



WOLF E-NEWS

from Westside High School

14201 Briar Forest Houston, Texas 77077 * Phone: 281.920.8000 * Fax: 281.920.8059

Revised Edition
See Pages 1 and 7

August 18, 2020

Wolves are Getting Back to the Pack First Day of Virtual School: Sept. 8

This is an unprecedented but exciting time for our school community. In an effort to present new information about our remote learning program in a clear and easily-accessible format, we introduce our new [Westside Virtual Learning Plan Website](#). We built this site to help students and parents better understand what our virtual learning plan will look like as we kick-off the 2020-2021 school year.

We hope this helps to alleviate possible concerns surrounding all aspects of

blended learning. Reviewing each section of the site will help our Westside Wolves feel ready to take on distance learning. You can rest assured that our high standards for excellence will continue, and we will be doing our best to help each student feel a part of our Wolf Pack!

To learn more about our Virtual Learning Plan, join Principal Wittpenn for a Live Chat with parents on Microsoft Teams on September 2nd at 6 PM. Click [here](#) for details and the link to join at meeting time.

Calendar

Thurs., August 20

Freshman Laptop & ID Pick-Ups, 5:00-7:30 PM
(Completed Enrollment Required)

Fri., August 21

Laptop & ID Pick-Ups, 9 AM-12 Noon and 1-4 PM,
Freshmen & New 10th-12th Graders

Mon, August 24

Laptop & ID Pick-Ups, 4-6 PM, All New Enrolled Students, Grades 9-12

August 25-September 4

All Tech Needs By Appointment

Tues., August 25

Virtual Senior Orientation, 7 PM

Wed., August 26

Virtual Junior Orientation, 2:30 PM

Thur., August 27

Virtual Sophomore Orientation, 2:30 PM

Fri., August 28

Virtual Freshman Wolf Camp, 9-11 AM

Wed., September 2

Live Chat with Principal Wittpenn on Microsoft Teams, 6 PM

Thur., September 3

Virtual Back-to-School Bash, 6-8 PM

WESTSIDE HIGH SCHOOL
**VIRTUAL
LEARNING
PLAN**

Click [HERE](#) to open website

In Case You Missed It: A Community Letter from Our New Principal



Dear Westside Community,

Thank you for the warm welcome as your new principal! I am ecstatic to rejoin Westside High School, as my roots in education started at Westside—I began my career here as a first-year teacher, and fondly remember many Westside traditions such as the homecoming parade and ‘meeting one another at the wolf.’ Since my initial time at Westside, I have grown both personally and professionally; I am married to my husband of 8 years, Brian, and we have an exquisite 18-month old son, Rex. Professionally, I cultivated a dual-credit Futures magnet program at another high school in Houston ISD, as well as served as school principal. I am thrilled that my educational journey has brought me ‘home’ to be a Westside Wolf and to re-join the pack!

One of my priorities as I rejoin the Wolf Pack is to be an investigative leader and learner. While some of my experiences as a teacher here over a decade ago may still ring true, I know that I must become reacquainted with what Westside looks and feels like today from the perspective of students, faculty and staff, and parents and the community. To that end, I will be publishing a formal entry plan to the community that will allow me to listen to the many voices at Westside, learn from all of you, and introduce myself. My focus will be to continue to learn from all stakeholders about our school, its strengths, and the challenges that may lie in our path in the future, and in doing so, build trust in one another so that we can determine what is working (and support it) and what is not (and change it). My entry plan activities will consist of interviews with groups of stakeholders and are intended as a mechanism to pause for reflection, and also as a way for us to learn to work together in order to determine where our goals lie as a community.

While no two school years are ever exactly the same, this year presents us with a unique set of circumstances instigated by the global pandemic. The start of the school year will begin virtually on September 8th, but it will not lack the elements that have always made Westside so special—the rich spirit of community, student camaraderie, and dedication of educators focused on unlocking the potential of every Westside student. Our team of teachers and administrators are working hard to ensure a successful transition between in-person classes and events to online, virtual platforms without compromising the ‘Westside Way’.

Flexibility and adaptability will continue to be key characteristics for all stakeholders this year as we continue to build on not only the firm foundation of our school’s twenty year history of excellence pre-COVID 19, but also the successes of the Spring semester marked by our rapid yet fluid transition to virtual learning. We will continue to leverage district systems and struc-

tures such as The HUB and Microsoft Teams to produce a blend of both live (synchronous) virtual classes and 'flex' (asynchronous) time where students are able to get teacher support and enrichment in small groups and one-on-one as well as work on independent assignments.

The Westside virtual daily schedule will be published soon, and, in the interim, we ask that all parents take the Parent Introduction to Virtual Learning Course found here: <https://www.houstonisd.org/Page/182808>. It will set expectations for a smooth virtual start to school on September 8th. We will settle for nothing less than achieving a dynamic virtual experience until it's safe to be back in-person.

In the coming days, you can expect a published virtual daily schedule, as well as details surrounding our Wolf Camp for all freshmen on August 28th (virtual) and our Back to School Bash on September 3rd from 4-6pm (virtual). Laptop deployment and ID photos for our 9th graders is underway; details have been posted on our social media accounts as well as on our school website.

I am energized to be here and ready to immerse myself in the work! I look forward to analyzing our history of success with you in order to work together to take Westside High School to the next level and I am eager to meet and build rapport with parents, students, and faculty.

Sincerely,

Keri Wittpenn
Principal



WARM, WOLF WELCOME
TO OUR NEW PRINCIPAL

Ms. Keri Wittpenn

Important Information from HISD



The Houston Independent School District has developed a plan to deliver quality education during the upcoming 2020-2021 school year while ensuring the health and safety of our students, families and staff. **All students will begin the 2020-2021 school year virtually on September 8, 2020.** Click [here](#) for all the details regarding the HISD reopening plan.



HISD has created the **"Parent Introduction to Virtual Learning"** course to provide guidance for parents as they support their child's virtual learning experience.

The course is now available at:
<http://houstonisd.org/parentcourse>



Learn all about volunteering for 2020-21 school year through HISD VIPS program. Click [here](#) for details and to find the link to register online. The HISD VIPS program will begin accepting NEW and Returning Volunteer Applications for the upcoming 2020-2021 school year **August 17, 2020** due to delays related to COVID-19 pandemic.



The Houston Independent School District, in partnership with the Houston Food Bank, is hosting mass community food distributions on in August at NRG Stadium.

Distribution is open from 2 to 7 p.m. on Aug. 21, and Aug. 28 in the NRG yellow lot. During the final distribution — on Aug. 28 only — families also will receive school supplies donated by T-Mobile, Reliant, and Kroger.

Click [here](#) for additional details.

Go to:

houstonisd.org

For important announcements and information from our school district .

HISD

Enroll Online

New Student Registration

The district is handling new student registration for all HISD schools. Go to the HISD Enrollment Page:

<https://www.houstonisd.org/enroll>

Westside High School

It's a
Great Day
to be a
Wolf!

www.westsidewolves.org

Summer 2020 Wrap-Up

WESTSIDE HIGH SCHOOL
POP INTO ANY ONE OF OUR COLLEGE CORNER POP UPS
TO LEARN VALUABLE COLLEGE RESOURCES.

**COLLEGE CORNER
POP-UP SERIES!**

**AUGUST 13TH
AUGUST 20TH**

2:00 PM TO 3:00 PM

ALL WORKSHOPS WILL BE HELD IN MICROSOFT TEAMS

CODE: k4gyt21

Q&A & UPDATES VIRTUAL SESSION

**WESTSIDE
HIGH SCHOOL**

**SUMMER
ASSIGNMENTS**

<https://tinyurl.com/WolfSummer2020>

OR CLICK [HERE](#) !

Mark Your Calendar

Laptops & IDs for New Students

(Completed Enrollment Required)

Drive-Thru Service in the Auditorium Lot on Briar Forest
Masks Required for Students & Driver/Parent

Freshmen Only

Thursday, August 20
5-7:30 PM

All New Students Grades 9-12

Friday, August 21
9 AM-12 Noon AND 1-4 PM
and
Monday, August 24
4-6 PM

Send questions to Mr. Hoang:
Thoang3@houstonisd.org

Senior Virtual Orientation

Tuesday, August 25
7:00 PM

Live Chat on Microsoft Teams
<http://bit.ly/WestsideSenior21>

Junior Virtual Orientation

Wednesday, August 26
2:30 PM

Live Chat on Microsoft Teams
<http://bit.ly/WestsideJunior22>

All Tech Needs

- Laptop repairs/exchanges for returning students
- Late laptop deployment for new students
- All tech needs for all students

By Appointment

August 25 through Sept. 4
9 AM-12 Noon

Click [HERE](#) to sign up

Sophomore Virtual Orientation

Thursday, August 27
2:30 PM

Live Chat on Microsoft Teams
<http://bit.ly/WestsideSophomore23>

Calling All Freshmen! ***Virtual Wolf Camp***

Friday, August 28
9 AM-11 AM

Live Chat on Microsoft Teams
Meet Principal Wittpenn and the Deans!
Get the info you need for first day of school.

Go here when it's time to join the meeting:
bit.ly/WolfCamp2024

Need help getting
started on your
new student laptop?
Click [HERE](#) for instructions on
"How to POWER UP"!




Mark Your Calendar

SAVE THE DATE!

**Live Chat with
Principal Wittpenn**


SEPTEMBER 2nd at 6 PM
On Microsoft Teams

WESTSIDE HIGH SCHOOL
**VIRTUAL
LEARNING
PLAN**



Click [HERE](#) to join at meeting time!

WESTSIDE



Back-to-School

BASH

LIVE STREAMING EVENT

ALL ARE WELCOME!
STUDENTS ~ PARENTS ~ TEACHERS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3RD
6-8 PM

STAY TUNED FOR CODE TO JOIN!

Click [HERE](#) for HISD 2020-2021 Academic Calendar

The Daily Virtual Schedule is

UNDER REVISION

**Please delete the version
published earlier this week!**

We will release a final version ASAP

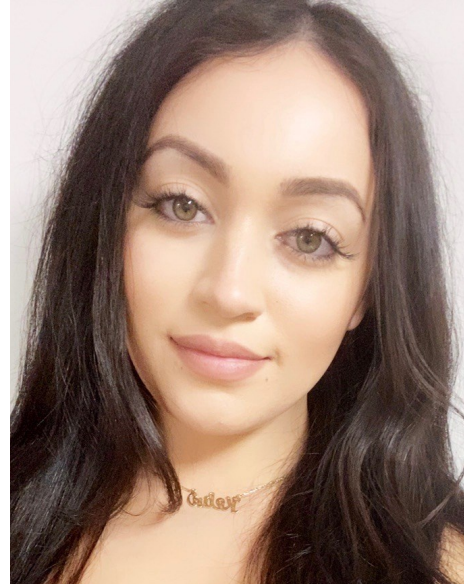
Introducing a Few “New” Faces



Vincent Mcleod
New to Westside
Dean of Students



Jay Phillips
New to Role
Registrar



Kelin Medrano
New to Westside
Welcome Desk

Farewell to Our Teacher Retirees

Although we did not get to send them off in a proper fashion last year, we would like to wish our retirees a fond farewell and congratulate them on their retirement from Westside High School:

Good luck and thanks for your dedication and years of service to Westside High School.

Once a Wolf,
always a Wolf!



SAT and PSAT Info

Saturday SAT Testing—Due to district Covid-19 building closures, all Saturday SAT Tests originally scheduled at Westside High School are cancelled for August and September. Click [here](#) for additional information from the College Board.

School Day SAT/PSAT—based on the current plan (subject to change), school day SAT and PSAT will be administered to Westside students during school on the following schedule :

Test	Grade(s)	Date
PSAT 8/9	8-9	Oct. 26-30, 2020
PSAT/NMSQT	10-11	Oct 29, 2020
SAT School Day	12 only	Oct 27, 2020

2020 Yearbook



If you still need to pick-up your pre-purchased 2020 Yearbook, please email Ms. Roberts at robert2@houstonisd.org

Class of 2020: A Few Loose Ends to Tie Up

Need to pick up your Senior Packet?

Please send an email to:

aturner1@houstonisd.org

after August 24th

Need your DIPLOMA or TRANSCRIPT?

Please send an email to:

gsalina1@houstonisd.org

after August 24th



WESTSIDE HIGH SCHOOL
Class of 2020
June 5th
Celebrations

Congratulations to our Grads!

CLICK TO ORDER PHOTOS:

<https://vando.imagequix.com/g1000797166>

PTO News and Announcements

A LETTER FROM THE PTO PRESIDENT

Dear Westside Family,

It is our deepest hope that you have had a pleasant and restful summer. As your PTO Board, we are honored to serve such an incredible community.

Although we might encounter some social emotional challenges with beginning the school year virtually, we are committed to supporting and enhancing the learning that Westside provides. Here are a few upcoming activities that we have organized as we begin school:

1. The PTO in partnership with the College Center will be hosting a virtual College Knowledge night for senior parents on August 26th at 6:30 pm. You can register for the event at <https://www.westsidehighpto.org/blog>
2. Join the PTO for the series "Together We Can Do...Anything Virtually". Each month we will feature a guest speaker or speaker panel from Westside faculty, staff, and students who will keep us connected to our Westside Community. Our first session will feature Principal Wittpenn on Monday, September 14 at 6:30 pm. You can register for the event at <https://www.westsidehighpto.org/blog>
3. PTO Membership: The Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) supports student learning at Westside by investing in staff, students, and community needs. Please join PTO today at <https://www.westsidehighpto.org/join>
4. Finally, be sure to take the [HISD Online Course for Parents](#). It took about 30 minutes for me to get through it all. I found it very useful for parents, especially those who are anxious. I appreciate the district's attempts to make this as streamlined as possible.

Westside has had great success in virtual learning based on our experience last spring. We are confident that we will continue to learn and grow together as we traverse across a new frontier and blaze a path for others to follow. Let's continue to show the rest of Houston why Westside is such a wonderful community.

Thank you and Go WOLVES!

Sarah Castro

"For the strength of the Pack is the Wolf,
and the strength of the Wolf is the Pack."

--Rudyard Kipling

Announcements

OUTDOOR HIKE FUNDRAISER

to raise money and support the...
**Westside High School FRC
Robotics Team!**

*Will be guided by an experienced marathon
runner, Mt. Kilimanjaro hiker, and MS150 biker
of 10 years*
Join us to learn more about our team!

Saturday, August 29rd, 2020
7:30-9:00 a.m.
Terry Hershey Park
15200 Memorial Dr, Houston, TX 77079
\$5 /person (cash only)

bring masks & adhere to strict social distancing guidelines



SIDEWALK CHALK FUN!

Description

We'll have lots of chalk, fun, and games in store for everyone so make sure to bring your mask (Follow Designated Social Distancing Procedures), \$5 IN CASH, and a good attitude! Join us to learn more about our team!

Hosted By **Westside
High School's Very
Own FRC Robotics
Club!**

At Ray Miller Park
1800 Eldridge
Parkway, Houston, TX
77077

Save The Date!
Join Us Saturday,
September 5th from
9-11 AM

Bring the Family for
Endless Fun!

WESTSIDE FRC CLUB

Contact Us:
westsidefrcrobotics
@gmail.com

Interested in Cross Country?

BOYS & GIRLS

**All are welcome,
everyone makes the team!**

**Contact Coach Guy
to sign up!**

DGUY@houstonisd.org

**In person practice/conditioning TBD
when district Covid guidelines permit**





Follow Us on Social Media



Facebook: Westside High School



Instagram: gowestsidewolves



Twitter: @westsidehigh

Quick Links

Submit stories and photos for eNews:

barbara.nassab@houstonisd.org

Register for Parent Student Connect/
GradeSpeed:

<https://www.houstonisd.org/Page/42143>

Subscribe to receive eNews by email:

[https://mailman.listserve.com/listmanager/
listinfo/whscommunity](https://mailman.listserve.com/listmanager/listinfo/whscommunity)

School Pay:

<https://www.schoolpay.com/>

School Web Address:

<https://www.houstonisd.org/westsidehs>

HISD Web Address:

<https://www.houstonisd.org>