard LEARNS coordinator Kemal Stewart (kemalstewart@berkeley.net) with questions. To find more information and a link to the LEARNS registration, go to willardmiddle school.org/learns-afterschool-program.

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 after school sports start and which sports are offered?

Below is an example 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). 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.

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 Stuart Street. Telegraph Avenue also has an entrance and exit that will be used daily. For safety reasons, students should only be dropped off on the school side of the street.

Will my child have a locker at school?

Willard does not have day-use lockers; students will keep their books and belongings with them throughout the day. However, 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).

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 will eat lunch outside and may either bring their own lunch or get school lunch. According to new California policy, all California students will now have the opportunity to eat for free so EZ School Pay Accounts are no longer needed.

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 right now to sign up!**

How do I join the Willard PTA?

Great question! You can join online at 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.