



Principal Town Hall FY 24 and Staffing Updates

Updates for the
2023-2024 School Year



What will next year look like?

What we know so far.....



MCPS Guidelines for Student to Teacher Ratio

* based on 2022-2023 projected enrollment

Grade	MCPS Guidelines (non-focus/title 1)	WES Projected Enrollment	Our Projected Class Size
K	1:24	84	21 in each class
1	1:25	88	22 in each class
2	1:25	80	20 in each class
3	1:26	90	22-23 in each class
4	1:28	96	24 in each class
5	1:28	101	25-26 in each class

Projected Enrollment FY23



Grade	Current # of Sections	Projected # of Sections	Projected Enrollment	Change (+ or -) (# sections)
SESES	3	3	17 (to 30)	No change
K	4	4	84	No change
1	3	4	88	+1
2	4	4	80	No change
3	4	4	90	No change
4	4	4	96	No change
5	2	4	101	+2



Staffing Considerations

- ❖ Student enrollment and withdrawal happens through the summer.
- ❖ Staffing changes throughout the summer based on enrollment.
- ❖ Students will receive notification from their classroom teacher before Open House.

Good Friends
Never Say Goodbye
They Simply Say
"See You Soon"

We Already said “See You Soon” to...

- Mrs. Renee Shaffer (Sped)- moving closer to home at Jones Lane ES
- Mrs. Cheri Mercurio (SESES)- 1/2 time at Travilah ES (going part time)
- Ms. Kent Kolb (sped)- full time at Highland ES (FT one location)
- Ms. Kristen Samonsky (ELD, RI)- retiring (Good for her!)
- Mr. Lee Gilliam (SESES) - DCPS- (HSM type position)
- Ms. Bethany Blackburn (SESES)- Learning Center at Brooke Grove ES (closer to home)
- Ms. Carrie- Anne Padere (para)- moving to England!
- Mrs. Sloane Donahue (2nd grade teacher)- Baby on the way!
- Ms. Carley Sweeny (para)- Grad school in PA!

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
SERVICE TO WESTBROOK!**







Ms. Sara Ghorbani- Special Education Teacher

I'm so excited to be part of the Westbrook Elementary School family. I am originally from Iran, and I moved to Montgomery County when I was in 6th grade. I completed my bachelor's degrees at Northern Illinois University and received my master degree at Walden University. I've been a Special Education Teacher for 15 years. I started my career at a non-public placement high school teaching students with severe disabilities. Next I taught at Pine Crest Elementary School in Silver Spring. I love having a job that allows me to impact young children and their families every day. As a Special Education Teacher I love supporting children as they discover their personal strengths and talents. In my free time I like to workout, walk/run the Crescent Trail, work on my indoor plants, and spend time with my family and friends. I have a 14 year old son who will be attending BCC next year. I'm looking forward to the next school year!!!



Ms. Chrissy Bussard - 3rd Grade

A little bit about me:

I love all things yoga, coffee, chocolate, traveling, Taylor Swift related.

I live in Arlington VA, and grew up in Montgomery County. I went to Towson University for my undergraduate degree and University of Maryland for my graduate degree. I cannot wait to meet everyone soon!! Go Eagles! 🦅



Ms. Vanessa Shu- 5th Grade

Hello! My name is Ms. Shu, and I graduated from Towson University with a degree in Education and Special Ed. I have a Masters from Walden University in Instructional design and technology. I can't wait to work with your children in the classroom!



Ms. Emily Taylor- 2nd Grade

Next year will be my second year teaching second grade! I love spending time outside, hanging out with friends and family, and cooking new recipes. I am so excited to join the Westbrook community next year!



Ms. Ellen Gianniosis- .5 Special Education

My name is Ellen Gianniosis and I have been a special education teacher (pre-k through 5th grade) for over 10 years. I received my bachelor's degree in special education from the University of South Florida and my master's degree in leadership and administration from Hood College in Maryland. Most recently, I was the program specialist at Carl Sandburg Learning Center, a separate special ed day school. I look forward to joining the Westbrook community this school year as a home school model teacher!



Teachers for SESES Program



Special Education Teacher- full time



Paraeducators and TPTs!



Teams for Next Year

**tentative*

Westbrook Teams FY24

Office

Karen Cox- Principal

Linda Johanson- Assistant Principal

Brad Wells- Staff Development Teacher

Kim Modderno- Reading Specialist

Yolanda Faerber- Counselor

Garol Grabner- Administrative Assistant

Nicole Bell- Attendance Secretary



Special Education

Ms. Sara Ghorbani

Ms. Ellen Gianniosis (.5)

Teacher TBD

Ms. Amy Thek- Speech

Health Room

Ms. Liliane Djoupet Tchigui- tech

Ms. Ana Luisa Ralston- Nurse

EML- Reading Initiative

Ms. Naimeh Razzagi- EML

Mrs. Allison Garagusi- EML, RI

Westbrook Grade-Level Teams FY24

Kindergarten

Ms. Katherine Straley
Mrs. Nina Pattakos
Ms. Caryn Reitkopp
Mrs. Jamie Nguyen - Team Leader

3rd Grade

Mrs. Lisa Kriss - Team Leader
Ms. Chrissy Bussard*
Ms. Sarah Naatz
Mrs. Joan McCabe

1st Grade

Mrs. Natalie Atkinson
Ms. Kelly Amann
Mrs. Anna Petoskey - Team Leader
Ms. Kelsey White

4th Grade

Mrs. Eileen McNelis - Team Leader
Ms. Cari Jacobsen
Ms. Ariel Levy
Ms. Allie Morris

2nd Grade

Mrs. Suzanne Brick
Ms. Emily Taylor*
Ms. Rachael Piotti - Team Leader
Ms. Eleni Xereas

5th Grade

Mr. Kyle Elie - Team Leader
Ms. Brooke Lundy
Mr. Brent Lapadula
Ms. Vanessa Shu *

Westbrook Teams FY24

SESES Team

Social Emotional Special Educations Supports (SESES)

TBD- Teacher

TBD- Teacher

TBD- Teacher

Mrs. Elaine Chase- Social Worker

Mrs. Jessica Baron-

Behavior Support Teacher

Ms. Krystal Lawrence-

School Psychologist

Specialists

Ms. Jennifer Thai- P.E.

Mrs. Katherine Ewins- Art

Ms. Valerie Strauss- Music

Mr. Carol Wellen- Media Specialist

Mr. Jamin Morden- Instrumental

SESES Paraeducators

Ms. Cheryl Berman

Ms. Susan Hedayati

Mr. Matt Marteau

Mr. Scott Metz

Ms. Tracy Fitzgerald

Ms. Emma Hayford



Plan ahead for.....

- ❖ Open House- Friday, August 25, 2:00-3:00 pm.
- ❖ First Day of School- Monday, August 28 8:55 am
(Boo-Hoo/Yahoo for new parents 9 am)
- ❖ PTA Back To School Picnic- Friday, September 8
- ❖ Back to School Night- Thursday, September 14

Any additional staffing
changes will be
communicated in the
summer
communications

