



# SEPTEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

## A WORD FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Western Hills Academy Families,

We are thrilled to welcome all new and returning families to the Academy! As we begin this school year, establishing classroom expectations is a top priority. Our students are settling into their new learning environments, with routines in place, and teachers actively conducting observations and assessments. In our Early Learning Center, goodbyes are becoming easier, which is a wonderful milestone for our youngest learners.

We encourage all families to carefully review the Academy Handbook, which outlines the school policies and procedures for the 2024-2025 school year. Thank you for adhering to the carline map; your cooperation is essential in ensuring the safety of our students. Please note that our academic day begins promptly at 8:30 AM to provide our students with a high-quality education. Punctuality is crucial for academic success.

Parents, your continued involvement makes a significant difference in your child's education. We invite you to join our PTO (Parent Teacher Organization), whether by assisting with activities, making donations, or purchasing items from the snack cart. Your participation shows students how much their educational journey is valued. I'm proud to report that our first Snack and Play Day was a success, and we look forward to hosting more of these events throughout the year. Grandparents, please save the date for our special breakfast event on September 9th from 7:30 to 8:30 AM.

We are also excited to announce our first workday on Saturday, September 14th. In partnership with WHUMC (Western Hills United Methodist Church), we will gather to address any cleanup or repairs needed on campus. More information will be provided soon.

Our first field trip is confirmed for the La Union Corn Maze! This fun outing will take place on Wednesday, September 25th, from 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM for students in grades Pre-K 3 through 6th. Additional details will be shared as the date approaches.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out. I look forward to working with you throughout the year.

Blessings,

Mrs. Mendoza, WHA Director

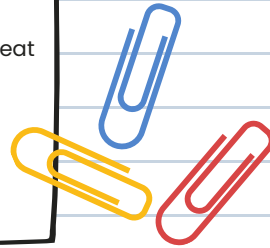
## NURSERY | MRS. AMPARO

Hello Parents!

As we settle into a new month, my main goal is to ensure your little ones feel safe and secure, even with the changes. We're focusing on gentle play. We want all the kids to play nicely and feel safe while they do. We're creating a safe space for our little walkers to practice and gain confidence. We're here to support them every step of the way!

Thanks for being a part of our nursery family. Here's to a great month ahead!

Best,  
Mrs. Amparo



## ELC PK-1 | MRS. MARISELA

Dear Parents

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to teach your child this year. It will be a wonderful year of learning and having fun. We are still getting adjusted and getting to know each other and learning our routine. We are learning to recognize the colors red, yellow, blue, and green. In the following weeks, we will learn to recognize the colors purple, orange, brown, and black.

Happy Birthday Wishes!

Madelyn C. 8/26

Benjamin P. 9/1

Nikolas C. 9/21

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Marisela



## ELC PK-2 | MS. LORENA

Hello Parents,  
I greatly enjoy interacting, teaching, and playing with the children! For the last two weeks, my class has been focused on getting to know each other, having free play, learning how to wash hands, and practicing safety. Following the Abeka curriculum, we are currently learning the colors: red, yellow, blue, and purple.  
Thank you!

Best,  
Lorena Vazquez



## ELC PK-3 | MRS. DAVIE

I am so excited to start another month with your children. This month, we will be working with colors and shapes. We are working on fine motor skills. We must also continue working on playing with each other and sharing classroom toys and materials. I hope to continue having an excellent year.

Best regards,

Mrs. Davie ©



## PRE-K | MS. CARRILLO

Dear Parents,

We've had a fantastic start to the school year and I'm excited to share what we've been working on! This month, we're focusing on circles, and the children are having fun finding them all around the classroom. Our daily discussions have been centered around the weather, the calendar, and the days of the week, helping the kids feel more connected to their routines. The students are also learning about different parts of the face and body, which has been both educational and fun. We've started working on name recognition and tracing, and it's wonderful to see the progress they're making. Lastly, we've been getting to know our new friends and exploring our classroom together, which has really helped everyone settle in.

Best regards,  
Ms. Carrillo



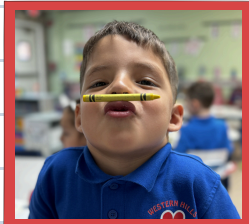
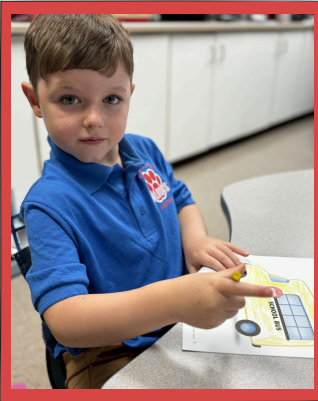
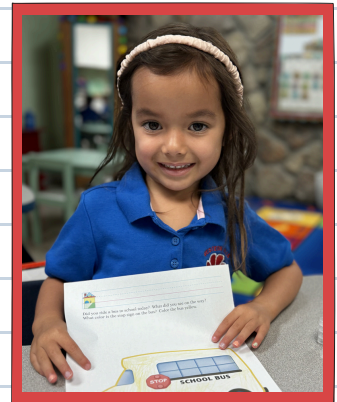
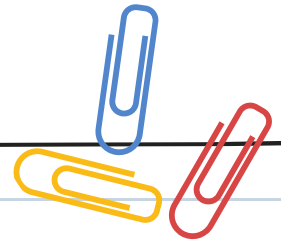
# K-4 | MS. TAYLOR

Hello Pre-K 4 Families!

Can you believe we have already made it through August!? This first month of school has been wonderful, getting to know each other and making new friends. We started the school year off learning our classroom procedures and getting comfortable in our new environment. We have since gotten comfortable, and the students have done amazing in getting their procedures down. We have also started building our phonics knowledge and diving into our alphabet. We started with the letter "I" and will be introducing the letter "U" before the month ends.

Students have also started having bible stories told throughout the week and attending chapel services on Wednesdays. Our first day in Chapel went so well; the kids loved singing and listening to Ms. Julie welcome us. I look forward to seeing what September brings us, and look forward to getting to know more about our littles! As always, parents, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Many Blessings,  
Ms. Taylor



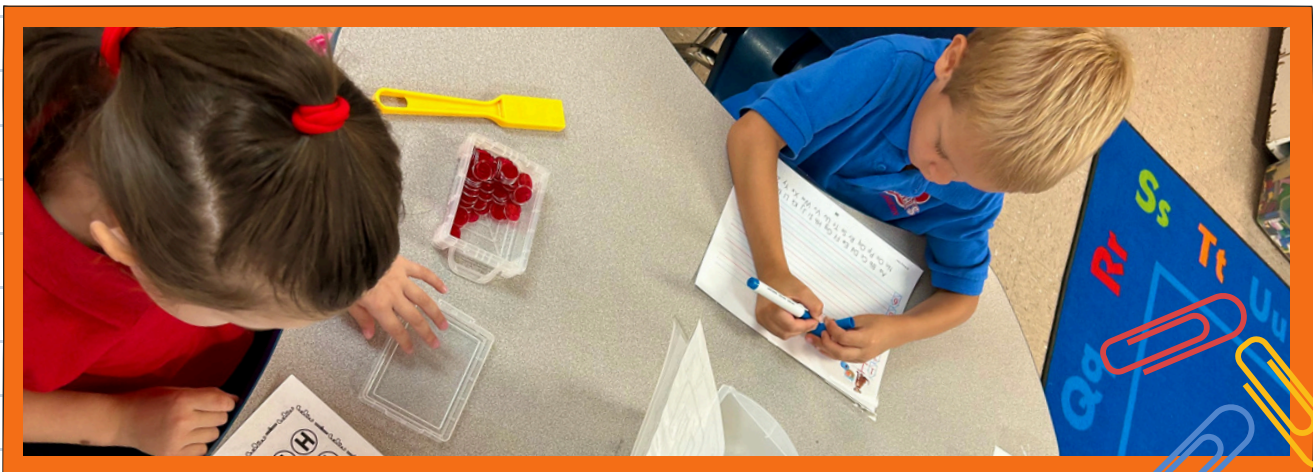
# K-5 A | MRS. CARDONA

Our first weeks in kindergarten have been wonderful! The students have adapted well to our daily routines. This month, we're focusing on short vowel sounds and developing number sense.

Let's keep up the great work to ensure a successful year.

Reminder: Please review homework folders each day and return them the following day.

Best regards,  
Mrs. Cardona



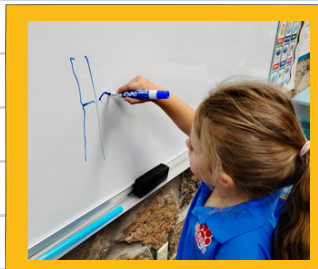
# K-5 B | MRS. PEARSON

Dear Parents,

I am ready to begin the work alongside the children to make this school year great. We have started to review and are working on the letters "li" and "Uu" and their sounds. I am very excited to see them learning. I enjoy seeing their happy expressions when they learn something new. The children have been enjoying story time and the learning centers. We will continue to work on the classroom expectations daily. The children will take their blue folders home with their worksheets to keep at home on Fridays; please ensure they bring them back on Mondays. Homework will be given out on Monday and should be returned by Friday.

Thank you all for your support.

Many blessings,  
Mrs. Pearson



# 1ST GRADE | MRS. RAMIREZ

Hello Parents,

August has been an exciting month in our classroom as we've been getting to know each other, learning routines, and working hard. In September, we will explore great artists and composers such as Leonardo Da Vinci and Ludwig Beethoven. We will start reading a new book and learn the poem "The Elephant."

Kindly,  
Mrs. Ramirez





## 2ND GRADE | MRS. ORTIZ

Hello Parents,

What an excellent three weeks it has been! The students have been wonderful, diving into new learning experiences while also reviewing some of last year's lessons. In math, we've been busy learning how to count money, and in language arts, we're expanding our vocabulary by writing and spelling new words as we build our word wall. Each week, we're reading a new book to strengthen reading comprehension. We haven't forgotten about social studies—where we've been exploring Native American history—or science, where the students had a blast creating a tornado experiment.

Thank you for your continued understanding and support.

Regards,  
Mrs. Ortiz



# 3RD GRADE | MRS. QUIÑONES

WOW!!! Our first month of school is over, that went by very fast. We have learned a lot already, such as, classroom and homework expectations, and quiz and test format. Just a few reminders for the classroom...

- Please arrive on time, this is important because when a student arrives late they miss important lecture time and then possibly not able to attend Spanish, PE, and/or Music class because they need to stay back and finish work
- Doing homework daily, this is important because all homework is reinforcement of material, we learned that day or we've learned for several days. Also, it is preparing students for quizzes and test.
- If you wish to talk to me about your student, please schedule a conference time. My conference time is Monday–Thursday from 11:00am to 12:00pm.

Important dates to remember...

September 2nd No School

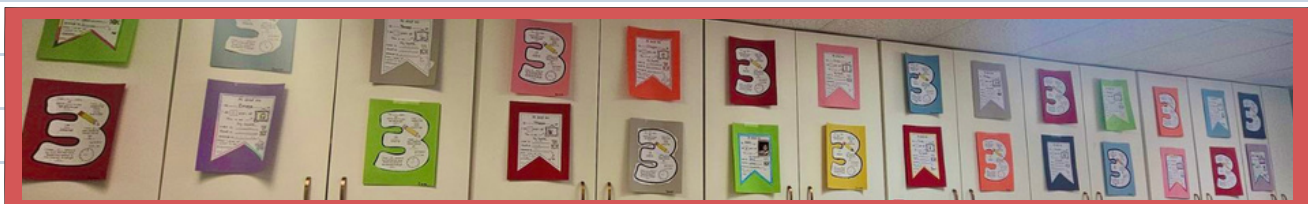
September 9th Grandparents Day (office will be sending more information)

September 13th End of Quarter 1

September 16th Beginning of Quarter 2

Any questions or concerns please don't hesitate in contacting me through the Family App or by email: [quinones@westernhillsacademy.org](mailto:quinones@westernhillsacademy.org).

Blessing,  
Mrs. Quiñones



## 5TH & 6TH | MRS. CUEVAS

Hello Parents!

These past few weeks have been great! The students have been working on their beginning-of-the-year diagnostics, and we have begun the curriculum. We have kicked off the school year with quizzes, tests, and a science project. Students are encouraged to use their planners to make sure that they are completing their homework at home and also have knowledge of when those tests, quizzes, and deadlines will be. Classroom rules and expectations were also mentioned these past few weeks and are being implemented for students' success in the classroom. I am excited to continue teaching and guiding the students. Students will also begin working on their Grandparent's Day craft for Sept 9th. If you have any questions, please feel free to message me through the Family app or set up a conference during my conference time! Thank you for your support!

Best,  
Mrs. Cuevas



# CHAPEL SERVICES | MS. JULIE

Greetings WHA Families,

It has been a joy to hear the voices and laughter of your children return to campus this past month! September is a BLESS month for our church, marked by prayer, service and community-building through meals and connection.

As such, we'd love to invite those interested to join us for a Church Work Day on Saturday, September 14th, from 8 am-12 pm as we freshen up the campus with landscaping, painting, and repair projects.

We will also launch a sponsorship drive to replace our upper playground play structure! More information will be sent out separately; however, our Church Foundation voted to move the project forward. The School Board initiated conversations last year, and we are thrilled to make those dreams a reality this school year.

Finally, I look forward to hosting our first Parent's Night Out of the school year on Friday, 20th from 5:30-8 pm. We will fill the gym with Fall Fun and learning focused on God never "leaving" us. (Think lots of leaves and apples!!!)

Chapel is underway for our older students, and we will launch the ELC chapel in September. My treasure chest was cleared out with all the great memorization work done by your children- keep up the great work! Our kids do a great job praying each week; know that if you have prayer requests, we would be happy to include them and add them to our church prayer chain.

Blessings,

Julie

Director of Children's Ministries



# EXTRACURRICULARS

## SPANISH MS. NATALIA

Hello parents,

In August, we kicked off our Spanish class by diving into colors and shapes. It was wonderful getting to know your children and seeing their excitement for learning. As we continue our lessons, I'm looking forward to watching them grow and develop their Spanish skills. Thank you for your support!

Let's have a great year!

Best wishes,  
Ms. Natalia Cardona

## MUSIC MS. MOTA

This month at school, we have centered our focus on solfege (Do, Re, Mi, etc.) These are the main building blocks for early musicians to begin reading music. We have used different methods to learn and memorize the notes-hand signs, songs, handbells, and our most important instrument... the voice! Our students grades 2nd -6th have enjoyed learning about the composers and instruments of the week, including Mozart, Bach, Duke Ellington and more! Next month, students will learn to differentiate the instrument families and how to classify them, along with learning even more new songs!

Best,  
Ms. Mota

## P.E. | COACH KARLA

Dear Parents,

I hope you're doing well! I wanted to let you know that in our upcoming P.E. classes, we'll be learning how to jump rope. Jumping rope is a fun way to exercise while improving balance and coordination. We'll start with simple techniques and gradually move on to more advanced tricks. I'll ensure that everyone learns the proper way to jump rope safely. I encourage you to try jumping rope with your child at home for some added fun. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out.

Thank you for your support!

Best regards,  
Coach Karla

# ENRICHMENT CLUBS

## BASKETBALL COACH CUEVAS

Hello Wildcats and Parents! Welcome Back!  
Basketball season is just around the corner! Practice will begin on September 9th, from 3:00 to 3:50 PM in the gym, on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. All students from Pre-K through 6th grade are welcome to join! If your child would like to participate, please inform the office, as there is a \$50 monthly enrichment fee. Students in 3rd through 6th grade are required to suit up for practice.

I'm excited to see many of you out on the basketball court, ready to shoot some hoops and have fun together as a team!

- Coach Cuevas



**WESTERN HILLS  
ACADEMY  
BASKETBALL TEAM**

WILDCATS BASKETBALL SEASON BEGINS SOON SIGN UP TO PARTICIPATE AND BE PART OF OUR TEAM TO LEARN AND HAVE FUN TOGETHER

**PREK-6TH GRADE CAN PARTICIPATE  
\$50 AFTER-SCHOOL ENRICHMENT FEE PER MONTH  
STUDENTS 3RD GRADE-6TH GRADE ARE  
EXPECTED TO SUIT OUT FOR PRACTICE  
SHORTS.EXTRA SHIRT. TENNIS SHOES ARE REQUIRED FOR  
PRACTICE. (3RD-6TH)  
BE READY TO RUN AND PLAY DONT FORGET YOUR WATER  
BOTTLE!**

**MON-WED 3:00-3:50 @ GYM**

Practice will begin September 9th sign up and let the office know to pay the fee! Any question feel free to send me a message on Family!  
Excited to start practicing and learning together a new sport!

#1

## THEATER MS. MOTA

The Western Hills Academy Theatre Club is having its first meeting on September 9th from 3-3:50 pm. The club is available for grades 2nd-6th from Mon.-Fri. This first month will focus on exploring the different emotions in a scene. Students will be creating their own sock puppets, showing off their personalities, and creating different scenes with them. I am so excited to work with all of you and begin preparations for the school play!

Best,  
Ms. Mota



**WESTERN HILLS  
ACADEMY**

**THEATRE  
CLUB**

WILDCATS THEATRE CLUB SEASON BEGINS SOON! SIGN UP AND BE PART OF OUR CAST

**MON-FRI 3:00-3:50**

- 2ND-6TH GRADE STUDENTS MAY PARTICIPATE
- \$75 AFTER SCHOOL ENRICHMENT FEE PER MONTH
- STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO COME IN READY TO ACT, SING AND MOST IMPORTANTLY HAVE FUN!

SIGN UP IN THE OFFICE