



WESTSIDE
ATLANTA CHARTER SCHOOL



WESTSIDE
ATLANTA CHARTER SCHOOL

2025-2026 FAMILY HANDBOOK



WESTSIDE
ATLANTA CHARTER SCHOOL

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WESTSIDE
ATLANTA CHARTER SCHOOL

WELCOME TO WESTSIDE

MISSION AND CORE VALUES

MISSION

Westside fosters a diverse, tight-knit community of lifelong learners, giving each child an excellent academic experience that builds curiosity, critical thinking, and character.

-

CORE VALUES

- **HOLISTIC GROWTH** - We foster each child's academic, social-emotional, physical, and character growth.
- **COMMUNITY BELONGING** - We celebrate diversity within our community, encourage an environment of inclusivity and belonging, and help students understand the meaningful role they play in their communities and the world at large.
- **CURIOUS MINDS** - We cultivate a desire to understand, imagine and create through unique and student-centered learning environments.
- **ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE** - We challenge students to push the boundaries of their potential as they build critical thinking skills and content mastery.

WESTSIDE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

As a public charter school authorized by Atlanta Public Schools, the Westside Board of Directors plays an integral part in the oversight of WACS. They hold the leadership team accountable, hold fiduciary responsibility, and ensure the school is staying true to the mission and vision. Combining a wealth of expertise in a wide array of professional areas, the Westside Board is known for its strength and commitment to the school.

2025-2026 BOARD MEMBERS:

Jessica Weissinger, Board Chair

Katrina Mitchell, Vice Board Chair

Jonathan Baker

Ashley Pruitt

Chris Tuten

Hannah Heck

Julius Farrington

Susan Beckett-Mitchell

Erika Williams

Tiffany Chen

Alyson Murphy-West

WESTSIDE BOARD MEETING

2025-2026 BOARD MEETINGS:

Board meetings are held the second Thursday of every month and are open to the public. Meetings will be on campus, with a virtual option for the public.

[August 14th at 7:00 a.m.](#)

[September 11th at 7:00 a.m.](#)

[October 9th at 7:00 p.m.](#)

[November 13th at 7:00 a.m.](#)

[December 11th at 7:00 a.m.](#)

[January 15th at 7:00 a.m.](#)

[February 12th at 7:00 a.m.](#)

[March 12th at 7:00 p.m.](#)

[April 16th at 7:00 a.m.](#)

[May 15th at 7:00 a.m.](#)

WESTSIDE BOARD COMMITTEES

2025-2026 BOARD COMMITTEES:

The Development Committee comprises board members, school staff, and community volunteers. It oversees fundraising and marketing efforts for Westside Atlanta Charter School. The Development Committee manages the Business Partner Program by connecting local business owners with Westside. The Development Committee meets on the first Thursday of each month at 8:30 a.m.

The Governance Committee advises on the school's governance and strategic direction. The school board formally establishes the Governance Committee to provide input on policies, budgetary decisions, hiring of key personnel, and other important matters affecting the school community. The Governance Committee meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 8:30 a.m.

The Education Committee is responsible for developing and reviewing educational policies and guidelines and advising on curriculum design, implementation, and evaluation. The Education Committee collaborates on strategies to improve academic outcomes and address challenges. The Education Committee meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 a.m.

The Finance Committee is charged with monitoring the school's financial health and ensuring compliance with our adopted financial governance policies, beginning with reviewing and approving the fiscal year budget and any amendments to the budget. The Finance Committee meets monthly with the Chief Financial Officer and Executive Director to review monthly and year-to-date results for the school compared to the approved budget, approve expenditures over specified dollar amounts, and meet with external parties as needed (auditors, investment analysts, etc.). The Finance Committee meets on the first Friday of each month at 7:00 a.m.

THE WESTSIDE TEAM

Dr. Pamela Tanner, Executive Director

pamela@wacs.us

Principals

Lisa Goodson, Middle Grades Principal:

lisa@wacs.us

Tenecia Powe, Elementary Grades Principal:

tenecia@wacs.us

Curriculum Coaches

Joanne Morency, Elementary K-1:

joanne@wacs.us

Amber Rasbatt, Elementary 2-4:

amber@wacs.us

Tia Herrington, Middle Grades:

tia@wacs.us

Counseling and Equity Department

Eliza Ashby, Elementary Counselor:

eliza@wacs.us

Andra Burns, Middle Grades Counselor:

andra@wacs.us

Catherine Perry, Family Engagement Coordinator:

catherine@wacs.us

Operations and Front Office

William Arterberry, CFO:

william@wacs.us

Omari Anyabwile, IT:

omari@wacs.us

Ruby Butler, Student Services Manager:

ruby@wacs.us

Mallie Egan, Director of Development & Communications:

mallie@wacs.us

Encore After School Director

Catherine Perry:

catherine@wacs.us

Cafeteria Manager

Gwen Johnson:

gwen@wacs.us

THE WESTSIDE TEAM

ELEMENTARY

KINDERGARTEN

Shilo Hinton (Lead Teacher): shilo@wacs.us
 Omar Hancock-Howard (Para): omar@wacs.us
 Brianna Guzman (Lead Teacher): bguzman@wacs.us
 Katherine Dillon (Para): katherine@wacs.us

FIRST GRADE

Jasmine Ransom: jasmine@wacs.us
 Sean Polgar: sean@wacs.us
 Charsie Ellis (Para): charsie@wacs.us

SECOND GRADE

Tiaira Crumpton: tiaira@wacs.us
 Summer Stinson: Summer@wacs.us

THIRD GRADE

Elenie Menna: elenie@wacs.us
 Eriana Ellis: eriana@wacs.us

FOURTH GRADE

Themba Makapela: themba@wacs.us
 Briana Tucker : briana@wacs.us

MIDDLE GRADES

HUMANITIES

Roselyn Patterson (5th): roselyn@wacs.us
 Sonia Rosales (6th): sonia@wacs.us
 Sophia Toussaint-Scott(7th): sophia@wacs.us
 Quanni Islam (8th): quanni@wacs.us

MATH

Adlen Lopez (5th/6th): adlen@wacs.us
 Yvette Roberts (7th): yvette@wacs.us
 Kevin Searcy (8th and Accelerated): searcy@wacs.us

SCIENCE

Erin Jones (5th/6th): erin@wacs.us
 Latifa Shilo (7th/8th): shilo@wacs.us

GIFTED SERVICES & PBL COORDINATOR

Ariel Chiké: ariel@wacs.us
 Katie Burns: katie@wacs.us
 Yolanda McKee (PBL): yolanda@wacs.us

ENRICHMENT

Monica Araico (Spanish): monica@wacs.us
 Ayanna Burroughs (Farm to School): ayanna@wacs.us
 Lynn Sullivan (Lab): lynn@wacs.us
 Michael Donnelly (Media Specialist): michael@wacs.us
 Zipporah Taylor (Music/Drama): zipporah@wacs.us
 Francine Sinkler (Visual Arts): francinel@wacs.us
 Adriel Hylton (PE): Adriel@wacs.us
 Tarod Sanders (P.E. Para): tarod@wacs.us

INTERVENTION

ELEMENTARY

Rodna Diejustie: rodna@wacs.us
 Vion Wilson: vion@wacs.us

MIDDLE GRADES

Yvette Roberts: yvette@wacs.us
 Sara Quinn: sara@wacs.us

LEARNING SUPPORT

Carlye Artis: carlye@wacs.us
 Kayla Sneeze: kayla@wacs.us
 Kyle Woodruff: kyle@wacs.us
 Kim Smith: kim@wacs.us
 Tammie McCorvey: tammie@wacs.us

Writing Coach

Jon Epstein (K-8): jon@wacs.us

SCHOOL NURSE

Vereina Greene: vereina@wacs.us

CAFETERIA STAFF

Gwen Johnson: gwen@wacs.us
 Conita High: conita@wacs.us
 Tenia Brown: tenia@wacs.us

WESTSIDE CALENDAR

Westside Atlanta Charter School Balanced Calendar

2025-2026

School Year Calendar



July 25						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

August 25						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

September 25						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	H	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

October 25						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

November 25						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

December 25						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

January 26						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	H	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

February 26						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

March 26						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

April 26						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

May 26						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	H	26	27	28	29	30
31						

June 26						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

July 26						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

August 26						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

- Early Release 11:30AM
- School Closed
- First Day of Class
- Last Day of Class
- Professional Learning
- H Holiday - No Classes

- End of Quarter
- Conference Day
- Summer Learning (Potential)

August Instructional Days 20
September Instructional Days 21
October Instructional Days 19
November Instructional Days 15
December Instructional Days 15
January Instructional Days 19
February Instructional Days 16
March Instructional Days 22
April Instructional Days 17
May Instructional Days 16
Instructional Days 180
Professional Learning 11 Days

Asynchronous Learning Days:
November 4, October 13, February 16

Early Release Days:
September 22, November 21,
December 19, March 16, May 22

School Hours

SCHOOL HOURS:
8:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.
Carpool begins at 7:30 a.m.
Instruction begins promptly at 8:00 a.m.

The time between 7:30 AM and 8:00 AM is very important. This valuable transition into the school day allows your child:

- to enjoy breakfast
- socialize with classmates, teachers, and even open gym (middle grades)
- unpack and settle in
- began morning instructional tasks

Our instructional day begins promptly at 8:00 AM. Arriving after 8:00 AM has a huge impact on students:

- possibly missing breakfast
- feeling rushed and unsettled
- missing valuable morning meeting time

Attendance Policy

Daily attendance is critical to your child's success. Please be mindful of absences, tardies, and early dismissals. The Westside Attendance Policy can be found [here](#).

Late Arrivals (Tardies) - Students arriving after 8:00 a.m. should ring the bell and sign in with Ms. Butler in the front office.

Early Dismissals - Families picking up a student for an early dismissal should sign their child out in the front office.

Early dismissals end at 2:30 p.m.

Absences - All absences should be emailed to Ruby Butler: ruby@wacs.us. Ten (10) or more consecutive days absent will result in disciplinary action. Special circumstances should be communicated to the Executive Director: Dr. Pamela Tanner (pamela@wacs.us).

TECHNOLOGY

Equipment

Westside is a one to one technology school which means that each student will be issued a device.

K - 2nd Grade Technology

Each student will receive a school-issued iPad.

3rd - 8th Grade Technology

Each student will receive a school-issued Chromebook.

Technology Contracts

Students and families are required to sign a technology contract before receiving a device. Click [here](#) to read our technology contract.

Students will not receive a device until they turn in their signed contract.

TECHNOLOGY

Online Safety

Westside uses “Go Guardian” to monitor student activity on their school-issued devices. This software will immediately alert teachers as well as a leadership team member if a student has searched questionable content.

Teachers will monitor device usage and circulate through the room as students are using their devices for research, projects, and other school tasks.

Technology Policy

Click [here](#) to read our new technology policy.

Technology Insurance

Families may purchase technology insurance for \$50 to cover any damages incurred while using the device. This is optional, but encouraged. Click [here](#) to purchase insurance. Students will not receive a loaner device until satisfactory arrangements have been made.

UNIFORMS & SPIRIT GEAR

- STUDENT UNIFORMS
 - Students wear uniforms Monday - Thursday
 - Friday is free dress day
 - If we do not have school on a Friday (holiday) then Thursday will be free dress day
 - Gently used uniforms are available for all students
- SPIRIT GEAR
 - Westside hoodies and t-shirts can be purchased at athletic events throughout the year.
 - Spirit Gear includes all items with the athletic logo (claw) and may only be worn to school on Fridays.
- Click [here](#) to view for Uniform Policy.

UNIFORMS & SPIRIT GEAR

ELEMENTARY GRADES (KINDERGARTEN - 4TH)	MIDDLE GRADES (5TH - 8TH)
<p><u>Tops (Navy, White, or Light Blue):</u> Polo shirts (long or short-sleeved) Westside logo optional Polo Dresses</p>	<p><u>Tops (Navy, White, or Light Blue):</u> Polo shirts (long or short-sleeved) OXFORD shirts or blouses (long or short-sleeved) Westside logo optional</p>
<p><u>Bottoms (Khaki or Navy Blue):</u> Pants Shorts Skirt/Jumper</p>	<p><u>Bottoms (Khaki or Navy Blue):</u> Pants Shorts Skirt</p>
<p><u>Shoes:</u> Closed-toe athletic shoes All footwear must have a heel strap</p>	<p><u>Shoes:</u> Closed-toe athletic shoes All footwear must have a heel strap</p>
<p><u>Classroom Outerwear:</u> Westside sweatshirt (hoodie or crewneck) Plain* navy blue fleece, sweater, or vest *Westside logo optional, no other logos permitted</p>	<p><u>Classroom Outerwear:</u> Westside sweatshirt (hoodie or crewneck) Plain* navy blue fleece, sweater, or vest *Westside logo optional, no other logos permitted</p>
<p><u>Playground/P.E. Outerwear:</u> Students may wear any coat/outerwear of their choice outside the building or in the gym</p>	<p><u>Playground/P.E. Outerwear:</u> Students may wear any coat/outerwear of their choice outside the building or in the gym</p>

WESTSIDE MEALS & NUTRITION

Westside's Nutrition Team prepares breakfast and lunch on site daily for students and staff. Menus are posted monthly in the Westside newsletter and website. Students may also bring their own lunch from home.

Student Meals

All students will receive an account number from the cafe to enter when they receive breakfast or lunch.

Free & Reduced Lunch (FRL) & Meal Payments

All families must complete a [Meal Application](#) regardless of their free and reduced lunch status.

Cash is not accepted in the cafeteria. To pay for breakfast and lunch, families should add money to their child's account [here](#). We strongly encourage families to set up automatic payments for recurring lunch fees. Instructions for setting up the account can be found [here](#).

Snack & Classroom Food Policy

Students may bring a healthy snack to school. The principals will have extra snacks if needed.

We love to celebrate at Westside! But when we celebrate, we do have very specific guidelines for the health, safety, and well-being of our students and school environment. **Food is not permitted for classroom celebrations. This includes cakes, cupcakes, cookies, or any other food item. When celebrating a holiday consider a special storytime, craft, or game.**

Meal Delivery Services

Students (and parents on behalf of their child) may NOT order meal delivery service (Uber Eats, Grub Hub, etc.) to be delivered during the school day.

STANDARDS-BASED GRADING SYSTEM

Westside utilizes a standards-based grading system. Instead of a single overall grade in each subject (e.g. 86% in Math), standards-based grading breaks down the subject into smaller learning targets, which directly correlate to our state standards.

Students' scores on classroom assignments, tests, and report cards are based on a four-point scale. The scale is designed to give parents, students, and teachers a more accurate snapshot of students' progress towards mastery of each standard.

Score	Description
4 Exceeds Standard	The student independently demonstrates superior academic performance on assessments and class work. Student consistently meets and at times exceeds (more depth/extension with grade level work and/ or performing at a higher grade level) the standards for the grade level. Student, with relative ease, grasps, applies, and extends the key concepts, processes and skills for the grade level.
3 Meets Standard	The student meets grade level expectations. Student demonstrates solid performance on assessments and classroom work. Student regularly meets the standards for the grade level. Student, with limited errors, grasps and applies the key concepts, processes and skills for the grade level. Student rarely requires support to demonstrate mastery.
2 Approaching Standard	The student is approaching grade level expectations. Student inconsistently demonstrates mastery or demonstrates partial mastery of the knowledge and skills required on assessments and classroom work. Student is beginning to grasp and apply key concepts, processes and skills required on assessments and classroom work. Student is beginning to grasp and apply the key concepts, processes, and skills for the grade level but produces work that contains many errors. Student requires some support to demonstrate mastery.
1 Standard Not Met	Student has yet to demonstrate partial mastery of the knowledge and skills required on assessments and classwork. Student is not grasping or applying key concepts, processes, and skills that are fundamental for the grade level. Student requires extensive support to demonstrate skills. Student has significant gaps in learning and knowledge of grade level material. Student may be working on standards that are one or more years below grade level. The student is at risk of retention.

2

Academics

STUDENT REPORT CARDS

At Westside, we strive to create standards-based report cards that give families an in-depth and detailed snapshot of student mastery of Georgia Standards of Excellence.

Report cards are available four times per year (once per quarter). You can access your child's grades in Infinite Campus.

Each of these quarterly report cards has three main components:

- Grades
- Conduct
- Comments

For more information about each component, refer to the table to the right.

Report Card Components	
Grades	For each standard taught that quarter, students should receive a score (4-1) to indicate their progress towards each particular standard.
Conduct	The report card lists a set of behaviors that relate to being respectful, responsible, and remarkable. Students will earn a score of S (<i>successful</i>), P (<i>progressing</i>), or N (<i>needs improvement</i>).
Comments	Their comments should provide an overview of what was taught that quarter as well as a strength and an opportunity for growth.

Need more help?

Joanne Morency (K-2): joanne@wacs.us

Amber Rabsatt (3-4): amber@wacs.us

Tia Herrington (5-8): tia@wacs.us

WESTSIDE HOMEWORK POLICY

Homework Policy

Homework is an essential part of the learning process and will be required for all students. It is designed to reinforce the standards and skills taught in the classroom, providing students with valuable opportunities to review, practice, and deepen their understanding of key concepts.

- **Grades K–2:** Students will receive a weekly homework packet every Monday. The completed packet is due on Friday.
- **Grades 3–4:** Students will receive a weekly homework sheet each Monday outlining the assignments that are to be completed and submitted by Friday.
- **Grades 5–8:** Students will be assigned homework daily in each core subject area. These assignments are to be completed according to the schedule provided by each teacher.

We encourage parents to support their children by establishing a regular homework routine and providing a quiet, distraction-free space for study. Consistent completion of homework contributes to academic success and helps build responsibility and independence.

STUDENT TESTING

MAP Testing:

- MAP stands for *Measures of Academic Performance*.
- Computer adaptive test that is given 3 times a year (fall, winter and spring).
- Assesses skills in reading and math. Not all grade level standards are assessed.
- Students in grades K-8 participate.
- Untimed assessment
- We use this assessment to measure **individual student growth** in reading and math over time.
- Teachers use the information from the MAP test to inform their instructional practices.
- Parents receive individualized student reports after each administration.

i-Ready

- Administered to students in grades K-8, 3 times a year.
- This platform is used as a universal screener, dyslexia screener, and student progress monitoring.

STUDENT TESTING

Georgia Milestones Assessment System

- Summative assessment of content given by the state of Georgia
- Administered in the spring of each academic school year
- Students in grades 3-8 participate
- Measures student mastery of grade level standards
- Timed assessments
- Student scores are compared to other students in the state of GA
- Individual score reports are provided to families in the fall

Need more help?

Joanne Morency (K-2): joanne@wacs.us
Amber Rabsatt (3-4): amber@wacs.us
Tia Herrington (5-8): tia@wacs.us

SCHOOL COMMUNICATIONS

Communication with families is very important at Westside and we use multiple platforms for sharing information.

Westside Weekly News

School-wide news emailed every Wednesday.

Class Dojo

Primary communication platform between classroom teachers and families.

Texts, Phone Calls, Email

Teachers and staff will communicate via text, phone, and email as needed. Please allow up to 48-hours for return contact not including weekends.

Families' first point of contact is their child's classroom teacher via email or Class Dojo message. If you continue to need assistance or have concerns after speaking with your teacher, please follow the steps below:

1. Classroom Teacher
2. Principal
3. Executive Director
4. School Board

GRIEVANCE POLICY

Click [here](#) for a full description of Westside's Grievance Policy.

CLASS PARTIES & CELEBRATIONS

Food is not permitted during classroom parties. Families should NOT send edible treats of ANY KIND.

Individual birthday celebrations *may not* take place during the school day. Teachers may select one day per month to honor that month's birthdays.

Celebration Ideas

- Games
- Crafts
- Skits
- Extra Recess
- Special Guest or Presentation

CULTURE & EQUITY DEPARTMENT

Aligning with the mission of equity and diversity at Westside, the Counseling and Equity Department supports staff, faculty, students, board members and the community in the areas of diversity, equity and justice.

We understand that diversity in the school community alone is not enough. Westside is committed to ensuring that every student is provided an equal opportunity to thrive and succeed academically and socially. We do this by creating an environment where students and adults are welcomed and supported and their voices and experiences are reflected and valued.

Equity & Service at Westside

- Critical Conversations
- Service Learning
- Professional Development (Partnership with CREATE Teacher Residency)
- Field trips and cultural multicultural exposure

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Our Family Engagement Coordinator is responsible for developing, implementing, and overseeing parent outreach and engagement, as well as coordinating student and family activities.

Our goal is to encourage parent involvement, so that parents and staff work together to support and improve the learning, development, and health of children and adolescents.

Family Engagement at Westside

- Monthly Parent Workshops
- Parent Resource Center
- Food Pantry
- Used Uniform Closet
- Family Events
- Abby's Closet - School Supplies

Family Engagement Coordinator

Catherine Perry:

catherine@wacs.us

Counselors

Eliza Ashby: eliza@wacs.us

Andra Burns: andra@wacs.us

THE WESTSIDE WAY

Responsible, Remarkable, Respectful

Restorative Practices

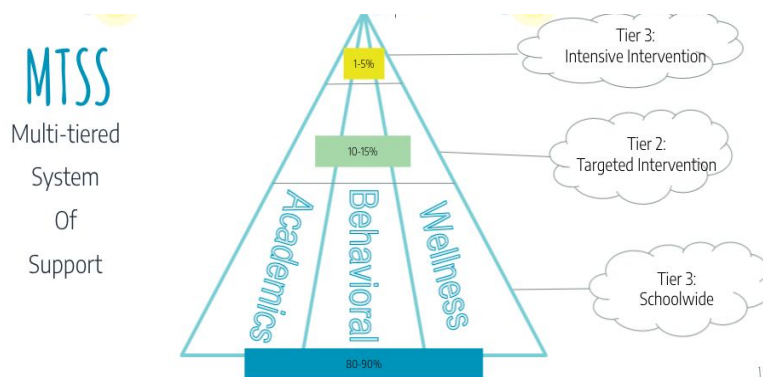
The restorative practice process at Westside is designed to incorporate the principles, concepts, and goals of restorative practices (see below). Restorative practices DOES NOT mean no consequences. What restorative practices does mean is that consequences are appropriate and fair in response to the offense and connects back to restoring relationships that were harmed or damaged because of the action.

Restorative Practices at Westside

- Focuses relationships as the center of community
- Holds individuals accountable to repairing the relationships damaged by their actions
- Aims to prevent behavior issues by creating strong relationships, solving problems as a community, and resolving conflict in constructive, skill based ways.

Positive Based Interventions & Supports (PBIS)

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is an [evidence-based, three-tiered framework](#) to improve and integrate all of the data, systems, and practices affecting student outcomes every day. PBIS creates schools where all students succeed. (www.pbis.org) At Westside, the PBIS system incorporates the tenets of culturally responsive practices, being trauma informed, and restorative practices.



Click [here](#) for more information about The Westside Way

Need More Help?

Eliza Ashby: eliza@wacs.us
Andra Burns: andra@wacs.us

DISTRACTION-FREE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Distraction-Free Learning Environment

In accordance with [HB 340](#), this policy aims to ensure a focused and distraction-free educational environment by restricting access to personal electronic devices during the instructional day for students attending Georgia public schools. Westside Atlanta Charter School students in grades Kindergarten – 8th are prohibited from accessing or using personal electronic devices during the school day, from **7:30 AM** to **3:00 PM**, including lunch, recess, passing periods, and all campus-based activities.

“Personal Electronic Device” is defined as any portable electronic device capable of transmitting, receiving, or accessing communications, data, or media – includes but is not limited to smartphones, smartwatches, tablets, e-readers, headphones, or other devices with capabilities like wireless communication, internet access, messaging, gaming, social media access, or data transmission. It does not apply to school equipment of the same types that are made available for student use.

Examples of Personal Electronic Devices

- Cell phones
- Smartwatches
- Tablets
- Laptops
- E-readers
- Headphones/earbuds
- Devices capable of wireless communication, media access, data transfer, or storage

The school board approved policy including exceptions can be found [here](#).

Need More Help?

Tenecia Powe: tenecia@wacs.us

Lisa Goodson: lisa@wacs.us

Student Discipline

Responsible, Remarkable, Respectful

The Governing Board of Westside Atlanta Charter School (“Board”) adopts the following Student Discipline Policy which shall be effective as adopted by the Board on July 9, 2024 which can be found [here](#).

The Student Discipline Policy is aligned to the Atlanta Public Schools Student Code of Conduct. The Atlanta Public Schools Student Code of Conduct can be found [here](#). Student discipline will be confidential and conducted in accordance with the Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act (FERPA) and Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Westside Atlanta Charter School recognizes restorative practices as a shift from punitive and punishment-oriented student consequences to those that provide opportunities for all people affected by a student’s action to engage in dialogue and measures seeking to restore the classroom, school community, and interpersonal relationships.

Westside’s discipline policy sets out the rules of student behavior applicable to all students and the procedures for imposing discipline on students who violate these rules. In general, discipline is designed to correct a student’s misconduct and to encourage the student to be a responsible citizen of the school community. Disciplinary actions will be in proportion to the severity of the unacceptable behavior, its impact on the school environment, the student’s age and grade level, the student’s previous discipline history, and other relevant factors.

Need More Help?

Tenecia Powe (K-4): tenecia@wacs.us

Lisa Goodson (5-8): lisa@wacs.us

“ENCORE” AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

Westside’s Encore After School Program is an extension of your child’s day at Westside. Run by Westside staff, students enrolled in the after school program will continue to learn and grow beyond the regular school day.

Registration Fee = \$25 per family (one time)
One Child: = \$90/week
Two Children = \$120/week
Three or more Children = \$170/week

[REGISTRATION LINK](#)

Drop-in Costs = \$35 per day*
*Drop-ins must register with Encore and pay the one time registration fee (\$25)

Hours: 3:00pm-6:00pm

Encore will provide a snack, homework help and will work towards creating academic success, character, and leadership.

Need More Help?

Catherine Perry: catherine@wacs.us

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

We are excited to offer extra-curricular programs at Westside. For a school our size, we offer a variety of opportunities for our students. Here is a sampling of our offerings:

FALL SPORTS

Co-Ed Flag Football
Cheerleading
Girls Volleyball
Dance
Co-Ed Cross Country

WINTER SPORTS

Boys and Girls Basketball
Cheerleading

SPRING SPORTS

Track
Soccer

CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

Gardening Club
Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl
Latin Dance Club
Spanish Club
Chess Club
Game Club
Girl and Boy Scouts
Art Club
Science Lab Club

WESTSIDE COMMITTEE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

WESTSIDE'S PTA

WHO WE ARE:

The Westside Community Council is an organization of Westside parents committed to supporting the school stakeholders to help facilitate a learning environment that fosters rigor, imagination, and service; and to developing meaningful engagement among staff, families, and the local community.

Led by two Chairpersons, the Community Council sponsors school-wide events, provides a forum to discuss issues of importance to families and coordinates room parent activities. The Chairpersons act as liaisons between the families and the school, meeting on the first Wednesday of each month at 8:00 a.m. with the school leadership team.

HOW TO JOIN:

There's no need to join or register. All Westside families are part of the Council and can participate in all events.

There are opportunities to get involved for one-time events as well as on an ongoing basis. Your presence makes a difference!

CHAIRS

Olivia Henderson and Natalie Grubbs
oliviadhollis@gmail.com and
nataliekgrubbs@gmail.com

COMMUNITY COUNCIL EVENTS

Monday, August 4th

Back to School Breakfast

Friday, September 26th

Parent Party

Wednesday, October 21st

Community Council Meeting

Friday, October 31st

Storybook Character Parade
 Elementary Halloween Parties*
 Fall Festival

Friday, November 14th

Spaghetti and Bingo Night

Monday, January 5th

Parent Breakfast

Friday, April 17th

Glow Party

April 20th - 24th

Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week

Thursday, May 7th

Community Council Meeting

****Food is not permitted during classroom parties. Families should NOT send edible treats of ANY KIND.***