

# The Widener Partnership Charter School

## September 2019



## Welcome Back!!

The Widener Partnership Charter School is destined for amazing things for the 2019-2020 school year. The gifts and talents of our students combined with the dedication and passion of our staff allows us to strive for excellence. Excellence is not the result of a good intention or clever slogan. It is not a value that is easily achieved. It comes from a strong desire to improve how we do things when we see something we can do better.

This will be my second year as CEO/Principal of WPCS, and I am thrilled at the opportunity to continue getting to know all of you and engage in the educational process together. The elementary and middle school years are critical times of development for students and families alike, and I look forward to working with all of you to make this year successful. I am a lifelong educator who brings a firm commitment to students and families, as well as a love of learning and community engagement. I embrace the process of building lasting relationships with each and every member of the Widener community.

The Widener Partnership Charter School is dedicated to the growth and empowerment of our entire school community. The staff is committed to working collaboratively with you and with one another to provide results oriented instruction that focuses on the success and achievement of every WPCS student. **We are counting on each and every parent to partner with us to continue our work to raise the challenge bar and close the achievement gap.** Our shared mission is focused on the work we do together to encourage the social, emotional, and academic growth of all our students. Nothing motivates a child more than when learning is valued by schools, families, and communities in partnership.

As the leader of the school, I will be guiding our community through the work of embracing high expectations and creating a culture of excellence. We have a lot to be excited about as we continue our journey to overcome challenges and move our school towards greater heights of effectiveness.



**The building blocks  
of Learning:  
Educational, Social  
and Emotional  
development**



**Children do best in  
an environment  
which is  
interesting and  
where they feel  
loved and safe.**



**The Power of  
Creativity**

**Creativity=productivity  
and happiness!**

### Reminders for the month of September

Please make every effort to adhere to the WPCS Uniform requirements:

Boys	Girls
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grey Pleated Twill Pants</li> <li>• Maroon Short Sleeve or Long Sleeve Polo Shirt with WPCS Emblem</li> <li>• Heather Grey Crew Socks</li> <li>• Black or Brown Belt</li> <li>• <b>Black or Brown Shoes plain, no decoration, solid black or solid brown</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grey 4 Kick Pleated Skirt</li> <li>• Maroon Short Sleeve or Long Sleeve Polo Shirt with WPCS Emblem</li> <li>• Maroon Knee-High Socks/ Maroon Tights</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>OR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grey Pleated Twill Pants</li> <li>• Maroon Short Sleeve Polo Shirt w/ WPCS Emblem</li> <li>• Heather Grey Crew</li> <li>• Socks</li> <li>• Black or Brown Belt</li> <li>• <b>Black or Brown Shoes plain, no decoration, solid black or solid brown</b></li> </ul>

#### WPCS Health and Wellness Fair:

October 10, 2019 from 3:00pm to 5:30pm. Please make every effort to attend!

#### Technology User Agreement:

The Widener Partnership Charter School will be distributing the 2019-2020 Technology user agreement which outlines the school's cellphone and technology usage policy. It is expected that you will review this information with your child/children, sign and return the document ASAP. This information will be sent home with students on September 5, 2019.

#### WPCS Back to School Night:

Thursday, September 26, 2019:@ 6:00pm

## **12 Tips for a Successful School Year**

### **CREATIVITY**

“The only way to stay creative is to keep looking for challenges and devising innovative ways to meet them.”

**Tip 1.) Creativity develops over time, with the right kinds of learning opportunities, challenges, and supports.**

People are at their most creative when they're doing what they love to do. Help children harness that enjoyment by finding their own niches and experiential pleasures, and support them in following their interests as they change over time.

**Tip 2.) Resourcefulness furthers intellectual growth, and can spark inquisitiveness, reflection, and aspirations.**

Even a little resourcefulness can be the difference between complacency and ingenuity. Resources abound in different contexts, and through various kinds of experiences at school, home, in the community, online, and elsewhere. When kids are resourceful, what starts out as curiosity often evolves into strengths or qualities that they can develop, feel happy about, and share with others.

**Tip 3.) Co-create a comfort zone.**

Seek a time and place where others are available to offer reinforcement and encouragement, where momentum can build, and where moving forward is a positive occurrence. This positivity could arise from maximizing effort, setting and attaining reasonable goals, being spontaneous (or, conversely taking time), making mistakes but learning from them, and stretching boundaries.

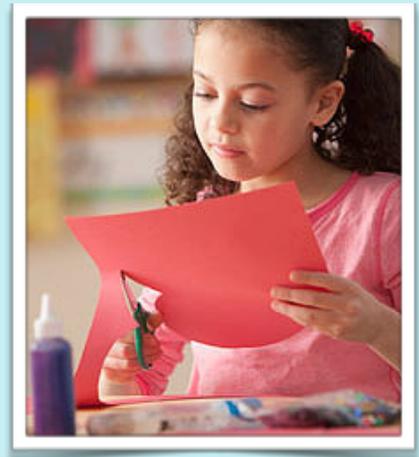
**Tip 4.) Help kids understand that creativity requires time and commitment, but it's worth it.**

Creativity derives from what is original, meaningful, and effortful. Creative expression is something people choose to nurture—it's an active decision—and this sometimes requires courage, determination, and conviction. Encourage kids to ask questions, get answers, think things through, be inventive, stay open-minded, and exercise patience. Parents can also talk about how their own accomplishments come about from investing creative energy.



## **THE POWER OF RELATIONSHIPS**

Relationships are the fuel for human development; they foster trust and belief, and are a buffer against stress. Children learn through modeling from and interaction with others, whether it be a parent, teacher, other adult or a peer. Current focus on student development rightly prioritizes the skills and knowledge that students must acquire, apply and then transfer to new contexts, yet this prioritization cannot eclipse the fact that relationships drive this learning and development.



## **PRODUCTIVITY**

**“Sometimes, we need others to reassure us that we’re capable, and that what we do is worth doing.”**

### **Tip 5.) Figure out what’s motivating.**

Maybe it’s challenge. Flexibility. Reassurance. Creative expression. Choice. Fun. Familiar routines. Incentives. Feelings of pride about personal progress. Or finding enjoyment in learning and achieving. The possibilities are endless, and they’ll differ from one person to the next. If something is personally relevant (that is, it connects meaningfully with the child’s life, interests, or vision for the future), that relevance can be very motivating.

### **Tip 6.) Consistency and routines matter.**

Children function best when there’s stability and guidance, and this is especially the case during challenge or times of transition. Sometimes behaviors or circumstances change or get “rocked,” and this can be hard for kids to manage. Help them get back into a pattern or routine so they feel at ease, and less pressured. They’ll be more inclined to move forward, and to use their productive energy.

### **Tip 7.) Listen to other people, observe, and consider how they tackle challenges and surmount obstacles.**

This is a good way to acquire information and knowledge, and it provides a base from which to build new understandings. When children interact, communicate, inquire, stretch their intellects, and share ideas, it comes together and serves to contribute to their learning and personal growth.

### **Tip 8.) Pay attention to skill sets.**

Some children and teens need new or better strategies for pacing, organization, time management, or self-regulation. Help them find solutions to the problems they may be facing. For example, homework-related issues might involve learning to use an agenda or study guide; finding a quiet and well-equipped workspace; removing distractions; collaborating with others; or developing more efficient ways of goal-setting and monitoring progress. Kids may also need assistance dealing with instructions, clarifying expectations, or breaking tasks down into smaller, manageable chunks.

## **WELL-BEING**

**“You can learn to define your own success, and the path you want to take to get there.... If you’re willing to challenge your understandings of success, and you don’t focus exclusively on big accomplishments, you’ll experience more successes—and greater confidence.”**

### **Tip 9.) Be aware.**

Pay attention to children’s reactions and behaviors (such as acting out, depression, aggression, procrastination, arrogance, or introversion). Parents who are attuned to their children, and aware of what they’re up to—and with whom—are better positioned to help them respond to challenges, and any emotional upheavals.

### **Tip 10.) Help kids recognize what underlies their feelings.**

Emotions might include fear, guilt, joy, embarrassment, jealousy, confusion, disgust, grief, hope, frustration... Encourage children to name and acknowledge what they're feeling in order to gain self-awareness. They may want to choose the time or place. Some children find it difficult to put feelings into words, so be prepared to help them with that. Drawing, journaling, or storytelling can be beneficial for children.

**Tip 11.) Convey pride.**

Celebrate the small successes as well as the bigger ones. Show that you believe in children's ability to succeed. This will help build their self-confidence and optimism, so they'll feel good about themselves, and be better prepared to tackle life's ups and downs.

**Tip 12.) As children mature, encourage them to take stock of themselves from time to time, to reflect upon and become accountable for their actions.**

Help kids make time for what really matters. This includes being gracious and increasingly mindful of others, and working hard. Integrity, confidence, forgiveness, and empathy enable kids to become caring and competent adults. Parents can model and share the importance of this—focusing on becoming better, stronger, and kinder people, and empowering children to do likewise.