

## WELCOME/PRINCIPAL'S LETTER

Welcome to Maryland School, home of the Roadrunners! Maryland is a school of great traditions and great diversity. The student body hails from 25 different countries, and our students speak many different languages. We pride ourselves on our "Whatever it Takes" attitude to achieve student success. Please like us on Facebook!

## MISSION STATEMENT/ PHILOSOPHY

The mission of Maryland School is to develop lifelong learners who become productive and responsible members of society. We believe that social, emotional, physical and intellectual abilities are developed while individual strengths are nurtured to achieve success.

## GENERAL SCHOOL INFO

**School Address:** 6503 N. 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85015

**School Web Site:** <http://maryland.wesdschools.org>

### **Important Telephone Numbers:**

Office	602-347-2300
Health Office	602-347-2310
Attendance	602-347-2321
Head Start	602-347-2365

### **Office Hours**

During the school year, the front office is open Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. The office is open from 7:00 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. on Wednesdays.

### **Arrival/Dismissal for Kindergarten - Grade 8**

- 7:10 a.m.** Students may arrive on campus no earlier than 7:10 (there is no supervision before that time).
- 7:25 a.m.** First bell - students meet teachers on playground or wing, then proceed to classrooms for breakfast.
- 7:30 a.m.** School starts
- 7:30 a.m.** Tardy bell
- 2:30 p.m.** Dismissal

### **Dismissal is 1:00 p.m. on Early Release Wednesdays**

### **Early Sign-out Policy**

1. Parent/guardian must first report to the office to sign the child out. The office will call for your child to come to the office for dismissal. We stop calling students out 20 minutes before the end of the school day with ID present for removal.
2. **Children will not be dismissed from the classroom** without parental presence or written permission. We cannot allow children to walk or bike home except at their regular dismissal times.

### **Drop-off and Pickup Area**

Drop off and pick up in the morning and afternoon occurs only in the designated area in front of the cafeteria. Do not leave your car parked in the drop-off or loading zone for any reason. Please park in designated areas only. For the safety of our children, please help us by driving cooperatively and carefully and in the proper lane. Keep students with you at all times while crossing the parking lot and utilize the designated crossing areas.

### **Attendance/Truancy**

In order to assure students are successful and meet current state legislation, which requires all students to attend 90% of the

school year, WESD has an Attendance Unit (AU). The AU will work in conjunction with the City Justice Courts to identify students who are chronically absent or are truant.

When a student reaches five total absences (excused, unexcused and/or unverified), families will receive an attendance notification letter. When a student reaches 10 unverified, unexcused, and excused absences, families will receive an attendance warning letter and a referral to the AU for appropriate actions (see District guidelines). In order to avoid this eventuality, there are several precautions to take: (1) reinforce being on time and good attendance, (2) call the school each time a student will be late or absent, (3) present any medical documentation to the health technician and/or attendance clerk if illness will be a consistent, foreseeable issue.

An attendance letter will be sent by the school to the families electronically of students who are approaching or pass the midway point for unexcused absences, excused absences and tardies. Parent cooperation is of the utmost importance in assuring student success.

### **Reporting Absences**

**If your child is absent, please call the attendance office at 602-347-2321 by 9:00 a.m. on or before the day of your child's absence.** State law mandates that the school record reasons for all student absences. Therefore, when a student is absent, it is necessary for the parent to call the school on or before the day of absence in order to advise the school as to the reason for the absence. **All absences not verified by parental or administrative authorization will remain unexcused.** If a parent does not have access to a phone, either at home or at work, a note will be accepted for verification purposes. For absences greater than one day in length, the school should be notified each day of the absence.

- **Voice mail on the attendance line is available at this number at all times. Parents must call to excuse a maximum of 10 absences during the school year.** Unexcused absences are recorded as trancies. If no contact is made with the parent, the student is unexcused and considered truant.
- **An absence is excused for student illness, doctor appointments, family emergencies, bereavement and observance of religious holidays. However, 10 combined excused and unexcused absences can result in truancy involvement.** Please refer to the District portion of this handbook for more specific information on reporting your child's absence.

### **Tardy Policy**

Students line up at 7:25 a.m. to go in to their classrooms. Anyone arriving after 7:30 a.m. to his or her classroom is considered late and must report to the front office for a late pass. Anyone arriving after 7:30 a.m. will require a parent or guardian to sign the student in. An excused tardy will be allowed for medical appointments with a doctor's note and family emergencies only. Excuses that involve personal responsibility are not considered excused. Tardies may result in disciplinary action. Sweep procedures are in place for 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade students who are late to their class after the bell. . Students will go to the student center during that period. Parents will be notified regarding students who are sent to Sweep

for the third time in a semester. After the fourth Sweep, students will receive a one (1) day out of school suspension.

### **Assignments and Homework**

We appreciate parents telephoning and requesting missed assignments for their children. Please help us by following these procedures:

1. Request assignments for your child only if your child will miss two or more days.
2. Telephone or email the teacher to make the request. Please keep in mind the teacher needs time to gather the materials, so it is preferable that you call the classroom before school starts to leave a message on voicemail.
3. Suspensions: If requested, homework will be sent to the school office for you to pick up after your child's normal dismissal time.

### **Lost and Found**

**Please mark your child's property with your child's name.** Lost clothing items hang on the hooks outside the health office. Other lost items may be claimed in the front office.

### **Lost and Damaged Book/Property Charges**

**Students are held responsible for the care of school equipment and supplies and must pay for any loss or damage. This includes library books, literature sets and technology.** Withdrawal requests may not be issued until return or replacement costs are paid. Parents should preview the assigned textbooks with their children and note any marks that were in effect when assigned. Costs of overt acts of vandalism will be assessed to the student.

### **Parent/Teacher Conferences**

If you need to discuss a problem or concern, please set up an appointment with the teacher, a staff member and/or principal. All problems can be discussed and worked out in a reasonable manner. At no time is verbal abuse appropriate nor will it be tolerated. If you wish to talk with any of the teachers, please e-mail or call the office. Teachers are requested to check their voice mail daily. Formal conferences are held in the fall and the spring.

## **COMMUNICATION**

### **PTA**

Please contact the Maryland front office at 602-347-2300 for information regarding PTA.

### **Site Council**

The mission of the Maryland School Site Council is to develop lifelong learners who become contributing members of society by providing an effective learning environment.

Our Site Council is involved in the school improvement planning, effective schools research, staff selection and communication. It is composed of administration, certified personnel, classified staff member, parents, and community members. We welcome your participation at our monthly meetings.

### **School Newsletter**

Effective school research has shown that good communication is very important between home and school. We try very hard to keep parents informed about the many events and activities that go on at Maryland School. The major communication source is our newsletter, the *Maryland School Roadrunner* available online through Peachjar.

## **EVENTS/ACTIVITIES/PROGRAMS**

### **Annual Events at Maryland include:**

Back to School Night, various band/strings/vocal concerts, Reading Restaurant, Read Across America Week, District food drive, Health and Fitness Night, Bingo Night, Scholastic Book Fair and many other events throughout the year.

### **Free Breakfast and Lunch**

Maryland is proud to offer free breakfast and lunch to all enrolled students for the 2024-2025 school year. Breakfast is served in the classroom and lunch is served in the cafeteria.

### **Head Start**

Head Start has a program for 4-year old's on our campus. Call 602-347-2206 for additional information.

## **STUDENT DISCIPLINE/BEHAVIOR**

Maryland School teaches all students how to Be Responsible, Be Respectful, Be Safe and Be Awesome. Teachers, support staff and principals implement Positive Behavior and Supports to approach teaching students' appropriate behavior. Our philosophy about school-wide expectations for student behavior is to teach appropriate behavior just as explicitly as we teach academic subjects. We teach students what it looks like to act safely, respectfully and responsibly in different areas of the school and different times of the day. All students follow the same set of rules and expectations throughout school. Teachers and support staff teach students with positive statements that reinforce appropriate behavior and, when students follow the rules and expectations, they are recognized. When students do not follow the rules, there are planned restorative consequences to get them back on track.

### **KINDERGARTEN – EIGHTH GRADE**

**Tier I Offences:** A student will be given a seat away from the academic setting. The students will spend two to five minutes thinking about what happened. If they are successful in doing this, they may return to their seat.

**Tier II Offences:** Handled by the teacher or attending adult in the classroom initially but are referred to BSA if they become chronic. Parent contact via phone call or face-to-face conversation.

**Tier III Offences:** Handled by BSA & Administration—call the office for immediate removal from the classroom. Document on referral & turn in all documentation to BSA ASAP. Parent contact/conference is made by the administration/BSA.

### **KINDERGARTEN – EIGHTH GRADE**

The PAX Good Behavior Game is used by all K-8 teachers in the classroom and around campus. It is an evidence-based preventive intervention system with origins in behavioral science, neuroscience, and cultural wisdom which operate together to improve children's self-regulation.

Teachers implement these strategies as part of their daily routines in carrying out tasks such as getting students' attention, selecting students for tasks, transitioning from one task to the next, working as part of a team, limiting problematic behavior, and reinforcing pro-social behavior. The PAX Good Behavior Game adheres to a tiered structure by providing strategies with scaffolded levels of support. PAX strategies can be differentiated based on students' particular need.

For more information on PAX at our campus, please reach out to your child's teacher and be sure to ask your child how they are being a PAX leader every day.

### **BEHAVIORS CONSTITUTING IMMEDIATE OFFICE REFERRAL:**

These may include inappropriate or abusive language, physical aggression, continual defiance/disrespect of authority, or any other behavior deemed inappropriate by Maryland administration.

There are behaviors that escalate immediately to Maryland administration and can result in in-school or out-of-school suspension. These behaviors include but are not limited to, possession or use of tobacco, matches or lighters; possession or use of alcohol and illegal drugs or related paraphernalia; possession of weapons or dangerous objects; theft or vandalism; fighting, or leaving campus without permission.

**Students may be removed from the classroom and placed in an alternative setting during investigations for the referral.**

### **CONSEQUENCES**

Maryland School follows the District Handbook Policy and matrix. (Please refer to the Discipline Policy/ Action Chart section).

### **Principal's Discretion**

In instances where the teacher, parent or other school personnel have used the general discipline guidelines to promote discipline in the school setting without success, the problem will be referred to the principal. The principal has the authority and responsibility to maintain an atmosphere conducive to learning through a fair and consistent application of District policies and procedures.

If a problem occurs, the principal, assistant principal or Behavior Support Advocate (BSA) and the referring teacher will develop a plan to solve the problem that will include identifying the problem and will consider what disciplinary action is necessary to solve the problem. When disciplinary action is needed, the principal, assistant principal or BSA will confer with the student, notify the parent, and take other disciplinary action as per District policy and procedures.

### **Articles Prohibited at School**

In addition to items listed in the District section of this handbook, the following items are not permitted at school: lighters, knives or weapons of any kind, firecrackers, pornography, guns of any kind (including squirt, cap, BB, pellet, toy), pocket knives, personal pencil sharpeners, water balloons, gum, sunflower seeds, animals (without prior approval by the principal), toys, trading cards of any type, permanent markers, lasers, radios, headphones, iPods, electronic games, all electronic devices. No makeup, hair spray, perfume, cologne or body spray is to be brought to school. Anything that distracts or interferes with the learning process is not allowed. These items and anything else that may cause a safety concern will be confiscated. Parents will need to pick up the confiscated item(s). Do not send valuable items to school, as they may be broken or lost. Students are entirely responsible for their personal items. Parents are also reminded that the school district does not insure student property.

**Please do not make flower, balloon or similar deliveries to school.** These will be kept in the office until dismissal time.

The purchase or sale of any item on the Maryland campus must first be approved by the administration.

### **Cell Phone Guidelines**

Maryland School recognizes that many students have phones for safety reasons. Cell phones must be kept in backpacks or in a zippered container while on school grounds. Phones must be **TURNED OFF AT ALL TIMES**. Any phone that rings or is seen by an adult will be confiscated. Consequences for violating the cell phone policy are as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Offense:** Phone confiscated student picks up phone from school office.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense:** Phone confiscated, parent notified, parent picks up phone from school office.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Offense:** Phone confiscated, parent notified, parent picks up phone from school office; student may receive disciplinary consequences.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Offense:** Meeting with student/parent/guardian where consequences are given, if needed. Phone is a prohibited object; must be left in school office each day.

### **Dress Code**

Please see the District portion of the handbook for Dress Code information.

### **General School Rules**

Follow instructions of all staff members the first time they are given. Students must have a pass if not under the direct supervision of a teacher. All students will keep their hands, feet and objects to themselves. Students are expected to follow the Be Responsible, Be Respectful, Be Safe, Be Awesome expectations for all school areas. Expectations are posted throughout the campus and are taught within the classroom. Students are celebrated for following the 4B's.

### **Bullying**

Maryland is a BULLY FREE SCHOOL. Administration seriously deals with all bullying reports (according to WESD Parent/Student Handbook). The Maryland staff promote the following student expectations regarding bullying:

- We will not bully others.
- We will try to help students who are bullied.
- We will include students who are left out.
- When we know someone is being bullied, we will tell an adult at school and/or home.

Students at Maryland also have the opportunity to report bullying incidents anonymously through the following process:

- Students may fill out a "Bullying Report Form" and place it in a "Bully Box" located in the library.
- The "Bully Boxes" are checked daily and responded to in a timely fashion according to WESD policy.
- The target of the incident(s) is supported, the incident is investigated and consequences are given by the BSA, social worker, assistant principal or principal.
- Classroom teachers may, at any time, refer specific student behavior related to bullying directly to the social worker.

**In order to effectively deal with bullying, students, school staff and parents MUST be involved in addressing this serious issue. For further information about the issue of bullying, please see the brochure in the Maryland Office.**

### **Promotion Requirements**

This criterion applies to all end-of-year activities and the promotion ceremony.

- Must earn a minimum D (1.0) average in each of the academic classes: Math, English, Social Studies and Science;
- Receive no more than 10 discipline referrals during the school year;
- Accumulate no more than 18 absences or 10% of total student attendance days (per Arizona guidelines);
- Return all materials (i.e. uniforms, books, etc.); and
- Pay any library fines received during the school year.

Eighth grade students who do not meet these standards will not participate in the promotion ceremony or any year-end 8<sup>th</sup> grade activities.

### **SAFETY**

- Each parent has the right to expect and demand a safe school. However, all bicycles, scooters and skateboards are parked at school at the owner's risk. Students who must cross the street must do so with a crossing guard. Crossing guards are located at 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue and Maryland, and 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and Citrus. Students and parents are expected to follow the rules to safely cross the street:
  - Cross only at marked crosswalks.
  - Pay strict attention to the crossing guard and watch traffic.
  - Walk bicycles, skateboards and scooters in the crosswalk.
  - Remove in-line skates before entering the crossing.
  - Ride single on bikes, never double. Observe traffic rules.
  - Use a chain and padlock on bikes at school.
  - Always lock bikes inside the bike rack. Be careful not to lose the key. Riding bikes on campus is prohibited. Always wear a helmet when riding a bicycle. Students who misuse the bicycle privileges may be denied these privileges.
- Skateboarding, rollerblading (in-line skating) and riding scooters on school grounds at any time are prohibited by state law and are not encouraged as a method of transportation to and from the school.
- Never run between parked cars.
- Go directly home after school. Report any problems with strangers immediately. File a report with the police and then report it to the school office.

### **Playground Expectations**

- Play in the approved, safe areas of the playground.
- Games involving tagging, hitting or tackling are not permitted.
- Remain on playground with a Maryland employee at all times.
- Report injuries immediately.
- Food, candy or gum is NOT permitted on the playground (this includes food from home or from the cafeteria).
- Students are not permitted to share food brought from home (this includes chips, snacks, candy, etc.).
- Flipping bottles and cartons of any kind will result in student discipline.
- Respect the landscaping (trees, plants, etc.).
- Sports balls must be appropriately used and, if safety is compromised, they may be confiscated by monitors. (This includes basketballs and soccer balls, etc.) Wall-balls are not permitted.
- Sand, rocks, wood chips, pinecones, etc. are not to be thrown.
- Use equipment in a safe manner. (Ex: feet-first on the slide, do not hang upside down, etc.)

### **Instructional Practices**

Maryland understands that effective, comprehensive assessment to screen, diagnose, monitor and measure outcomes is essential to evaluate the effectiveness of our programs. We will do this by implementing procedures to collaboratively and individually identify instructional improvements related to our identified needs in the areas of reading, math and behavior. Teachers will utilize assessment results to make data-based instructional decisions to provide interventions in the areas of reading, math, youth development, emotional well-being and behavior.