Our Philosophy
Woodmoor Elementary aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable, and caring young people who are active lifelong learners seeking to create a better more peaceful world.
Dear Woodmoor Elementary Parents,

Winter weather coupled with the uncertainty of the pandemic and its ongoing fluctuations have been a challenge for everyone. School closings, delays, in-person programming versus virtual programming, and asynchronous learning have created havoc on our schedules and daily routines. In spite of these interruptions to the instructional program, our teachers, staff, parents, and students have done a superb job of working hard to maintain a focus on learning and achieving. With each interruption and change, students were required to readjust and maintain flexibility approaching each new challenge with resilience. To maintain a face-to-face learning program, we have had numerous supporters from all over the school district covering classes, helping in the cafeteria, and supporting with arrival and dismissal. Parents have come to help keep our Food Pantry operational and we are grateful for all their support. Parents, please accept my thanks and appreciation for demonstrating such a positive attitude, which I am sure is difficult when winter weather and sickness from the pandemic disrupts the school and work schedules of your families. We continue to adjust the instructional program to ensure all curricula are covered. Currently, students in grades kindergarten to 5th grade have been reassessed in reading and we are making plans to support each student to help them achieve optimal levels of growth for the 2nd semester.

We have officially reached the mid-point of the school year and hopefully, spring is right around the corner. As I reflect on the first half of the year, I want to recognize the on-going work of our volunteers, teachers, staff, and community partners who work tirelessly to provide learning opportunities that support and foster the school's philosophy and mission. We are 1 of 4 elementary magnet schools in the entire school district leading the way in providing a world-class education that is rich with cultural diversity and thoughtful engaging learning opportunities. Our International Baccalaureate status sets us apart from other schools. Students at Woodmoor are expected and encouraged to be critical thinkers, who inquire about the world around them and be an instrument of change. They are passionate about their causes and they urge others to do the same.

Communication is key to our success. Baltimore County Public Schools continues to make available to all schools a home-school communication tool. The system, called School Messenger, is an internet-based communication tool enables schools to communicate personally with parents/guardians. School Messenger supports emergency preparedness, parent involvement, and student attendance. The system allows me to make one phone call that reaches all families (students and staff) within minutes. This communication tool is used in concert with other means of communication (newsletters, letters home, emails, flyers, Schoology, and the school website) to ensure effective communication with every family. Please take time to ensure your email and phone numbers are up to date in our system. This allows me to communicate directly to you and update you on school happenings regularly. Together, we can guarantee our students have not only the best elementary school experience but an outstanding one.

Your Partner in Education,

Franchesca O. Brown

Principal - Head of Schools
An IB World School
Primary Units of Study

**Preschool, How We Organize Ourselves**
Preschool students are working in their How We Organize Ourselves unit, in which they will inquire into the structure and function of organizations. Students will explore types of transportation, how we move, and how transportation helps people in order to develop an understanding of how transportation helps people move around their community.

**Pre-K, How the World Works**
Pre-Kindergarten classes are working in their How the World Works unit, inquiring into how living things grow and change. Students will continue to study how animals, plants, and people grow and change. The key concept of form (What is it like?) and change will guide students’ conceptual understanding of stages and cycles. Students will have exciting opportunities for hands-on learning and observation during this unit.

**Kindergarten, How the World Works**
Kindergarten students are currently working in their How the World Works unit, in which they will inquire into the natural world and its laws. Through a study of English Language Arts, Science, and Math concepts, students will learn about how things grow, weather patterns, and the seasons.

**1st Grade, How We Organize Ourselves**
First Grade recently concluded their How We Organize Ourselves unit, in which students learned about how understanding the world around us can help us meet the needs of our community. First graders learned about the people and places in a community as well as how communities meet people's needs. Working together, students brainstormed community issues they would like to solve; students settled on the issue of litter. As a grade-level, First Grade planned a community clean up and created posters around our school inviting others to clean up trash.

In their next unit, How the World Works, students will inquire into how living things adapt to meet their needs and to thrive in their environment. They will learn about how living things interact, why living things adapt, and how people mimic the features of other living things. Be on the lookout for students’ creative solutions inspired by the natural world!

**2nd Grade, How the World Works**
In their How the World Works unit, Second Grade students will inquire into how humans apply their understanding of matter and how it affects the world around them. Students will learn about matter’s observable properties, how matter can change, and processes that change the earth. The key concepts of form (What is it like?), causation (Why is it as it is?), and change (How is it changing?) will guide students’ conceptual learning and understandings as they engage in hands on activities and investigations.

**3rd Grade, How We Organize Ourselves**
Third Grade students will learn about how economic activities impact humans and the environment in their How We Organize Ourselves unit of inquiry. Students will examine motivations for financial decisions, as well as consequences of financial decisions in the past and present. Third graders will explore and practice making financial decisions of their own as they explore the topics of needs and wants, spending and saving, and making a personal spending plan.
Intermediate Units of Study

4th Grade, Where We Are in Place and Time
Soon, Fourth Grade students will begin their Where We Are in Place and Time unit, which will focus on how the past is evidenced in what we see today. Students will explore the concept of “building on our past” through literature. Through the study of geology, students will learn how what is left behind helps us to understand the past. By focusing on change (How is it transforming?) and causation (Why is it as it is?), students will develop their conceptual understanding of place, time, and evidence as they relate to time and place.

5th Grade, Where We Are In Time and Place
The Fifth Grade is finishing up their Where We Are in Time and Place unit, in which they have studied how people’s lives are shaped by the time and place in which they live. Students have inquired into how perspective is a reflection of time and place, how power and actions are interconnected, and human response to challenge.

In their next unit, How We Express Ourselves, the Fifth Grade will explore how culture influences people’s beliefs, values, and feelings. Students will inquire into how people express their culture and how our beliefs, values, and feelings shape our political systems.

IB learner profile

The aim of all IB programmes is to develop internationally minded people who, recognizing their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet, help to create a better and more peaceful world.

As IB learners we strive to be:

INQUIRERS
We nurture our curiosity, developing skills for inquiry and research. We know how to learn independently and with others. We learn with enthusiasm and sustain our love of learning throughout life.

KNOWLEDGEABLE
We develop and use conceptual understanding, exploring knowledge across a range of disciplines. We engage with issues and ideas that have local and global significance.

THINKERS
We use critical and creative thinking skills to analyse and take responsible action on complex problems. We exercise initiative in making reasoned, ethical decisions.

COMMUNICATORS
We express ourselves confidently and creatively in more than one language and in many ways. We collaborate effectively, listening carefully to the perspectives of other individuals and groups.

PRINCIPLED
We act with integrity and honesty, with a strong sense of fairness and justice, and with respect for the dignity and rights of people everywhere. We take responsibility for our actions and their consequences.

OPEN-MINDED
We critically appreciate our own cultures and personal histories, as well as the values and traditions of others. We seek and evaluate a range of points of view, and we are willing to grow from the experience.

CARING
We show empathy, compassion and respect. We have a commitment to service, and we act to make a positive difference in the lives of others and in the world around us.

RISK-TAKERS
We approach uncertainty with forethought and determination; we work independently and cooperatively to explore new ideas and innovative strategies. We are resourceful and resilient in the face of challenges and change.

BALANCED
We understand the importance of balancing different aspects of our lives—intellectual, physical, and emotional—to achieve well-being for ourselves and others. We recognize our interdependence with other people and with the world in which we live.

REFLECTIVE
We thoughtfully consider the world and our own ideas and experience. We work to understand our strengths and weaknesses in order to support our learning and personal development.

The IB learner profile represents 10 attributes valued by IB World Schools. We believe these attributes, and others like them, can help individuals and groups become responsible members of local, national and global communities.
Woodmoor Literacy Society

is a family reading event. Each month, we will have a guest reader reading a book about a character who exemplifies one of the 10 Learner Profiles (noted on the previous page) of an IB magnet student. This will be a monthly event for the entire family to enjoy. Please join us. The meeting in February will be virtual.
Message from the School Nurse

Hello Families,

I hope you are all staying warm during this cold and wet month. Sleep is incredibly important for children. According to the CDC school age children need between 9 and 11 hours of sleep a night. Lack of sleep is not only bad for a child's health but also can affect school performance. Some tips to improve sleep habits.

• Screens off an hour before bedtime
• A proper bedtime routine (bath, pajamas, brushing teeth.)
• Quiet activities before bedtime
• Turn off the lights to maintain circadian rhythm
• Stick to the same time every night for bedtime as your body naturally adjust to this time.

Message from the School Counselor Ms. Martin

Hello Woodmoor Families,

As part of our School Counseling Program, your child's class will have the opportunity to engage in a counseling core curriculum lesson during the month of February. The theme for this month is Celebrating Differences. Students in primary grades will have lessons that focus on understanding what makes people the same and different, both in ways that can be seen and unseen, as well as learning to appreciate and accept the differences in others. Primary students will also be prompted to reflect on what makes them different/unique. The intermediate grades will focus on how differences make communities stronger and will reflect on how they can personally draw on their differences to better their communities. Topics of equity and equality will also be explored. (Topics vary depending upon specific grade levels).

Moreover, I have the privilege of mentoring a school counseling graduate student, Ms. Goodwin. Ms. Goodwin will be completing her school counseling internship at Woodmoor from January 18th to May 12th. She will help to support our students through classroom school counseling lessons, individual/group counseling, and lunch bunches. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach me at 410-887-1318 or amartin@bcps.org.

Happy Reading!

Hello Woodmoor Families,

Students will start a research project in the library this month. Students will research community organizations that were started to help make our world a better place. After gaining background knowledge on the topic, students will identify a problem in our community and create a service project to fix the problem. Students at Woodmoor love this unit and come up with creative ways to solve problems in our world.

Please remind your readers to continue to return their library books to the library!

Happy Reading,
Ms. Saks
Hello Woodmoor Families!

In Exploratory Music, we have finished our String Family unit and are now learning about the Brass Family. It is amazing how many connections we are making between these two instrument families!

We have also started our Ukulele Unit; students are learning rest and play position, the parts of the ukulele, and the proper strumming technique.

Concerning Band & Orchestra, the two in-person Winter Concerts have been cancelled. Instead, we will be having a virtual Band & Orchestra Winter Concert on Tuesday, February 8th at 6:30 pm on Google Meets. Flyers were sent home to Band & Orchestra students with the link for the Google Meet. If your family cannot attend this date for the virtual concert, the link will be available on your student’s homeroom Schoology page and can be watched any time after the 8th. Your family can also e-mail Mrs. Oeur at soeur@bcps.org for the direct link.

Thank you!

Mrs. Oeur

Information & Updates:

World Cultures Week

February 22 - 25

Monday, Feb. 22 Schools Closed
President’s Day

Tuesday, Feb. 23 Woodmoor’s Literacy Society - Family Reading Event

Friday, Feb. 25 International Dress Day

Guest Speakers will share information about their culture and life throughout the week.
Who
Guest Speakers (In-Person or Virtual)

What
We are looking for guest speakers to share about their home country and cultures. Topics could include clothes, food, school, holidays, etc. Please feel free to speak about your professional career if that enhances your presentation.

When
February 22-25 from 9 AM - 3PM

Why
Our students can't be what they don't see.
Check IT Out!!
Important information from The Special Education Resource Center!

**SERC PARENT WEBINARS**
free trainings to support you and your child!
Winter 2022

**Wellness: Make Time for YOU!** You are invited to participate in a free Wellness Workshop. Come as you are and give yourself the gift of relaxation and rejuvenation. We will engage in some light mindful movement and meditation, reflection, and relaxation, and discuss ways to incorporate mindfulness into our lives to benefit not only ourselves, but also those within our families and communities. Presented by Dr. Kay Holman, Speech Language Pathologist, Author and Associate Professor at Towson University in the Department of Special Education and a Breathe for Change Certified Social Emotional Learning and Mind-Body Wellness Facilitator. Register via Eventbrite:
Thursday, February 10, 2022 7:00 - 8:30 PM https://sercwellnessmaketime4you.eventbrite.com

**Ending the Silence** An informative presentation to help jumpstart meaningful conversations about mental health among youth. Ending the Silence (ETS) is designed to help individuals learn to recognize the warning signs of mental health conditions in youth, and what steps to take if a student or loved one are showing signs of a mental health condition. The goal of NAMI ETS is to create a generation of students, families, and school faculty who are well-positioned to end the silence and stigma surrounding mental illness. Presented by NAMI Metropolitan Baltimore. Register via Eventbrite:
Wednesday, February 16, 2022 7:00 - 8:30 PM https://sercendingthesilencenight.eventbrite.com
OR
Thursday, February 17, 2022 12:00 - 1:30 PM https://sercendingthesilenceday.eventbrite.com

**ABLE Accounts: A Savings Tool to Promote Independence and Financial Stability for Your Child's Future** Maryland ABLE is a way to help people with qualifying disabilities and their families save for everyday needs, save, and invest in a tax-free account, and prepare for the future without losing state benefits such as SSI and Medicaid Waiver services. Join us to learn about eligibility criteria, enrollment, account management, tax benefits and how to use an ABLE account to pay for qualified disability expenses. Presented by Kelly Nelson, Outreach & Communications Manager for Maryland ABLE. Register via Eventbrite:
Wednesday, March 2, 2022 12:00 - 1:30 PM https://sercmdable.eventbrite.com

All parent trainings are free and brought to you by the BCPS Special Education Resource Center! Register via Eventbrite links and login information will be emailed to you one day in advance. Questions? Email: SERC@BCPS.ORG
For more great opportunities check out our partner Parent University:
https://cos.bcps.org/departments/communications/family_and_community_engagement/parent_university

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!!
Parent University - Stock Market Game

The Stock Market Game - A Family Activity
January 31 – April 8

The Stock Market Game teaches the importance of saving and investing. Family teams invest a hypothetical $100,000 in listed stocks, bonds, and mutual funds and learn the value of the capital markets as they work together to maximize the return of their portfolios. No experience required, learn as you go using provided resources.

Register Today!
www.stockmarketgame.org

Click on register, enter name and email, select parent/child team
(click here for step-by-step instructions to register)

Team fees will be sponsored by First Financial Federal Credit Union

Take a Tour: https://www.stockmarketgame.org/expparent.html

The SMG’s Teacher Support Center provides materials that support teaching fundamental investment concepts in afterschool, homeschool, other out-of-school and alternative
Water & Masks Updates

Masks are REQUIRED!

All students should come to school with a mask and have an extra mask as a backup.

It matters and it keeps us all safe and healthy.

Bring Your Water Bottles:

All students should plan to bring water bottles to school daily. Please ensure your students’ bottles are is labeled with their name.

Staying hydrated is a great healthy practice for everyone to engage in. Let’s start drinking!
WOODMOOR ELEMENTARY
A DISTRIBUTION PARTNER OF THE MARYLAND FOOD BANK

MARYLAND FOOD BANK

Food Drive

February 16th

• 3200 Elba Drive, Gwynn Oak, MD •

Distribution begins at 4:00 PM
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WOODMOOR ELEMENTARY INVITES YOU TO JOIN

WORLD CULTURES WEEK

FEBRUARY 22-25

IF INTERESTED, PLEASE CONTACT MR. PENN (BPENN@BCPS.ORG) OR CALL 410-887-1318
Woodmoor Elementary School

NEEDS! VOLUNTEERS!

Complete the BCPS Volunteer training so you can support our students!

Contact Mr. Penn (bpenn@bcps.org) with any questions
Southwest Area and Northwest Area Education Advisory Council Meeting

Please join us on
Monday, February 14, 2022

Meeting Time: 7 – 8 p.m.

Topic: Presentation on Community Schools

Meeting: Virtual on Zoom.

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83288855105?pwd=NGlwNkhqWE40T3R2ZDIWclkxa0rqZz09

Meeting ID: 832 8885 5105
Passcode: 133831

Parents, students, guardians, staff, and stakeholders are all welcome to hear Dr. Melissa Whisted, Executive Director, Academic Services, and Ms. Michele Stansbury, Director, Community Schools, provide information on:

- The services available to the community.
- Understanding how a school qualifies.
- Explain how input from community members is a significant role in the process.

The remaining time will be spent documenting all observations, comments, and opinions from Southwest and Northwest Area community members. Don’t miss the opportunity; let your voice be heard.

If you are unable to attend, you may send your questions or comments to emailthebeswaenc@gmail.com.