

Open Letter to Westside Students and Parents

Dear Patriot,

Welcome to the 2018-2019 school year. **If you are returning to Westside**, the classrooms and hallways may look a little different from last year as we have students from other schools in the district for the AP Academy and ARC (due to rezoning). Due to this growth, we have also added additional teachers to each content area to make sure each child is given the very best educational environment possible. I feel very confident about each teacher's ability to give the students a quality education. So you might see lots of new faces.

If you are new to Westside, you will soon find that we are a family-school, meaning that since you are now a Patriot, you are now part of the family. We have high expectations of the students and the adults; however, we have an atmosphere of excellence and acceptance within our building. There are some who choose not to make the right choices and we must uphold the district Code of Conduct in those instances. But the majority of our students enjoy coming to school and enjoy their friends and teachers. I think you'll find that Westside really is a good place to be.

I am giving you my word that the safety of the building is my number one priority. Children cannot learn if they don't feel safe. The layout of the building allows the teachers and administrators to keep an eye on the exits and students in the hallways. We have a dedicated School Resource Officer assigned to our school. We take the safety of our building very seriously and visitors must show ID and come through the front office. No outside adults are allowed past the front office without an administrative escort.

If you look at the data for Westside you'll see that our achievement is among the highest in the district; however, we are not satisfied. We will increase the rigor of our instruction this year, use data to determine what students need extra help and increase the number of Advanced Placement courses we are offering. We also are entering into a partnership with the National Math and Science Institute (NMSI) to give extra support to AP Math, Science and ELA teachers and students. When your child graduates, we want them to be as ready as possible to have a successful career or college experience.

Again, I look forward to working with you. My direct office number is 706-868-4009. My email is schadel@boe.richmond.k12.ga.us. Please contact me with questions – let's work together for a successful year.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Schad, Principal