

August 2, 2024

Wildcat Families,

Welcome to the 24-25 school year! We hope you had a restful and enjoyable summer break so far, and have an opportunity for fun in these last few weeks before school starts! We are thrilled to welcome our new students and families to Wilson. To our returning students, welcome back! Each new school year brings opportunities for new friendships, experiences, and discoveries, and we look forward to a year filled with these wonderful moments.

Our dedicated staff has been working hard over the summer to prepare for the upcoming year. We are excited to introduce some new faces to our team! Please see below for more information about our newest staff members. They are fantastic additions to our school community.

We have a lot of important information in our parent update each week. All communication will go out each Friday at 9:30 am. We know how busy families are. However, it is beneficial to read through all we have to share with you.

See you soon!

Erin and Brian

Building Information

Back to School Bash

We will host our Back to School Bash on Tuesday, August 20 from 4:30 to 6:30 pm. This is a great opportunity for families to visit classrooms, socialize with friends and drop off any school supplies.

A change this year is that we will not have grade level teacher information nights for grades 1-6. Over the last few years the nights have been poorly attended and the information provided could easily be shared in another format. Instead, our teachers will share specific information about classroom expectations, communication, curriculum and other pertinent information for you.

New Family Orientation

If your family is new to Wilson (this doesn't include our kindergarten families), we will be having a brief new family orientation on August 20 from 6:30 to 7:00 pm in the Wilson iLab. During this orientation, our new students will have a short activity and an opportunity to tour the building with our School Counselor and our Sixth Grade Ambassadors while our new families learn more about Wilson.

School Supplies

Many families will drop off school supplies on the night of the Back to School Bash so their children do not have to carry a heavy backpack on the first day. Here is a link to the supply lists for all of the grade levels. [24-25 School Supply List](#)

Incoming Kindergarten Screenings

We will have our Kindergarten screenings for all new Kindergarten students on Tuesday, August 13 from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm.

A separate communication went out to our kindergarten families this morning at 9:00 am. with information pertinent to kindergarten and how to schedule a kindergarten screening.

If you did not receive this communication, please reach out to Lynn Augenstein, Administrative Assistant (lynnaugenstein@foresthills.edu).

Medication Drop-Off for the 24-25 School Year

If your child will require medication during the school day, a new medication permission form must be completed each school year. Each medication requires a separate form.

[Medication Permission Form](#)

Rachel Moller, our Health Aide, will be at Wilson on August 20 and August 21 from 9:00 am to 11:00 am and from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm if you would like to drop off your child's medication.

Mrs. Moller will also be available from 4:30 to 6:15 pm at our Back to School Bash on August 20.

Extended Support Classrooms at Wilson

We have several new team members of special education providers who will be supporting our expanded Extended Support Classrooms this year. Two classrooms have been added to Wilson. These classrooms are designed to support the district's continuum of services in special education. These are district classrooms, serving students from three of our six elementary buildings.

New Staff Members

Loretta Kowsky (Intervention Specialist/Reading Support)

Loretta will be joining us as a half time intervention specialist and half time reading support teacher. Before becoming an intervention specialist, Loretta gained valuable professional experience in various roles. She worked as a loan officer, a travel agent, and a preschool teacher, and she also spent a significant amount of time as a stay-at-home mom raising her three children while running a home daycare. After thirteen years of being at home, she decided to return to school. She pursued and completed a bachelor's degree in special education at the University of Cincinnati, with a focus on teaching grades K-12 for students with mild to severe disabilities. Subsequently, she furthered her education by obtaining a Master's in Reading Science with a reading endorsement from the University of Mount Saint Joseph. Additionally, she is certified in Orton Gillingham.

Colleen Kling (Paraprofessional)

Colleen Kling recently retired from Cincinnati Public Schools where she was an elementary school teacher for 34 years. Colleen is a resident of Anderson and lives with her family, including her husband

Bob, son Patrick, and daughter Laura. Her daughter, Laura, currently attends St. Ursula Academy where she is a junior. Her son, Patrick, is a sophomore at Xavier University. Colleen enjoys spending time with her family and friends, going to dinner, traveling, and outdoor activities.

Colleen is excited to be a paraprofessional at Wilson! She is looking forward to working with our Wildcats and supporting our teachers and staff.

Kenzie Huber (Child Focus Therapist)

Kenzie was born and raised right here in Cincinnati and attended Mariemont High School. She later graduated from Miami University in 2022, where she majored in Psychology and minored in Child Development and Youth Studies. She has been employed full-time at Child Focus for the past year providing intensive, short-term crisis stabilization services to youth and families through Mobile Response and Stabilization Services (MRSS) as well as school-based therapy to elementary students at a Cincinnati Public School. Kenzie enjoys spending time with her loved ones, watching sitcoms (hi to my fellow Modern Family fans!), doing arts/crafts, attending FC Cincinnati games, and going on hikes!

Amy Ballitch (6th Grade Math/Science Teacher)

Mrs. Lacy Walker took a position as a 7th grade math teacher at Nagel Middle School. We are excited for some of last year's sixth graders to know a familiar face at Nagel. We are excited for Amy to fill this role!

Amy is a lifelong resident of Cincinnati and grew up in the Forest Hills School District. Our community inspired her to pursue a career in education and she is excited to give back by teaching in the same

district she grew up in. She earned her undergraduate degree in Middle School Education from Miami University and received her master's degree in Educational Administration from Xavier University. Amy spent the last four years teaching 6th grade math at Goshen Middle School. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her family and friends. This summer she has some exciting trips planned to Europe and Chicago. Amy is looking forward to being a part of our Wilson team!

Katie Reed

Katie Reed is thrilled to join the Wilson Elementary kindergarten team. She comes to us with 10 years of teaching experience, most of which are in Kindergarten. Aside from the few years she taught while living in Louisville, most of her career has been spent teaching kindergarten in Batavia. Outside of school she enjoys spending time with her family: her husband Matt, and daughters Ellie (5) and Betsy (2). She is an avid runner and teaches Barre3 in Mariemont. Katie is a Forest Hills grad (Ayer, Nagel, and Anderson) and looks forward to jumping back into the community!

Sophia Lee

Sophia is a Forest Hills alumni and a recent University of Cincinnati graduate. She received a degree in Early Childhood Education and is licensed to teach preschool through fifth grade. Sophia has student teaching experience in special education, preschool, kindergarten, first grade, and fourth grade. Although she loves all ages of children, she has a special place in her heart for the little ones. As an educator, she is dedicated to creating a dynamic learning environment where all students feel valued, supported, and inspired to reach their full potential. Sophia is thrilled to join Wilson!

Heather Haynes (ESC Intervention Specialist)

Heather Haynes is an Intervention Specialist coming from Mercer Elementary. She has been teaching students with moderate to intensive special needs in the elementary resource setting for 16 years in both Ohio and Kentucky. Heather is a Cincinnati native, University of Cincinnati alum, and a National Board Certified Teacher in the area of Exceptional Needs. She lives just east of Anderson Township in Clermont County with her German Shepard, Bella. In her free time she enjoys going to concerts, hiking, checking out new places to eat and hanging out around town, and spending time with her family and friends. Heather is looking forward to joining the Wilson team!

Rhonda Russo (ESC Intervention Specialist)

Rhonda is excited to join Wilson Elementary as a full-time intervention specialist this year. She received her intervention specialist degree at the University of Cincinnati and her Master in the Art of Teaching at the University of Saint Mary's. Rhonda has been an intervention specialist for ten years in Forest Hills and has enjoyed getting to know students in schools across the district, including Ayer, Mercer, Maddux, and Nagel. Before joining Forest Hills, she worked as an intervention specialist for six years for Hamilton County in kindergarten through 12th grade. Rhonda loves hiking and camping with her family and four dogs when she has free time.

Cindy Howell (ESC Paraprofessional)

Cindy is entering her 23rd year as a paraprofessional. She spent fifteen years in the West Clermont school district and this will be her 8th year in Forest Hills. Cindy has been married for 31 years and has two grown daughters who live in Northern Kentucky. She likes sports and plays sand volleyball twice a week. Cindy also works out at the Y and enjoys reading.

Michael Walker (ESC Paraprofessional)

We are excited to have Michael back with us! Michael was an intervention aide with us two years ago. We were unable to keep him at Wilson due to a grant from the state that was no longer available. Michael is married with three children and lives in Anderson Township. He loves to read, garden and listen to music. Michael has a masters in Special Education from the University of Cincinnati and retired from Cincinnati Public Schools.

Terri Wiseman (ESC Paraprofessional)

Terri is a dedicated mother of 5 amazing boys, including one who has autism. He is the inspiration in her learning as much as she could to help him reach his maximum potential. Early on she realized that learning more about behaviors and special needs not only helped her son with Autism, but helped her be a better person and better mother for her other children.

Terri grew up in Anderson, having gone to Forest Hills schools from Maddux Elementary to Anderson High School. After high school she went on to Indiana University and Xavier University where she had an amazing time playing soccer for the Muskies. She still loves sports and being active and is still on the soccer field sidelines watching her youngest play goalie.

Restaurant Nights

Join us for dinner and support of the Wilson PTO. Don't forget to mention WILSON!

- Wed. August 28: Gold Star / Tom & Chee @ Beechmont
 - Mon. September 9: Buffalo Wild Wings @ Beechmont
 - Thursday, September 19: Wandering Monsters Brewery
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Enrichment Programs

Click on each flyer for more information on dates, cost, and registration.

[Chess Club](#): Learn to play the lifelong game of chess!

[Tennis/Pickleball](#): Learn the basics of these two popular racquet sports!

[Home Alone](#): Prepare for time spent at home alone!

[QSA Training](#): Improve your speed and agility!

[Spanish](#): Begin or continue learning the language and culture!

2024-2025 Room Representative Volunteers Needed

A great way to get involved at Wilson is to volunteer as your child's classroom representative. In this role, you will be tasked with collaborating with your child's homeroom teacher to plan class parties and volunteer chances. You will coordinate opportunities to

thank your teacher for their hard work throughout the year (birthday, holiday, and end of year). Please consider signing up for a spot.

[2004-2025 Room Rep Volunteer Form](#)

Any further questions please feel free to email Jillian.Groszek@gmail.com .

Thank you!

District Information

Back-to-School Updates

FHSD has put together a helpful back-to-school article on our website! [Click here](#) to find information about:

- School supply lists
- New administrators across the district
- Important updates to the FHSD Strategic Plan
- Reminders about safety, finances and more!

Summer Facility Upgrades

If you've been following along with the FHSD social media channels, you have probably seen some of the repairs, improvements and upgrades happening across the district. If you want to see updated

pictures from different projects, and learn more about the Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan driving this work, you can [click here](#).

EMERGENCY AND SUPPORT RESOURCES

- If you, your student, or anyone else you know is in a life-threatening health crisis or emergency, call 911.
- If you, your student, or anyone else you know is in emotional distress or experiencing a suicidal crisis, call or text 988, available 24/7.
- If you have concerns about threats to student safety, we urge you to call or text the Safer Ohio School Tip Line at 844-SaferOH. This line is staffed 24/7.
- If you are seeking additional resources, we encourage you to start at the links below:
 - [MindPeace](#)
 - [FHSD Family Resource List 22-23](#)

Upcoming Events

Aug. 13

- Kindergarten Screenings by appointment.

Aug. 20

- Back to School Bash 4:30 to 6:30 pm
- New Family Orientation 6:30 to 7:00 pm (Wilson iLab)

Aug. 22

- Phase In Day (Last Names M-Z only)

Aug. 23

- Phase In Day (Last Names A-L)

Aug. 26

- First Day for ALL Students