

# **Westside Student Handbook**

**2019-2020**



Dear Students, Parents/Guardians,

On behalf of the faculty, staff and administration we want to welcome you to Westside High School. We are looking forward to assisting you in fulfilling your educational goals. Westside High School has a history of outstanding academic and extracurricular accomplishments. This year we are celebrating 49 years of excellence. We expect you to meet the goals set, to carry on the tradition, and help Westside High continue to be a school of excellence. You can benefit from everything Westside has to offer by being involved in your classes and the programs being offered. We are here to make your years in high school successful and challenging. We welcome the opportunity to help you as you proceed through your high school career.

The purpose of this handbook is to share pertinent information with each of you, which will help you to be more successful. Please take the time to read this handbook carefully, and if you have any questions you may contact your teachers, guidance counselors or an administrator. You should take notice in the back of the handbook; there are required forms for parents to sign giving student's permission to use the internet and the RCSS photo/video release.

Have a great year!

Mr. Smith, Principal  
Ms. Norwood – 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade Assistant Principal  
Mr. McRae – 11<sup>th</sup> grade Assistant Principal  
Ms. Hatch – 12<sup>th</sup> grade Assistant Principal

## **Mission Statement**

The mission of Westside High School is to provide a safe environment and caring atmosphere in which all students can and will learn while becoming respectful, productive citizens.

## **Vision**

Prepared for college.

Prepared for work.

Prepared for Life.

## **Purpose and Direction**

Westside is committed to rigorous, high quality academic Honors and AP Curricula in addition to the Common Core Curriculum Standards as designated by the Georgia Department of Education and the Richmond County Board of Education, on-going professional development, extensive and effective use of data to improve teaching and learning, personalized college-planning and preparation, and work that supports this philosophy.

## **Belief Statements**

Academic Excellence can best be achieved

- By instituting a variety of instructional approaches to accommodate differences in learning styles and degrees of aptitude.
- By faculty members who are intrinsically motivated to promote cultural diversity and equality while helping students to attain intellectual success in a supportive learning environment.
- By administrators and staff who ensure that all policies are enforced consistently in a safe and well-disciplined school environment.
- By students who make education a priority and who abide by the school's rules and regulations.
- Through support from parents who recognize the crucial role they play in the lives of their children and consequently in their children's school.
- By community and business leaders who share in the responsibility of advancing the school's mission and belief.

# We ARE Westside

We believe.....

- Instruction from all teachers in the building should be structured, engaging and differentiated.
- Data should be used to hold students and teacher accountable for performance and progress.
- Instruction should be student-centered, contain various modes of technology and based on the RCK12 curriculum.
- All who enter this building should be treated fairly and professionally (faculty, staff, students, parents, community members).
- The Westside community (adults and students) are responsible for making sure that Westside remains a place of high expectations for all, and a place where all are accepted despite differences.
- Westside should provide a warm and inviting environment to students, parents and community, adults should be approachable, and communication should be open and transparent.
- Clear, concise procedures are essential and should be in place for the efficiency of the school.
- All adults in the building are responsible for consistent enforcement of non-negotiable practices and procedures.
- A collaborative atmosphere should exist between colleagues. Respect must be earned, but we will always come to a colleague's aid if needed.

***Created & Adopted by Consensus May 2018  
Westside High School Faculty & Staff***

# Westside High School Bell Schedules

## Home of the Patriots

<u>Daily</u>	<u>Club/Morning Assembly</u>
1 <sup>st</sup> Period 7:30-8:30	1 <sup>st</sup> Period 7:30-8:25
2 <sup>nd</sup> Period 8:35-9:35	2 <sup>nd</sup> Period 8:30-9:20
2 <sup>nd</sup> Chance Breakfast 9:35-9:45	2 <sup>nd</sup> Chance Breakfast 9:20-9:30
3 <sup>rd</sup> Period 9:45-10:45	Club/ Assembly/ HR 9:30-10:00
4 <sup>th</sup> Period 10:50-12:15	3 <sup>rd</sup> Period 10:05-11:00
1 <sup>st</sup> Lunch 10:50-11:15	4 <sup>th</sup> Period 11:05-12:30
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lunch 11:20-11:45	1 <sup>st</sup> Lunch 11:05-11:30
3 <sup>rd</sup> Lunch 11:50-12:15	2 <sup>nd</sup> Lunch 11:35-12:00
5 <sup>th</sup> Period 12:20-1:20	3 <sup>rd</sup> Lunch 12:05-12:30
6 <sup>th</sup> Period 1:25-2:30	5 <sup>th</sup> Period 12:35-1:30
Announcements	6 <sup>th</sup> Period 1:35-2:30
<u>Early Release</u>	<u>Afternoon Assembly/Pep Rally</u>
1 <sup>st</sup> Period 7:30 - 8:03	1 <sup>st</sup> Period 7:30-8:25
2 <sup>nd</sup> Period 8:08 – 8:36	2 <sup>nd</sup> Period 8:30-9:25
3 <sup>rd</sup> Period 8:41 – 9:09	2 <sup>nd</sup> Chance Breakfast 9:25-9:35
5 <sup>th</sup> Period 9:14 – 9:42	3 <sup>rd</sup> Period 9:35-10:25
6 <sup>th</sup> Period 9:47 – 10:15	4 <sup>th</sup> Period 10:30-11:55
4 <sup>th</sup> Period 10:20 – 12:00	1 <sup>st</sup> Lunch 10:30-10:55
1 <sup>st</sup> Lunch 10:20-10:50	2 <sup>nd</sup> Lunch 11:00-11:25
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lunch 10:55-11:25	3 <sup>rd</sup> Lunch 11:30-11:55
3 <sup>rd</sup> Lunch 11:30-12:00	5 <sup>th</sup> Period 12:00-12:55
	6 <sup>th</sup> Period 1:00 -1:55
	Assembly/ Pep Rally 2:00-2:30

**\*Students are given 5 minutes to go to lockers, restrooms, and get to class. A one-minute warning bell will sound. Students should be in class and seated at the sound of the class bell.**

## School Information

**Phone:**  
(706) 868-4030

**Fax:**  
(706) 868-4005

**Address:**  
1002 Patriots Way  
Augusta, GA 30907

### *People you need to know:*

#### *Administrators:*

*Mr. William Smith, Principal*  
*Ms. Lisa Norwood, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade*  
*Mr. Travis McRae, 11<sup>th</sup> grade*  
*Ms. Ameesah Hatch, 12<sup>th</sup> grade*

#### *Guidance:*

*Ms. Tanisha Johnson, All Students A-L Counselor*  
*Mrs. Chandria Tenpenny, All Students M-Z Counselor*  
*Mrs. Joy Farrer, AP Academy, Gifted, Student Support, Dual Enrollment Counselor*  
*Mrs. Amy Steele, Registrar*  
*Ms. Edwina Reese, Secretary*  
*Ms. NiEsha James, College Advisor*

#### *Nurse:*

*Mrs. Sharon Garn*

#### *Office Staff:*

*Mrs. Renee Cobb, Bookkeeper*  
*TBD, Front Office Secretary*  
*Mrs. Sibbie Morris, Discipline and Attendance Clerk*

*Lunchroom Manager: Mrs. Pamela Robinson*

# *Student Expectations*

## **Tardiness to Class**

Students are expected to be in class on time every day and for each period of the day. The school day begins promptly at 7:30 and ends at 2:30. Students are given five minutes between each class. A one-minute warning bell will ring in order to give students ample notice. Students are expected to be in class and ready for instruction when the tardy bell rings. **Warning: Students can receive up to six tardies in one day since we have a six period day. Students will be subject to the consequences outlined in the RCSS Code of Conduct.**

## **Attendance**

Students who are absent from school are required to bring a written excuse the next day that the student is back in school. Notes must be brought to the front office upon returning to school. Students who have an excused absence will have five days upon their return to school to make up work. It is the student's responsibility to set up dates and times for makeup work to be done. Teachers maintain assignments on their teacher pages located on the school website. Most teachers are also available through email daily. In the event of an unexcused absence, teachers **may or may not** allow students to make up work. This is strictly at the teachers' discretion.

Examples of excused absences are as follows:

1. Personal illness (However, we will only accept 5 parent written notes for illness)
2. Serious illness or death in one's immediate or extended family requiring the student's absences.
3. Court appearance.
4. School related function authorized by the superintendent or designee.
5. Medical or dental appointments.
6. Extreme circumstances that cannot be resolved outside of school hours.
7. To visit with the child's parent or legal guardian prior to deployment or during leave from an overseas assignment to a combat zone or combat support position, up to a maximum of 5 school days per year.

Any student who is absent due to suspension shall have the opportunity to make up work within 5 days after returning to school. As mentioned above, it is the student's responsibility to make arrangements with his/her teachers.

## **Early Dismissal**

A student leaving early due to appointments or other reasons must be signed out in the front office by a parent or guardian or other person authorized by parent or guardian. A student who drives themselves must bring an advanced note to the front office signed by a parent or guardian. The front office must be able to verify the validity of this note by phone before allowing a student to leave early. Any student who leaves campus without permission will be subject to consequences outlined in the RCSS Student Code of Conduct.

\*Westside High School does not recognize or condone any type of student or senior cut day. These absences are deemed unexcused.

## **Closed Campus**

Westside High School operates a closed campus. Students must stay on school grounds from the time they arrive until dismissal. Students who ride the bus to school and students who drive, once they arrive on campus, may not leave unless they have checked out through the main office. Students who drive to school must obtain a parking permit issued by public safety at a cost of \$15.00 per year. Parking permit fees go to Westside High School.

## Visitors on Campus

All visitors must have official business in order to be on campus. All visitors must check in with the front office upon entering the campus. Former students who do not have official business are not to be on campus. First offense will result in a criminal trespassing warning. The second offense will result in a charge of criminal trespassing. This policy is in place to ensure the safety of students, faculty and staff and to minimize the amount of instructional disruption.

## Student Lunch

Students have 30 minutes for lunch. Students may bring their own lunch or eat lunch in the cafeteria. A microwave is available for student use in the cafeteria. Students must eat lunch in the cafeteria. **Food is not allowed out of the cafeteria with the exception of 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance Breakfast.** Students who finish lunch early or who do not wish to eat may spend time with friends in the courtyard or get a pass from a teacher to go to the media center to study or work on assignments.

## Telephone Messages

Telephones in the office are for official business and emergencies. Messages received by the office will be given to the student between classes, unless it is an urgent message. Students must have a pass from a teacher or administrator in order to come to the office to use the phone.

## Student Gifts and Deliveries

Please **do not** send flowers and balloons to school for special occasions. Students are not allowed to have these delivered to class and are not allowed to carry balloons to class or on the school bus.

## Books and Materials

All textbooks will be checked out and are on loan from the media center. Students are expected to care for textbooks and are encouraged to cover them as soon as they are checked out. Students should put their name inside the textbook cover as soon as they are assigned. Students are responsible for lost and damaged textbooks. Failure to pay for lost or damaged books will result in the student not receiving his/her report card or transcripts. In the case of a graduating senior, the diploma and transcripts may be withheld.

## Lockers

Lockers may be rented for \$10.00 for the school year. During the first week of school, lockers may be purchased from the front office before school, after school and during lunch only. Lockers are **not** to be shared. Valuables should not be brought to school. Students are encouraged not to give other students their combinations and to be sure that lockers are properly secured after each use. **Westside High School and the Richmond County School System will not be liable for stolen or damaged items from lockers.** Lockers remain the property of Richmond County School System and are subject to search at any time.

## **Parking**

Students must have a valid parking permit hanging from the interior mirror. Parking permits are purchased through the front office before school, after school, and during lunch. The price is \$15.00. Students must have proof of insurance and a valid driver's license. The following rules apply to students who drive:

1. Must have a parking permit
2. Secure vehicle
3. Obey all traffic laws and speed limits while operating motor vehicle on campus
4. Student drivers who leave school illegally are subject to having parking permit revoked.
5. Cars parked on the property of Richmond County Schools are subject to search at any time.
6. All vehicles are under the jurisdiction of the Richmond County School System and the Richmond County Sheriff's Department.
7. Student drivers are to park in the parking lot located near the gym. Spaces in the front and back of the school are reserved for faculty/staff and visitors to the school.

## ***Conduct and Discipline Excerpts***

The Richmond County Board of Education Code of Student Conduct and Discipline for students of the Richmond County Public School system will be distributed under separate cover and discussed in a special class meeting during the first week of school.

The consequences for violation of classroom and school rules may range from a warning, to out of school suspension depending on the nature of the offense and whether such consequences have or have not been assigned by board of education policy. In the absence of assigned consequences for an offense, the school administration reserves the right to decide what consequences are appropriate for the violation of school rules.

## **In-School Suspension Program (ISS)**

Pursuant to state and board policies, the ISS Program is a means of working with students who present disciplinary problems by removing them from their regular classroom setting without removing them from the school. This program is not designed to replace any of the workable means of school discipline by the teacher, nor is it to be considered a final solution to the most critical discipline problems, but is intended to enhance the overall school discipline and keep offending students in school. Placement/assignment to ISS is determined by an administrator.

- ISS provides alternatives for dealing with student misconduct other than removal from the academic setting (out of school suspension).
- Reduces the number of suspensions by providing assistance to students in positive modification of behavior that usually leads to suspension.
- Reduces the number of school behavior problems that ultimately result in juvenile or criminal offenses. - -
- Allows a student to continue his/her academic progress while preventing him/her from being in contact with peers until the behavior improves.
- Provides a means of getting to the cause of the problem rather than having to deal with the results of the problem.
- Provides opportunities for the ISS student to examine his/her system of values in relationship to the values of the school and society-at-large and to reconcile existing conflicts.

ISS is housed in room B205 of the CTAE building.

## **ISS Teacher Duties and Responsibilities**

- Coordinate the activities of the students in the program with that of the students in the regular classroom.
- Explain the assignments from the regular classroom teachers to the students.
- Offer tutorial assistance to students as time permits.
- Maintain records of students assigned to ISS.
- When there are no students in ISS, the teacher duties will include hall duty, restroom duty, bus duty, lunchroom duty, emergency substitution duty, and grounds duty.
- Classroom teachers are to provide the ISS teacher and students with assignments for the number of days that a student is assigned to In-School Suspension (ISS). The classroom teacher is to assign the ISS student work that is sufficient in quantity, scope and developmentally appropriate (on the student's level of comprehension) for the duration of the student's stay in ISS. The regular classroom teacher is to grade completed assignments and give the ISS student the same credit for the assignments as awarded other students for the same assignments.
- The ISS teacher will administer any test that a student is required to take while assigned to ISS and will return the results and all other completed work to the regular classroom teacher.
- The regular classroom teacher may be instructed by the Principal or Assistant Principal to go to the In-House classroom during his/her planning period to assist in coordinating students' assignments with the ISS teacher if necessary.

### **The following rules apply to students who are assigned to ISS:**

1. Students assigned to ISS will report immediately to the ISS classroom.
2. The student is to bring all necessary papers, books, pencils, and pens from home/locker to complete the assigned work.
3. There will be absolutely no questioning the teacher about assignments.
4. Students placed in ISS are to complete the assignments during the same period as any other students. Credit for a day of ISS is determined by the ISS teacher.
5. Students are to follow their daily schedule of subjects while assigned to ISS.
6. If a student becomes ill while in the classroom, the nurse will be called to the ISS classroom to render assistance.
7. When a student is absent from class, he/she must make up the missed day immediately upon returning to school.
8. Students assigned to ISS are not allowed to participate in any extracurricular activities.
9. ISS students will be allowed two supervised visits to the restroom per day.
10. ISS students will have their meals with the ISS teacher at a time separate from the rest of the student body. There will be no talking during lunch.
11. Parents/Guardians will be notified by phone or in a letter picked up by the students of the placement of a student in ISS.
12. Failure to follow the rules and regulations of the In-House Suspension Program will result in students being suspended from school.
13. In order to receive credit for each day assigned to ISS, students must complete a full day. Any student reporting to school late or leaving early due to appointments will not be credited for that particular day.

## **Dress Code**

A student shall not dress, groom, wear or use emblems, insignias, badges, or symbols where the effect thereof is to distract unreasonably the attention of other students or otherwise to cause disruption or interference with the operation of the school. The principal or other duly authorized school official shall determine whether any particular mode of dress, apparel, grooming, or use of emblems, insignias, badges, or other symbols result in such interference or disruption, as to violate this rule and shall give notice of such interference or disruption, and its cause, to all students by announcement or posting at the school. Please see the RCSS Code of Student Conduct and Discipline. **Hats are not to be worn in the building, pants worn at waist (no sagging), and shirts are to be long enough to cover stomach area (females).**

## **BYOT (Bring Your Own Technology)**

Cell Phones are allowed for instructional use only. Students should follow the guidelines stated in the Bring Your Own Technology Manual. Consequences for cell phone violations will be in accordance with the RCSS Code of Conduct. **Phone use is at the teacher's discretion only.**

***THE SCHOOL IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR LOST OR STOLEN ITEMS AND STUDENTS ARE DISCOURAGED FROM BRINGING ANY VALUABLES TO SCHOOL, TO INCLUDE CELL PHONES.***

## **Gambling Devices**

Students are not allowed to play cards or other games which are used for gambling and games of chance. Playing cards will be collected and not returned to students. Only dice or cards used in classes with teacher direction and for instructional purposes may be allowed.

## **Public Displays of Affection**

Students are discouraged from engaging in public displays of affection such as hand holding, hugging, kissing, and inappropriately touching one another. Students are expected to show respect for others, demonstrate self-respect, and refrain from private behaviors in the school setting.

## **Fighting and Bullying**

Refer to the RCSS Code of Conduct for the specific consequences which may be out of school suspension and possible referral to the Innovative Academy. Students 17 years old and older may be subject to arrest and referred to local law enforcement for disorderly conduct and other related charges.

## *Academic Expectations*

### **Promotion Requirements (Credits earned)**

9th to 10th grade	5 units
10th to 11th	11 units
11th to 12th	18 units
Graduation	23 units

### **Class Rank/Honor Graduates**

An official class rank should be compiled. It will be computed at the end of the first semester. Averages are to be carried out to three decimal places. The final averages are not rounded. When two or more students have the same average, they shall be given the same rank in class, but each student shall be counted as though he/she were occupying a separate station in the ranking. For example: Students A, B, C have a GPA of 3.729. The immediately preceding average is 3.750 which ranks number 8 in the class. Students A, B, C are assigned rank in number 9. Student D, with a GPA of 3.695 is assigned rank number 12. After the final computation of averages, Honor Graduates shall be on the student with a grade point average of 3.500 or better after the third nine weeks.

### **Valedictorian/Salutatorian**

The Valedictorian is the student with the highest average in the senior class and Salutatorian is the student with the second highest rank in the senior class. These students should be selected at the end of the third nine weeks of their senior year based on the students' quality point GPA. Valedictorians and Salutatorians must attend their representative high school their Junior and Senior years prior to receiving this honor. If students vying for Valedictorian or Salutatorian have identical grade point averages, the 100-point scale GPA shall be considered.

### **Gifted Programs**

Richmond County schools provide programs for all qualifying system students in grades K-12 who exhibit superior performance, advanced learning needs and demonstrate a higher level of motivation and creativity. The identification process uses multiple criteria as mandated by the Georgia Board of Education. Students may qualify on mental abilities and achievement or on three of four components, which include mental abilities, academic achievement, creativity and motivation or mental abilities alone for grade K-12. Mrs. Farrer, Guidance Counselor, is the Point of Contact for the Westside Gifted Program.

### **Standards Based Classroom Instruction**

All students will be engaged in rigorous academic coursework. Teachers will expect students to be actively engaged in classroom instruction and complete class and homework assignments. Students will be assigned projects, performance tasks, research papers, and extensive reading. Students are expected to come to class prepared with paper, pencil/pens, textbooks and class materials daily. Students with internet are expected to stay abreast of class assignments through the use of the teacher pages on SchoolWires (Westside High School website) and keep track of grades with their parent or guardian through Infinite Campus. Teachers maintain e-mail and many blog to reinforce academic success in the classroom. Students and parents are encouraged to stay in close contact with teachers in order to maintain high achievement and avoid falling behind if any academic difficulty may arise.

## Student Conduct

Students are expected to be respectful and courteous to teachers and staff members at all times. Students are expected to demonstrate self-control and to display self-respect. Westside High School will promote positive student behaviors through Patriot Pride. Students may be dismissed from extra-curricular activities and student organizations for violations of student code of conduct.

## Advanced Placement (AP)

Westside was named an AP Challenge School by CollegeBoard.com. Improving educational outcomes and increasing the percentage of college-bound seniors are important goals for our school. Through AP's college-level courses and exams, you can earn college credit and advanced placement, stand out in the admissions process, and learn from some of the most skilled, dedicated, and inspiring teachers in the world.

Language Arts: AP Language and Composition, AP Literature and Composition

Math: AP Calculus, AP Statistics, AP Computer Science Principles

Science: AP Physics 1, AP Physics C – Mechanics, AP Environmental Science

Social Studies: AP Government, AP U.S. History, AP Psychology, AP Human Geography

Art: AP Drawing, AP 2D Design, AP 3D Design, AP Art History

## Testing

**Georgia Milestones Assessment:** All students will be required to take an End of Course assessment during the four years of high school in order to meet Graduation Requirements. Georgia Milestones assessments are given in Algebra 1, Geometry, 9<sup>th</sup> grade English Literature, American Literature, Biology, US History, and Economics. Final Exams will be given at the end of the school year, or end of the semester (depending on the length of the course) in all other classes. Students in grades 9 – 12 earning an ‘A’ average and have not missed more than 10 classes (or 5 for semester classes) for non-instructional reasons will be allowed to exempt the final exam.

**AP Testing:** Students who take the College Board AP exam are able to exempt the final exam in that course. The purpose of AP coursework is for college preparation; therefore, all students enrolled in an AP class are expected to take the AP Exam. Earning a score of 3, 4, or 5 on the exam will allow students to earn early college credit from most accredited colleges and universities. Colleges and universities determine the score which earns college credit. Students are encouraged to take these tests very seriously.

## *Westside Clubs and Organizations*

**Academic Decathlon Team**-Students are involved in local and state competition. Teams are made up of 3-A students, 3-B students and 3-C students. These students represent their school in various academic bowl tournaments.

Sponsor: Mrs. Erin Linehan

**Anime**-Meets to discuss, show, and promote anime in the local community and focuses on broadening Japanese cultural understanding.

Sponsor: Lizbeth Wheeler

**Athletic Trainer**- By assisting the Augusta University athletic trainer, student athletic trainers will assist to ensure that players are ready to play. Student trainers will also assist in giving proper treatment in the event of illness or injury. This group of students will be determined by a selection process.

Sponsor: TBD

**Band**-The band program will enrich students' knowledge of music through performance of literature that will enable each member to learn to make good musical judgments, learn about the history of music and express themselves through the performance of the music. Band members compete at District Band and All-State competitions. They also perform the half time shows during football season and concerts at various times throughout the school year. Students also attend band camp.

Band Director: Mrs. Brandi Colon

**Blue and Gold**-Instill order and discipline within the corps of JROTC cadets.

Sponsor: Petty Officer Jones

**Chick Fil-A Leadership Academy**-Leadership program focused on IMPACT THROUGH ACTION.

Sponsor: TBD

**Chorus**-Promotes school spirit by singing at concerts in the school, in other school, and in the community.

Sponsor: Mrs. Brandi Colon

**College Advisory Board (C.A.B.)**-Promotes the college-going culture of Westside.

Sponsor: NiEsha James

**Color Guard**-JROTC unit that present colors at different events at school and at other venues.

Sponsor: Petty Officer Jones

**DECA**-Prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in marketing, finance, hospitality and management.

Sponsor: Keidrian Cofer

**Drama Club**- The drama club is dedicated in bringing the joy and power of drama to students by providing high quality dramatic programing at the beginner and intermediate level. It pledges to offer participants the chance to experience the excitement and rewards in theatre arts while developing poise, social skills, confidence, and the ability to work with others.

Sponsor: Mrs. Rebecca Akins

**Drill Team**-Represents the school in community parades, military parades and competes interscholastically with other drill teams throughout the Southeast. Limited to JROTC members.

Sponsor: Petty Officer Jones

**Executive Council**-Promotes school spirit and citizenship. Students are nominated and voted on by their peers.  
Sponsor: Mrs. Erin Linehan

**FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes)**-Promotes character and citizenship for all members. Membership is open to all athletes.  
Sponsor: Mr. Zachary Martin

**FCCLA (Family Career Community Leaders of America)**-Promote family and consumer growth. This organization promotes a growing appreciation of the jobs and satisfactions of home-making. Any student who has had Family and Consumer Science in either middle or senior high school is eligible.  
Sponsors: Ms. Marsha Gibson and Mrs. Merritt Hawkinberry

**Freshmen Council**-Promotes activities for the Freshmen Class which support their entire student body and focuses on volunteering around the community and school.  
Sponsor: Mrs. Kira Rensch

**Generation Next**-Supports 1<sup>st</sup> generation college students.  
Sponsor: NiEsha James

**Georgia Secretary of State-Student Ambassador Program**-Leadership training program for high school students in 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades that encourage civic participation and voter registration.  
Sponsor: Mrs. Chandria Tenpenny

**Junior Council**-Promotes many worthwhile activities for the student body, coordinates homecoming activities and prom and members are made up of Junior Classmen.  
Sponsor: Mr. Jody Grant

**Math Team**-Students compete against other high school on the local, state and district levels.  
Sponsor: Mr. Zachary Martin

**National Art Honor Society**- Promotes the power of the visual arts to enrich human experience and society is recognized and celebrated throughout the world.  
Sponsor: Mrs Margaret Horton

**National Beta Club** (often called merely "Beta")-An organization for 5th through 12th grade students in the United States. Its purpose is "to promote the ideals of academic achievement, character, leadership and service among elementary and secondary school students." Students on Honor Roll for one semester are invited to be members.  
Sponsor: Ms. Kim White

**National Honor Society**-The mission of the National Honor Society is to create enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote leadership and to develop character in students.  
Sponsor: Mrs. Memorie Stelter

**Nutrition (N.A.C.) Club**-Promotes a healthy lifestyle at school by engaging members in activities that encourage students, faculty and staff at Westside High School to make healthier food choices, exercise more and stress less.  
Sponsor: Ms. Pam Robinson

**Relay for Life**-Supports fighting cancer through fundraising and participating in the Relay for Life event.  
Sponsor: TBD

**Rifle Team**-Represents Westside in all rifle marksmanship in local, state and national competitions.  
Sponsor: Senior Chief Shawn Vick

**Senior Council**-Promotes activities for the Senior Class such as Senior Week and Senior Volunteer hours.  
Sponsor: TBD

**Sophomore Council**-Promotes activities for the Sophomore Class which support the entire student body and focuses on Volunteerism around the community and school.  
Sponsor: Ms. Gail Smith

**STEM Club**-Promote critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Builds a competitive spirit through applying Science in technology, engineering and lab events.  
Sponsor: Ms. Rebecca Potter

**TOME**-Promotes multiple literacies through: service, collaboration, competition-based club activities; and clean, entertaining, encouraging literature.  
Sponsor: Mrs. Brittany Key

**World Language Club**-Promotes the development of foreign language as well as knowledge and appreciation of other cultures and customs.  
Sponsor: Ms. Margaret Wright

**Yearbook**-The mission of the yearbook staff is to provide a resource to students, faculty and alumni which captures the most outstanding and memorable moments of the year and records the history of the school. Students wishing to be on the yearbook staff must apply.  
Sponsor: Mrs. Margaret Horton

## *Athletics*

### **Eligibility**

All first time ninth graders are eligible to participate during the first semester. At the end of each semester, all students wishing to participate must be passing at least 5 of the 6 courses. Also, all students must be on track for graduation:

entering 10th grade students must have at least 5 units of credit.

entering 11th grade students must have at least 11 units of credit.

entering 12th grade students must have at least 17 units of credit.

Eligibility can be gained or lost at the end of the previous semester.

### **Age**

To be eligible to participate in interscholastic activities, a student must not have reached his/her 19th birthday prior to May 1st preceding his/her year of participation.

### **Limits of Participation**

Students must have an annual physical examination on file at the school prior to participating in any athletic tryouts, practices, or games that indicates the students are physically approved for participation. Physical examinations will be good for 12 months. The physical exam must be done by a licensed medical physician or PA. The exam must be signed by the doctor.

A student has 8 consecutive semesters or 4 consecutive years of eligibility from the date of entry into the ninth grade to be eligible for interscholastic competition.

**Parental involvement is needed to ensure a quality program for our student athletes. Parents please join the Westside Athletic Booster Club. Your help will be needed with fees, serving on committees, and working concessions during the year.**

## *Parental Involvement*

### **Westside PTO:**

Meets for the purpose of planning and conducting the business of PTO. Meetings will be announced monthly. All parents are encouraged to join PTO and get involved. All members are invited to attend the monthly business meetings.

### **Westside Athletic Booster Club:**

Meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month in the Administrative Conference Area at 6:00PM for the purpose of planning and conducting the business of Athletics Boosters. Parents of athletes are especially invited to join and get involved in this organization. The Athletic Booster Club helps to sponsor all athletic programs at Westside in order to supplement these teams financially through volunteer efforts throughout the year.

## Acceptable Use Policy

Access to material that may be considered objectionable in a school setting comes with Internet connectivity. The value of access to educational information and interaction on the Internet far outweighs the possible negative impact of inappropriate use of this resource. Internet access from Westside High School shall be efficient, ethical and legal and in conformance with this policy at all times. Proper conduct by all persons who access the Internet and adherence to the guidelines stated below are essential.

1. Internet access is authorized in support of the instruction program and the curriculum as outlined in the Georgia Performance Standards.
2. Transmission of any material in violation of any U.S. or state regulation is prohibited including copyrighted material, threatening or obscene material or material protected by trade secret.
3. Commercial activities use is prohibited.
4. Product advertising or political lobbying is prohibited.
5. Netiquette – Generally accepted rules of network etiquette shall include but not be limited to the following: be polite, use appropriate language, no swearing or vulgarities; E-mail is not necessary private, therefore be careful about what you say about others; no disruptive use of network, such as —Chain lettersl or other non-educational traffic; remember statements offered by the user are a personal opinion and do not necessarily reflect the views of Westside High School or the Richmond County Board of Education.
6. Inappropriate use will result in cancellation of privileges and may result in disciplinary action. Internet usage is a privilege, not a right.
7. Personal Security – Students are not to reveal their personal information (home address, telephone number, social security number etc.) to other individuals on the Internet. Use only school address for E-mail.
8. Vandalism – Vandalism is defined as any attempt to harm or destroy hardware, software, or data belonging to another user agency or network connected to the Internet. This includes but not limited to the uploading or creation of computer viruses. Vandalism will result in immediate cancellation or privileges and disciplinary action.
9. Software – Software of any kind may not be brought from any location outside Westside High School for use on any school computer.

