

THE WESTWOOD SCHOOL
Let's Move Forward Together
To Learn, Teach & Build Community During COVID-19
with Nimble Response Today, Tomorrow & Beyond

Welcome Back!

SEPT 1, 2021

The Westwood School
Toddler through Grade 12 | westwoodschool.org

CULTIVATING CHARACTER DAY-B-Y-DAY



Hello Everyone! This is one of our first day of school pics. We are so excited to welcome back our students and their families!

I love this sweet picture with the bright green sweet potato vine. My kids grew up in the era before everyone used all the cute signs and backdrops – we now have a lot of wonderful pics just like this one to capture special moments and memories.

Your Host



Heather Lourcey,
Head of School

→ **Let's Move Forward Together**

Agenda

- **Partnering to Rekindle Grace & Courtesy Skills**
- **What's Happening at Westwood**
 - COVID Health & Safety Updates
 - Character & Community
 - Academics
 - Emotional Support
 - EXTRAordinary Efforts
- **Key Dates & Reminders**
- **Ideas & Resources Parents Can Use Now**
- **Q&A**



Good evening. Thank you for joining us. I am Heather Lourcey – Head of Westwood School. Before we discuss tonight's agenda, I want to say what a joy the past few days have been – seeing the students, having a regular school schedule and seeing all of the parents. Westwood is all about community and it's tough to have community when you can't see anyone. Tonight we will be discussing... (See above slide for Agenda items)

Top Concern for Parents & Educators Loss of Kids' Social Skills



7 in 10 parents say children's post-pandemic social skills are at risk



4 in 5 want schools to implement more activities to encourage & teach social skills



2 in 3 parents worry their child has become more socially awkward around others

Source: <https://www.eschoolnews.com/2021/07/20/7-in-10-parents-say-childrens-post-pandemic-social-skills-are-at-risk-per-osmo-study/>

ABOUT THE STUDY

- 2,000 US parents of 5-14 year-olds participated
- Commissioned by STEAM brand Osmos
- Conducted by OnePoll

→ **Let's Move Forward Together**



Let's jump into Grace and Courtesy. We know intuitively it is harder for kids to come back to school this year verses pre-Covid. Because of covid, our students have missed out on everyday interactions with other students and teachers that would help them build social skills essential to success in life. We've all been isolated and often communicated in front of a screen – maybe in pjs and slippers! To some extent we've allowed social graces to slide such as eye contact. The study results you see here were no surprise to me. Most of the time adults tend to look at school through one lens – education. But as I have said many, many times school is a little world unto its own in which students are learning all sorts of life lessons. School provides a safe place to learn those lessons as well as a safe place for students to learn about social constructs – in a nutshell to navigate their social and emotional well-being. And it is very difficult to practice social skills when children are isolated.

Source: <https://www.eschoolnews.com/2021/07/20/7-in-10-parents-say-childrens-post-pandemic-social-skills-are-at-risk-per-osmo-study/>

Top Concern for Parents & Educators Loss of Kids' Social Skills



Source: <https://www.eschoolnews.com/2021/07/20/7-in-10-parents-say-childrens-post-pandemic-social-skills-are-at-risk-per-osmo-study/>

PARENTS WORRY KIDS WILL HAVE TROUBLE WITH

- ✓ Making conversation with friends 41%
- ✓ Meeting new people 40%
- ✓ Remembering to say "please" & "thank you" 37%
- ✓ Sharing 35%
- ✓ Staying quiet for long periods 34%
- ✓ Waiting their turn 31%



"What social graces would you like to see your child rekindle this year?"

COMMENT IN THE CHAT BOX >>

→ **Let's Move Forward Together**



Here are some concerns parents have about their children's social skills. Please let us know in the chat box if there are social graces that are especially important to you that we can incorporate into our school year. I would add "respect" to this list- some of the categories here fall into that respect bucket. This is a very sweet pic of Cate and new student, JoJo chatting on the reading bench in UE2.

Many people no matter their age have a difficult time waiting for their turn. Everyone wants what they want right now. The skill of control, allowing someone to go first, to put someone else's needs in front of your own – that is a very difficult skill and one that I believe Westwood students learn very well. They make me proud all the time

Source: <https://www.eschoolnews.com/2021/07/20/7-in-10-parents-say-childrens-post-pandemic-social-skills-are-at-risk-per-osmo-study/>

GRACE & COURTESY

Key Ingredients for Building Character





Ingredients

- Grace & courtesy
- Student directed work & age appropriate responsibility
- Trained Montessori Guides who care a lot
- Montessori materials
- Multi-age classrooms
- Uninterrupted work periods
- Partnering with parents
- Outdoor play
- Foreign language
- Emotional wellness support

Directions

Develop the whole child • Design a path to learning for each child & stage of development

- Build a love of learning

Develop skills for positive relationships with people of different ages, cultures & perspectives • Nurture a diverse & caring community

Emphasize hands on experience • Help students learn to ask the right questions

Encourage them to try, make mistakes, try again

- Inspire them to apply new knowledge & practice new skills

➔

Let's Move Forward Together



Now more than ever – it’s important we focus on helping our students revive social skills and bring back kindness, civility, courtesy and respect. In the study we just discussed, nearly 50% of parents put “academic learning and socializing on the same level of importance.” That’s great news for Westwood families when it comes to helping our kids rekindle their social graces. Giving students opportunities to learn and practice grace & courtesy has been baked into the way we do things for more than 35 years. It’s at the heart of who we are and what we do.

For those of you who have listened to past community meetings or who know me, you know that I love to bake. We’ve discussed our learning layer cake to describe the key ingredients that go into building character. As you can see, Grace and Courtesy are the first ingredients on our list. In a Montessori and IB environments teachers very carefully create a space that cultivates grace and courtesy. We can incorporate grace and courtesy in every single lesson and every part of the school day.

Continue reading on next page...

GRACE & COURTESY

Key Ingredients for Building Character





"Building Character" Recipe

Ingredients	Directions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grace & courtesy • Student directed work & age appropriate responsibility • Trained Montessori Guides who care a lot • Montessori materials • Multi-age classrooms • Uninterrupted work periods • Partnering with parents • Outdoor play • Foreign language • Emotional wellness support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop the whole child • Design a path to learning for each child & stage of development • Build a love of learning Develop skills for positive relationships with people of different ages, cultures & perspectives • Nurture a diverse & caring community Emphasize hands on experience • Help students learn to ask the right questions Encourage them to try, make mistakes, try again • Inspire them to apply new knowledge & practice new skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li style="color: red;">Critical -Thinking <li style="color: orange;">Creativity <li style="color: yellow;">Communication <li style="color: green;">Confidence <li style="color: blue;">Independence <li style="color: purple;">Resilience

➔

Let's Move Forward Together



For me, baking a great layer cake starts with thinking about WHO I'm baking it for and their unique taste. It reminds me a lot of our Montessori and International Baccalaureate approaches at WW..

- We work closely with each child getting to know their natural interests – then, plan a unique path to foster their learning and development.
- We pave the way for the immediate next steps in their learning journey, while preparing each student to excel in their future personal development
- Our focus is on helping each child learn and practice age-appropriate skills they need to grow socially, academically and emotionally.

Click on this link to see and share one of **Our Learning Layer Cake** presentation https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6_E5L8AO9Gs

STUDENT + TEACHER + PARENT

Partnering to Rekindle
GRACE & COURTESY

11 Grace & Courtesy Lessons (Montessori Lower School)

1. Greeting one another
2. Welcoming a visitor
3. Asking a question
4. Participating in a conversation without interrupting
5. Solving a disagreement
6. Serving food
7. Standing in a line
8. Walking carefully in the classroom
9. Holding the door for someone
10. Using polite words (please, thank you, excuse me)
11. Using materials appropriately

IB Learner's Profile (Upper School)
Respect ourselves, others & the world around us

- 1. Principled**
 - We act with integrity & honesty, with a strong sense of fairness & justice
 - We respect the dignity & rights of people everywhere
 - We take responsibility for our actions and their consequences.
- 2. Open-minded**
 - We appreciate our own cultures & personal histories as well as the values & traditions of others.
 - We seek & evaluate a range of points of view
 - We are willing to grow from the experience
- 3. Caring**
 - We show empathy, compassion and respect.
 - We have a commitment to service
 - We act to make a positive difference in the lives of others & the world around us
- 4. Communicators**
 - We collaborate effectively
 - We listen carefully to the perspectives of other individuals & groups
 - We express ourselves confidently & creatively in more than one language and in many ways.

*PLUS...Inquirers • Knowledgeable • Thinkers
• Risk-takers • Balanced • Reflective*

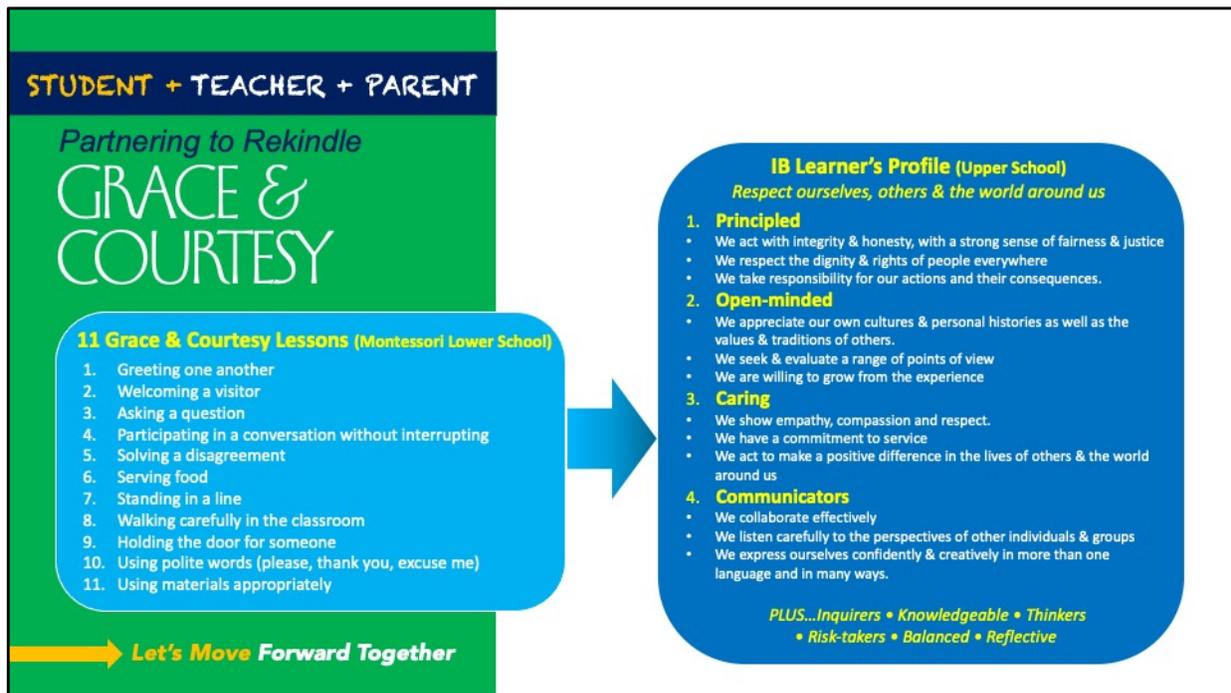
Let's Move Forward Together



Thank you for choosing Westwood to help you raise children who grow into kind, civil, courteous and respectful adults who can navigate our ever-changing world. Learning & practicing grace & courtesy skills is essential to their character development. Grace & courtesy teaches us how to act toward others with respect and consider their feelings. It also gives children confidence because they know the right things to do.

Rekindling grace and courtesy starts first thing in the morning with greetings (number 1 on our list) – because of covid we have stopped shaking hands, but we are going to get back to it because it starts the day off right. Right now, we are making a pointed effort to look students in the eye and say good morning. Holding the door... Ultimately grace & courtesy in the Montessori world is about dignity. Respecting the dignity of all people.

Continue reading on next page...



You can see here how the lessons of Montessori to lead students straight into using the IB Learner Profile. The Learner Profile is a list of qualities we are committed to further develop in our Upper School students. We selected the IB philosophy because it embodies courtesy and other Montessori principles. It helps our older students apply the grace & courtesy lessons they've learned in the lower school and takes their character development to the next level as they prepare to enter the adult world.

These Learner Profile characteristics speak directly to this and ask students to be principled, open-minded, caring and effective communicators. I could spend an entire meeting just discussing the Learner Profile...for now, I'd like to highlight Communication and its importance when attending an international school – “we listen carefully to the perspectives of other individuals & groups.”

STUDENT + TEACHER + PARENT

*Partnering to Rekindle
Grace & Courtesy*

What to Expect At Each Age

→ **Let's Move Forward Together**



3-Year Old

- Establish eye contact when speaking to another
- Say hello
- Wash hands before & after a meal
- Stay seated during the meal
- Use utensils at the table
- Say "please" & "thank you"



10-Year Old

- Be able to hold a conversation with an adult
- Use good table manners
- Use the telephone properly
- Show self-control in public places
- Take responsibility for keeping their bedroom neat
- Know how to be on time



15-Year Old

- Initiate conversation & show interest with adults
- Pick up after themselves & their friends at home
- Maintain a noise level that is acceptable to their surroundings
- Be protective & kind toward younger siblings/children
- Express appreciation to parents & others

Source: Excerpted from **365 Manners Kids Should Know**; <https://365manners.com/>



Like anything else, developing social graces is a gradual process. What should you expect from your child?

Three-year-olds are just little people – we can actually expect quite a bit from them when it comes to Grace and Courtesy.

As students get older, we help them refine and learn higher level skills. By the time they leave elementary school, children should be able to... (See slide above for 10-Year-Old)

And as our students are moving out of adolescence and into young adulthood, students should be able to...(See slide above for 15-year old)

Source: Excerpted from **365 Manners Kids Should Know**; <https://365manners.com/>

STUDENT + TEACHER + PARENT

Partnering to Rekindle Grace & Courtesy

How Westwood Helps Students Revive Grace & Courtesy Skills



Let's Move Forward Together

Level	Montessori/IB Work	Social Skills Developed
Toddler/PreK	Any rug work	Respect others by carefully walking around their work and to say "No thank you" when they are expressing displeasure.
1 st -3 rd Grade	Serving Snack	Practicing good hygiene, serving others before themselves and saying please and thank you.
4 th -6 th Grade	Group Projects	Learning how to share work and responsibility.
7 th -8 th Grade	Community Meetings	Allowing others to speak, waiting their turn and respectfully disagreeing.
9 th -12 th Grade	Daily Jobs	Caring for the school environment, picking up after themselves and respecting property.



Here are a few examples to highlight how we help our students learn and practice grace & courtesy...

Often...whether it's lower school or upper school, visitors remark about the respectful way students and teachers speak to one another and conduct themselves throughout the day. When our students visit other places such as field trips, competitions, sporting events, we are almost always complimented on how well behaved our children are.

We prepare students to win and lose with grace during Future City and other competitions. We model, we prepare, we assist and then we talk (maybe praise, or help them understand and graciously handle disappointment – whatever the moment calls for). For example, during sporting events we encourage our students to be quiet when anyone is serving a volleyball or shooting a free throw. We also encourage them to acknowledge good plays by opponents.

STUDENT + TEACHER + PARENT

Partnering to Rekindle Grace & Courtesy

Help Your Kids Rekindle Grace & Courtesy Skills

Let's Move Forward Together

➔ **Tip 1: Lead by Example**

- Gage our own manners. Adjust as needed
- Say please, thank you & I'm sorry
- Speak respectfully to your children & others
- Treat family, friends, & even strangers with courtesy & respect

➔ **Tip 2: Have Dinner Together with Conversation**

- Practice listening, making eye contact & waiting their turn to speak
- Learn to disagree respectfully
- Table manners (chewing with mouth closed, etc.)

➔ **Tip 3: Teach Kids that Family Deserves Your Best Behavior**

- Speak with parents... "Good Morning" & "Good Night"
- Spend time with their siblings Vs hibernating in their room
- Respect others' privacy
- Say "I'm sorry" when they hurt or offend others

★ **INVITATION:**
Share tips & questions for helping your child rekindle grace & courtesy.
COMMENT IN THE CHAT BOX >>

Source:
<https://www.eschoolnews.com/2021/07/20/7-in-10-parents-say-childrens-post-pandemic-social-skills-are-at-risk-per-osmo-study/>



This year, rekindling grace & courtesy a top priority for us. And we invite you to partner with us in this effort. Partnership is essential in any community.

For better or worse, our children watch us and do WHAT we do. No matter how many times we tell them to do as we say. Our children are going to model themselves after us. If you want a child that uses grace and courtesy, you must show them. Did you know that young children do not understand the subtleties of sarcasm? Understanding sarcasm doesn't really happen until well into high school. As much as we adults might enjoy sarcasm, your child does not understand and takes what you say and do literally.

Regular family dinners are important for kid's health and development. Family dinners have been linked to reduced risk of obesity, healthier eating habits, improved social and emotional skills, better school performance and more.

Continue reading on next page...

STUDENT + TEACHER + PARENT

Partnering to Rekindle
Grace & Courtesy

Help Your Kids Rekindle Grace & Courtesy Skills

Let's Move Forward Together

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The next tip is a hot button topic for me. Humans tend to take out their frustrations on the people they feel safest with – their family. But here again, you can model and teach your children appropriate behavior. We always want to do our best to control ourselves especially when we are upset. But the LAST people you want to be rude or unkind to are your family members. If you expect grace and courtesy at home, your child will most certainly take those behaviors with them outside of your home.

If you have any great ideas, tips or questions about helping children rekindle grace & courtesy, please share in the chat box – we can all use help!

Source: <https://www.eschoolnews.com/2021/07/20/7-in-10-parents-say-childrens-post-pandemic-social-skills-are-at-risk-per-osmo-study/>

CHARACTER & COMMUNITY | ACADEMICS
EMOTIONAL SUPPORT | EXTRAORDINARY EFFORTS

What's Happening at Westwood Fall 2021



Let's Move Forward Together

★ 2021-2022 School Year

Welcome

- Returning Families
- 62 New Families
- 8 New Teachers & Staff

Thank You!

Invite-A-Friend to Experience Our Community

- Open House: Saturday, Oct. 9 | 11am – 2pm
Contact Debra Giorgini to reserve a time slot
dgiorgini@westwoodschoo.org | 972-239-8598



The past 2 years have been unprecedented in more ways than just this pandemic. We had a record number of returning families which gives us all great joy and a record 62 new families at Westwood. When you add that 62 to last year's new families, we have a lot of meeting and greeting to do! As safely as possible, we want to get to know each other. Many of our new families come from referrals – and for that we thank you. We want the right family matches to find Westwood.

Please consider inviting a friend to our first fall open house on Oct. 9th and/or consider attending yourself to give a parent-to-parent perspective. Many of our parents will also be making a home baked goodie to share at open house.

Here are links to see and share an **invitation to our upcoming open houses**

Lower School

Upper School

Welcome

NEW TEACHERS & STAFF 2021-2022



Brittany Creager
Toddler Teacher



Annaliese Dillner
Lower El Teacher



Travis Gilmore
HS History Teacher



Tinesha Hutchins
Toddler Teacher



Japjeet Kaur
Afterschool Teacher



Clara Ramirez
Lower El Teacher



Monique Tromblay
Upper School Admin



Terence Whitaker
PE Coach (LS/US)

→ **Let's Move Forward Together**



Welcome to our new Westwood staff. I do not think we have ever had all new staff members get their photos taken for the website during in-service. This little indicator tells me what great people these are.

EXTRAordinary Efforts

- ✓ Prep to Enhance Visual Learning
- ✓ Added NEW classrooms
- ✓ Learning during COVID Pivots & Guideline Updates

→ **Let's Move Forward Together**



I'd like to recognize EXTRAordinary efforts that occurred over the summer. We sometimes take for granted the monumental amount of work that goes on during the summer to enhance our student and community experiences during the school year.

Thank you to our teachers and staff for their EXTRAordinary efforts to very carefully organize and present their subjects in beautiful and inviting ways.

CHARACTER & COMMUNITY | ACADEMICS
EMOTIONAL SUPPORT | EXTRAORDINARY EFFORTS

EXTRAordinary Efforts



- 2 New Upper School Classrooms
- New Upper Elem Bathrooms

Let's Move Forward Together



While the summer program was in full swing, a group of us completely packed up, painted and re-set new classrooms – no small feat as those of you who have ever built a home or recently remodeled can attest to.

We're pretty excited about the remodel which includes: 2 new US classrooms – they are huge and best of all have windows located right next to the doors. These large windows are important (just as they are at Lower School) because they enable us to communicate more effectively. They also enhance our safety and sense of community. Sometimes teachers need to shut their doors and that closes the people inside off from everyone else. Those windows allow everyone to see what is happening and to feel a part of the community.

We've also redone some of the Lower School kitchens, flooring and bathrooms.

CHARACTER & COMMUNITY | ACADEMICS
EMOTIONAL SUPPORT | EXTRAORDINARY EFFORTS

Learning During COVID: Pivots & Updates

Keeping You in the Know

Learning During COVID-19

- ABSENCES
- ARRIVING & LEAVING
- CLEANING & SANITATION
- COVID-19 SAFETY UPDATES
- EMOTIONAL WELLNESS & SUPPORT
- EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, ST
- FACE COVERINGS
- HEALTH SCREENINGS
- LUNCH
- OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES
- RESPONDING TO COVID-19 ON CA
- VISITORS & VOLUNTEERS

Let's Move Forward Together Events



June 17 [Video Update](#) from Head of School
• Recap [Email](#) of June Community Update (July 14)

March 31 [Video Update](#) from Head of School
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January 29 [Video Update](#) from Head of School
• Recap [Email](#) of January Community Update (Feb. 9)

Let's Move Forward Together

Learning During COVID-19 Webpage

One Place for Updates: <https://westwoodschool.org/covid-19/>

- Links to Learning During COVID info & contacts
- Let's Move Forward Together Video Recaps & FAQs
- Resources Parents Can Use

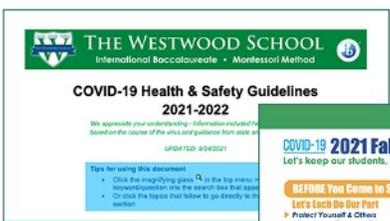
COVID-19 Notifications

Consistent • Contextual • Clear • Legal

- Community Update
- Direct Contact

Balance Competing Factors

- ✓ Parent & community needs/wants
- ✓ HR, HIPAA & other requirements
- ✓ Individual & family privacy



COVID-19 Health & Safety Guidelines 2021-2022

Lower School: Toddler - Grade 4



COVID-19 2021 Fall Safety Update

Let's keep our students, teachers & community safe



We had all hoped to put Covid somewhat in the rearview mirror for the 2021 school year – however, it's been a wild ride since July simply trying to keep up with the latest guidelines from experts as well as federal, state and local officials. Among our efforts this summer was keeping up with new information and pivoting to be a model Montessori and IB community that respects our children and adult members.

We've made some changes to our Covid guidelines for the well-being of our students, teachers, staff and community. We believe more strongly than ever that students are best served when learning in-person. Therefore, all classes will be 100% in person.

We realize not everyone will agree 100% with Westwood's guidelines – particularly those regarding masks. We humbly ask you to follow the Covid-19 health and safety guidelines we've outlined. We've carefully considered decisions on this front to enable our students to safely follow their regular class day schedules, gather in common spaces and attend all school gatherings.

Continue reading on next page...

CHARACTER & COMMUNITY | ACADEMICS
EMOTIONAL SUPPORT | EXTRAORDINARY EFFORTS

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THE WESTWOOD SCHOOL

International Baccalaureate • Montessori Method

COVID-19 Health & Safety Guidelines 2021-2022

We appreciate your understanding - information distributed based on the course of the virus and guidance from state of MD (04/17/20 - 04/29/2021)

Tip for using this document

- Click the magnifying glass in the top menu to search within the search box that opens
- Or click the topics that follow to go directly to the topics

Lower School: Toddler - Grade 6

COVID-19 2021 Fall Safety Update

Let's keep our students, teachers & community safe

We will continue to update our safety practices as new insight is available (8-25-2021)

BEFORE You Come to School!

Let's Each Do Our Part!

Protect Yourself & Others

- Stay home if you are sick
- Wash your hands often
- Keep your hands away from nose & mouth
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Suspend all Employee Training about COVID-19 & prevention measures
- Bring your mask/face covering with you

Added Health Checks for Students, Teachers & Staff

- Each day, take child's temperature "BSCOT" upon arriving home > If Temp 99.0 or above, keep them home
- This also applies to Teachers & Staff

COVID-19 vaccines optional

WW COVID-19 Health & Safety Guidelines

- Read & observe these guidelines
- Watch for updates

Arriving & Leaving

Car Lines - Parents Remain in Car Until We Signal You
Read our the schedule & details page under "Arriving & Leaving Each Day" >>> Lower School >>> Car line



For the first 30 days of school, all Westwood community members aged 3 and over will be required to wear masks while indoors. We'll revisit this in 30 days and keep you posted of any changes. Thank you for sticking with us as we work extra hard to keep our community safe while we joyfully welcome our students, their families and our staff back to school in-person.

To keep us all working together, here's a quick overview of our covid health and safety communications...In the 2021-2022 Covid-19 Health & Safety Guidelines - you'll find lots of details about car lines, cleaning, lunches, extra-curricular activities and more. We're sharing these details with you to help us know how we can work together to keep our community healthy. We've worked hard to make these guidelines work for our Westwood community. We appreciate your patience and cooperation on this front.

Here's a link to our Learning During Covid web page <https://westwoodschool.org/covid-19/>

CHARACTER & COMMUNITY | ACADEMICS
EMOTIONAL SUPPORT | EXTRAORDINARY EFFORTS

Learning During COVID: Pivots & Updates

Keeping You in the Know

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2021-2022

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Lower School: Toddler - Grade 6

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- Watch for updates

Learning During COVID-19 Webpage

One Place for Updates: <https://westwoodschool.org/covid-19/>

- Links to Learning During COVID info & contacts
- Let's Move Forward Together Video Recaps & FAQs
- Resources Parents Can Use

COVID-19 Notifications

Consistent • Contextual • Clear • Legal

- Community Update
- Direct Contact

THE WESTWOOD SCHOOL

International Baccalaureate • Montessori Method

Balance Competing Factors

- ✓ Parent & community needs/wants
- ✓ HR, HIPAA & other requirements
- ✓ Individual & family privacy

Let's Move Forward Together

Because our students, classes and campuses are mixing, we will now be sending one notification letter when any community member tests positive for covid.

All adults and students age 9 and up should always enter the building with a mask on. We are giving some grace to our younger students as they get used to these new guidelines. Most of these students go directly outside upon entering their classroom, so we have not insisted they always enter the building wearing masks. Teachers are reminding students to put their masks on during classroom transitions. No other face coverings are acceptable besides masks.

We have a couple preschool age students who have medical exemptions from wearing masks. Lower School teachers have been provided with and asked to wear smile masks especially when giving reading lessons. Teachers have not been asked to wear smile masks the entire school day.

We are asking a lot of our young students – walking into a new place is difficult under the best of circumstances. For some children this is their first time in school. It takes time for the child to make new friends, trust their teachers and to feel comfortable in their new environment. As I observed last year, it will take a little time for the young ones to get used to wearing a mask more often and for longer periods of time. As always in any parent-child relationships – it is the parent who takes the lead. The more comfortable you are, the more comfortable your child will be.

What's Happening at Westwood

Important Reminders



Let's Move Forward Together

Wildcat Safety Reminders

Read details in 2021 COVID Health & Safety Guidelines

1. Arriving & Leaving Campus

Lower School Car Lines Begin Sept 7

- Until then, walk your child to & from their classroom
- Safely cultivate parent & teacher relationships

Upper School Car Line or Older Student Parking

- Drop off & student entry at main North Entrance
- MS pick up @ East MS door
- HS pick up @ main North entrance

2. Take Temperature Before Leaving Home

3. Uniforms

- Includes all appropriate pieces
- Thursdays = WW Formal Dress Day for Upper School
- Fridays = WW t-shirt & jeans



Carlines for lower school will start next week. I hope everyone is enjoying time together right now. Getting to know your child's teacher and other Westwood families is extremely important. We'll assign weekly park and come in days very soon.

I really appreciate everyone's caution in keeping their children and themselves at home when ill. This greatly decreases the spread of all illnesses.

We know that uniforms are currently backordered. Please just do your best. All students that have all the uniform pieces should wear them to school everyday. Students love to wear their Westwood t-shirts and jeans on Fridays. If you haven't been at Westwood for long, you are going to quickly learn that there is a t-shirt for EVERYTHING! Theater productions, homecoming, houses, prom and on and on. When my boys left for college, we cleaned out their dresser drawers. They understandably did not want to wear their school shirts to their new college campuses. Honestly, I think they each only had a couple t-shirts after we cleaned out the drawers. I took those t-shirts and also had saved their various sports uniforms and had quilts made out of them. Just the other day, one son told me his quilt was his favorite and he appreciated it.

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EMOTIONAL SUPPORT | EXTRAORDINARY EFFORTS

What's Happening at Westwood
Summer 2021
was Tons of Fun!



→ **Let's Move Forward Together**



We had a wonderful summer. Thank you to everyone who joined us.

Be on the look-out in January for summer 2022 sign-up. Mr. Terrell is also expanding our Summer by Westwood program designed for rising 7th to 12th graders. It's a great way for teens to pursue new interests, make new friends and build their skills.

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What's Happening at Westwood

After School Program



Let's Move Forward Together

Before & After School

- After School: With homework help

Regular After School

- PreK – 6th Grade

Studios

- Available weekly
- Offered by WW teachers & staff & trusted suppliers
- Topics include
 - Cooking • Mandarin • Choir • Theatre
 - Design Technology • PE

Upper School Clubs

- Formed & led by students



NEW
Studio

All Things Musical Theatre Studio with
Dallas Summer Musicals!

See studio preview videos @
[https://westwoodschool.org/
academics/afterschool/](https://westwoodschool.org/academics/afterschool/)



We have a fantastic line up of afterschool programs this year. Most Westwood students love our cooking, languages, technology and PE studios and we also have new additions – the fabulous Mr. Ingmire offering choir and Dallas Summer Musicals offering all things musical theater. I honestly don't know why but I have not met a Westwood kid that did not love musical theater! See studio preview videos at <https://westwoodschool.org/academics/afterschool/>

Consider homework club if you need some help- whether as a working parent or you are experiencing homework conflict - having the assistance of a teacher with weekly homework is something I appreciated. Our afterschool staff members are warm and enthusiastic as they care for our students and maintain a relaxed and enriched environment. Students in the afterschool program receive additional time in the classroom, build relationships with peers, and work on creative projects as well as spend recreational time on the playground.

Continue reading on next page...

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What's Happening at Westwood After School Program



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Let's Move Forward Together



As long as I am on the subject of homework...

1st grade, 4th grade, 7th grade, 10th grade and 12th grade are all grades that take some time for students to gain confidence. My best advice is to not panic – the entire faculty is here to help and your kids will gain that confidence and the new homework will become old hat.

In Upper School students form their own clubs based on their interests. If they can find a staff sponsor and a few friends, they can start a club. The sky's the limit – no excuses at Westwood. If you want it – reach out and get it – we will support the students. And don't forget athletics – volleyball and cross country are up and going. Basketball and cheer will be coming later this fall and track and field will round out the year.

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What's Happening at Westwood Back to School Celebrating & Prepping

Hints &
Tips
Sessions

BRINGING THE PROBLEM
A fundamental principle in Westwood that every child, parent and family strives to follow is social courtesy. It empowers you and others. Students will be asked to provide their parents and teachers with a signed letter to have a professional discussion with the other student. It is requested that all students to request and provide the required, verbal and physical learning environment.

Who to Bring the Problem
Call, text, email, or come in school, and/or request a meeting with a Teacher, Counselor, Coordinator, or Nurse.

For the Parent:
When you send someone a problem with you that they've had at school with another student or teacher, you will be required to provide a signed letter to the other parent. This is required when you bring the problem to report.

If your child did not bring the problem to school:
You must be the parent of the student. The parent of the other student must be notified. You must provide a signed letter to the other parent. This is required when you bring the problem to report.

If your child did bring the problem to school:
You must be the parent of the student. The parent of the other student must be notified. You must provide a signed letter to the other parent. This is required when you bring the problem to report.

WHO TO CONTACT

Subject Grade Teachers	Coordinator of Student Support Services
Subject Teacher	Health Services
Assistant Principal	Coordinator of Social Support Services
Special Services Coordinator	Site Manager

hints & Tips
for success in
Upper School
2021-2022

We are looking forward to a GREAT Year!

THE WESTWOOD SCHOOL
westwoodschool.org

Let's Move Forward Together



School Lunch Program

Special Lunch Offer

10% off lunches delivered through Sept. 30, 2021
See WW email from Aug. 25 @ 2 p.m. for details



Back to School
Bash



Thanks to everyone who attended the Back to School Bash. Back to school is always an exciting time for everyone. We also know it can be stressful with lots to do to prepare. That's why we try to make it as easy as possible. We ate some yummy food, played on water slides, had a special game area for the older students and took Upper School photo ids and high school drivers got to reserve their parking spots.

If you missed our Lower School Hints and Tips session – information will be coming out. And remember, we always welcome questions.

The new lunch program is getting rave reviews so far. We've partnered with Wholesome Food Services to offer our students a delicious and nutritious variety of great lunch choices from local restaurants. With this program, you can order the day before and cancel the morning of if necessary. So no more lost money!

KEY DATES

What's Happening at Westwood
 Visit westwoodschool.org/calendar

- **Main School Calendar**
- **2021-22 Holiday Calendar**



→ *Let's Move Forward Together*

Date	Event	Notes
Sept 2	Dinner on the Playground (Toddler – 6 th) Dinner in the Courtyard (7 th – 12 th)	6pm
Sept 6	Labor Day – Westwood closed	
Sept 9	Curriculum Meetings	6pm
Sept 10	New Parent Coffee	7:30 am / after drop-off
Sept 13	Afterschool Program starts	
Sept 29-Oct 1	6 th Grade ALPs	
Oct 9	Prospective Family Open House 11am – 2pm	Invite-a-friend
Oct 13-14	All School Parent/Teacher conferences (no school)	LS Childcare available
Oct 15	School Holiday – Westwood closed	
Oct 18-22	Homecoming Week	
Oct 21	Westwood's Annual Fund Day!	
Oct 29	Lower School Halloween Carnival	
Nov 1	ALPS trip sendoffs for 7 th -11 th Grade Trips	
Nov 19	Thanksgiving Feasts / Grandparent Celebration	



Having fun with our friends and families is important at Westwood. It's one of the ways we build character, community and a love of learning that leads to academic excellence.

You may be wondering how you can keep up with everything. One way is through our school calendars located on the school website.

Here's what's coming up...(See calendar above)

We will not be having the fall festival this year. We are however planning a parent social – be on the look out for details.

Here's the link to our school calendar:

<https://westwoodschool.org/calendar/>

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What's Happening at Westwood Communications

- ✓ **Let's Move Forward Together**
 - Regular live online updates
 - Video
 - FAQs
 - Email updates
 - See "Learning during COVID-19" web page
- ✓ **Learning During COVID Communications**
- ✓ **Family Newsletter**
 - Weekly email for Lower & Upper school
- ✓ **Email Updates**
 - Event invitations
- ✓ **Lower School Wednesday Envelopes**
- ✓ **Signs (classroom & campus entry doors)**
- ✓ **TVs in both reception areas**



We do our best to communicate the happenings at Westwood in every possible way. Here are some examples of the ways we provide information and insights to our community.

Wondering and worrying is not fun and we want to help when we can. We welcome your inquiries.

STUDENT + TEACHER + PARENT

What's Happening at Westwood

Parent Involvement



Let's Move Forward Together

Current Needs

- Reading Parents
- Visit & Support IBeanery
- Set up for Parent Social

When You Get Involved

- ✓ Your child notices & they feel proud – they feel important.
- ✓ You make friends with other parents – sometimes lifetime friendships.
- ✓ You will better understand your child's education



I am guessing after the year we just had, we will have many volunteers.

Your child's educational journey is a partnership between the child, parents and teachers. Parents and family members are welcome at Westwood events. One example is joining your child for lunch or maybe taking your child out to lunch.

Here are 3 opportunities for parents to get involved with our school community 1) Become a reading parent 2) visit and support IBeanery 3) Setup for and attend the parent social

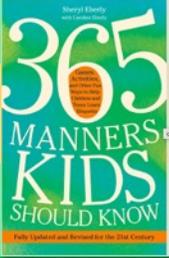
When you are involved – your child notices and they feel proud – they feel important.

When you are involved, you make friends with other parents – sometimes lifelong friendships.

When you are involved, you will have a much clearer understanding of your child's education journey.

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Ideas & Resources



365 Manner Kids Should Know
<https://365manners.com>

Teaching Children Good Etiquette & Manners
Very Well Family
<https://bit.ly/3yveXNZ>

I Disagree! 7 Civil Conversation Skills for Kids, Teens & Families
Doing Good Together
<https://bit.ly/38thRZV>



Let's Move Forward Together



Here are links to 1 article and 2 books with practical suggestions for developing grace & courtesy skills in our children.

365 Manners In this book, you'll find one-manner-a day and " practical ways parents, grandparents, and teachers can teach essential manners like:

- When and where it's appropriate to text
- How to write a thank-you note
- The proper way to handle an online bully
- How to behave at events like birthday parties, weddings and religious services

I Disagree! In this age of divisiveness, disturbing headlines and excessive use of devices, strong communication skills are more important than ever. This book addresses 7 civil conversation skills for kids, teens and families.

Teaching Children Good Etiquette & Manners

This article highlights 11 key manners to teach our children. It also provides tips to help our kids improve their manners.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY Maria Montessori

Aug 31, 1870 – May 6, 1952

"Imagination does not become great until human beings, given the courage and the strength, use it to create."

 **Let's Move Forward Together**

Before we close, I have one last thought to share with you. Maria Montessori's birthday was August 31. She's best known for her philosophy and the Montessori Method of education. She was also an Italian physician, educator, philosopher and humanitarian. The educational method she developed is used throughout the world and is the foundation of Westwood's Montessori and IB approach.

Cheers to this unique woman who was ahead of her time in so many ways. I'd like to close with a quote from her,

"Imagination does not become great until human beings, given the courage and the strength, use it to create."

Thank you for joining me this evening. I look forward to seeing you for our **next Online Community Meeting at 6:00 p.m. on October 27**