



January 16, 2023



Walter J. Mitchell Bulldogs

Hello Walter J. Mitchell families,

We hope everyone had the chance to enjoy the extended weekend as we celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. All Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) schools and offices are closed Monday, Jan. 16, in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday. Students will return to school on Tuesday, January 17. Schools are also closed for students on Friday, Jan. 20, for semester break.



As an important reminder, the school day begins at 9:00 AM. Doors open for students at 8:45 AM. Children should NOT be left on school property before that time, as there will be no supervision. Students should be in their classrooms promptly by 9:00 AM to begin their morning routines and morning work. Students arriving after this time will report to the main office to sign in. Depending on the arrival time, students will be marked tardy ½ day.

Thursday, January 19 is the end of the second marking period! Report cards will be available on ParentVue January 30.

This week is also College Week at Mitchell. College Week is an opportunity to teach our students the importance of continued education and emphasize academic achievement for a lifetime of success. We encourage parents/guardians to discuss their personal post-secondary educational experience with their children. The College Week Spirit Days for this week are as follows:

- Tuesday, January 17th: College Starts Here! (WJM Spirit Gear Day)
- Wednesday, January 18th: Dress for Success! (Wear professional/work related clothing)
- Thursday, January 19th: College Gear! (Wear your favorite college colors/shirts/jerseys)

We are looking forward to a great week,

Nicholas Adam, Principal

Ashley Valenzuela-Carrington, Assistant Principal

Congratulations!

Chloe Williams, fifth grade student, and Mrs. Escanilla, teaching extraordinaire, were recognized by the Board of Education as WJM's 2022-2023 Exemplary student & staff member. We are lucky to have these awesome bulldogs as part of our school community.



[CLICK HERE](#) to read more about Chloe Williams.



[CLICK HERE](#) to read more about Mrs. Escanilla.

Mitchell Hosts "Souper Bowl"

Walter J. Mitchell Elementary School is hosting a "Souper Bowl". We are asking for cans of soup or other canned food items to be donated over the next several weeks. Students will get to vote for their favorite football team by placing their canned food item on the NFC table or the AFC table. All of the canned food items will be donated to the Southern Maryland Food Bank to help families in our community.

Relay for Life



Students received a flyer for American Cancer Society Dedication Footprints. The dedication footprints are to honor those who have battled cancer. They will be displayed in our school's atrium through the rest of the school year and at our Mitchell Bulldog team campsite at the June event. **We are asking for a \$1.00 donation for each footprint dedication.** Dedication requests will be accepted beginning this month, January 2023, and available through the rest of the school year until the Charles County Relay for Life event on June 10, 2023. Thank you for your support!

PBIS

B – Behave Politely

A – Act Responsibly

R – Respect Learning

K – Keep Safe

PBIS at Mitchell! Each month, students have a new opportunity to show BARK behaviors and take part in our monthly PBIS event. As a reminder, only students who are referral free for the entire month are invited to attend the monthly PBIS event.

Upcoming Dates

- January 16 – Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday – Schools/Offices closed
- January 19 – End of Quarter 2
- January 20 – Semester Break – Schools closed!**
- January 23 – Start of Quarter 3
- January 23-26 – PTO Spirit week at Fosters Grille, La Plata (all week)
- January 26 – 5th Grade Winter Concert @ Milton Somers Middle School
- January 30 – Report Cards posted on ParentVue



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Tardiness** - Students who arrive after 9:00 AM will be considered 'Tardy' and their attendance record will be marked as such.
- Our Lost & Found items** are on display during all lunch shifts. Students are encouraged to view these items during their scheduled lunchtime for any lost clothing items.
- Photo ID for all visitors** - When visiting the school, picture IDs are required for all visitors to Mitchell Elementary.
- Dismissal Changes** – Phone calls will not be permitted as a method to change your child's dismissal routines. We require this notification in writing by 12:00 PM (noon) to both office

secretaries, Deanna Gomez (dgomez@ccboe.com) and Deborah Williams (ddwilliams@ccboe.com). Please also include the classroom teacher.

- If you must send someone else to pick up your child, you **MUST** follow the same procedure stated above - send an email to both office secretaries, Deanna Gomez (dgomez@ccboe.com) And Deborah Williams (ddwilliams@ccboe.com). Please also include the classroom teacher.

Inclement Weather Notifications - How To Get School Closure News

- Call the 24-hour information line at 301-934-7410 or 301-932-6655.
- Check the CCPS website at www.ccboe.com
- Follow on Twitter @ccps
- Check for Facebook updates at *Charles County Public Schools*.
- Text Messages from CCPS: Parents/guardians can opt-in to receive text message alerts from CCPS through School Messenger. Parents/guardians must have a cell phone number listed on their child's emergency notification card. To opt-in, text Y or YES to 67587. Users will then receive a confirmation text. Text STOP to 67587 at any time to stop receiving text message alerts from CCPS. Standard text message rates by cell phone carriers apply. This feature is available only to parents.
- Notification by Charles County CNS: Receive free email and text message notifications from the Citizen Notification Service (CNS). Visit <http://www.charlescountymd.gov/CNS> to sign up. Select Charles County Public Schools notifications.
- Notification by press release: CCPS will post a weather alert press release any time school status is affected by inclement weather. Subscribers receive our press releases by email the instant they are posted to our website. To subscribe, visit www.ccboe.com/pr and enter your email address in the "Subscribe" box.



Walter J. Mitchell website:

[HOME - Walter J. Mitchell Elementary School \(ccboe.com\)](http://www.mitchell.ccboe.com)

Previous editions of the School Newsletter:

<https://mitchell.ccboe.com/parent/news-to-know>

Twitter: [@WJMitchellES](https://twitter.com/WJMitchellES) / Twitter

PTO (Parent Teacher Organization) Facebook:

[Walter J. Mitchell PTO | Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/WJMitchellPTO)



The Charles County public school system does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age or disability in its programs, activities or employment practices. For inquiries, please contact Kathy Kiessling, Title IX/ADA/Section 504 Coordinator (students) or Nikial Majors, Title IX/ADA/Section 504 coordinator (employees/ adults), at Charles County Public Schools, Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, P.O. Box 2770, La Plata, MD 20646; 301-932-6610/301-870-3814. For special accommodations, call 301-934-7230 or TDD 1-800-735-2258 two weeks prior to the event. CCPS provides nondiscriminatory equal access to school facilities in accordance with its Use of Facilities rules to designated youth groups (including, but not limited to, the Boy Scouts).