



# It's almost that time!

August 9, 2013

Dear Ware Families,

With only a few weeks of summer remaining, I hope you have had time to share with family, enjoy vacations, and relax. As you can imagine, we have been a busy place. In between vacations ourselves, the Ware "summer crew" has been busy getting our building clean and ready, reflecting on the successes of last year and planning for a new school year. We are looking forward to an exciting year full of possibilities.

Ware Elementary Schools begins the 2013-2014 school-year with much anticipation and a clear focus on instructional excellence and student learning. We welcome you to our **learning community**...students, parents, staff and community members...focusing on *learning for all students*. Our goal is to provide engaging, meaningful and challenging learning activities that allow every child to grow intellectually, socially, emotionally and physically.

In a few weeks, our journey begins with excitement and maybe some jitters that come with new adventures. There is nothing like the fresh start that a new school year brings! I'm excited to be a part of the Ware family and working with you as a partner in your child's education. Open House, set for August 19, will provide you with an opportunity to meet staff members. Our instructional teams have already been planning for the first day of school and are excited about the possibilities that this school year brings. Our goal in this process is to maximize the learning opportunities for each child. Student placement in classrooms is a team effort and our Ware team has spent many hours and put much professional thought and effort into each placement as we build our Ware learning community. Parents may begin calling the school office at 332-3938 on Wednesday, August 14, 2013 for information on teacher placement. We look forward to having your family at Ware Elementary School, a learning community for all children! Enjoy the remainder of the summer.

Sincerely,

Sharon H. Barker  
Principal

# Ware Elementary, A Community of Learning

## Ware Elementary Welcome Back News and Information

We are excited about the upcoming school year. A variety of information is included here to help us with a smooth start.



**OPEN HOUSE:** Staunton City Schools has scheduled Open House so that families with children at more than one school can attend at each school. The schedule is as follows:

Wednesday, August 14, 2013	5:30 pm	Pre-School
	6:00 pm	9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Orientation
Thursday, August 15, 2013	6:00 pm	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Orientation
	6:00 pm	Lee High (Grades 10-12)
Monday, August 19, 2013	5:30 pm	<b>All elementary schools (1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grades only)</b>
	6:30 pm	Shelburne (7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> grades only)
Thursday, August 22, 2013	6:00 pm	<b>Kindergarten Meet Your Teacher at each elementary school</b>

### FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL:

Wednesday, August 21, 2013 for grades 1-12  
Monday, August 26, 2013 for Kindergarten



### DAILY SCHEDULE:

**MORNING:** 8:10 Doors are open.

All students eating breakfast go to the cafeteria upon arrival. All other students report to their classrooms upon arrival. Students are encouraged to unpack, organize for the day and take advantage of independent reading time.

8:30 First bell rings

8:35 Instructional day begins, tardy bell

**Students who arrive after the tardy bell must be accompanied into the office by an adult and signed in to school. This procedure is in place to protect student safety.**

**AFTERNOON:** Car riders and walkers start dismissing at 3:25pm. If you choose to park and walk inside of the school to pick up your child, please go directly to the cafeteria and wait for your child. We ask that you wait in the cafeteria until all car riders have passed through prior to leaving. While this may take approximately 5 minutes, this is done for student safety. We appreciate your understanding and assistance in making sure that all of our students are getting home safely.

If you are picking your child up through the car line, please note that the first few days are *always* the busiest. It will take our staff some time to learn new faces, new cars and streamline this process. Within a few weeks of school we will have our system down-pat and dismissal will go much faster—we promise! Please bear with

us~~especially the first few days. Again, your patience and understanding will be greatly appreciated.

Bus riders will be dismissed from classrooms at 3:30pm. Please note that our bus drivers have been practicing and timing their routes during the summer. However, with last minute transportation changes and new faces to learn, the first few days of school may find the driver running slightly behind as they check and double check student names and addresses. Our bus drivers know they are carrying precious cargo and are taking all precautions to make sure that students arrive home safely.



#### CAR RIDERS:

- Morning: Drop your child off on the side of the school, near the cafeteria. Traffic should flow through the parking lot and students may exit their car in front of the staff members on duty.
- NO CARS are allowed to drop children off in the front of the school during morning and afternoon bus activity. While we realize this is sometimes easiest, our intent is to insure everyone's safety. At times, Staunton City Police patrol the area, monitoring bus safety and compliance with laws regarding stopped buses. We appreciate your help in following the procedures.
- Afternoon: Pick up procedures follow a similar routine as morning drop off plan. Staff will be on duty to help insure every child's safety. Should parents wish to park and walk to pick up their child, they may park in the lower lot between Ware and Shelburne.

We recognize that circumstances happen that oftentimes necessitate a change in your child's transportation home. Our office staff works hard to make sure that classroom teacher is aware of such changes. **Should you find that your child needs a change in their evening transportation, please notify the office no later than 2:45 pm.**



#### VISITING THE SCHOOL:

- We welcome you to visit or volunteer in the school. Please stop by the office and sign in using Identi-Kid. The Identi-Kid system will issue you a visitor's badge with your photo.
- If you need to pick your child up before 3:30, please stop by the office and sign them out.



#### KINDERGARTEN INFORMATION:

- All Kindergarten students must be registered to attend school, which includes:
  1. A physical exam within a year of the beginning of school.
  2. All shots (immunizations) must be up to date. Proof of the immunizations, signed by a physician, must be provided to the school.
  3. Social Security number and birth certificate number
  4. Proof of city residency such as a household bill or lease.
- Kindergarten fee - \$27 (covers snack fee)



### CAFETERIA MEAL PRICES:

#### Breakfast

Full \$1.10  
Adult \$1.65  
Reduced \$0.30

#### Lunch

Full \$2.20  
Adult \$3.10  
Reduced \$0.40

Milk \$0.50



### VOLUNTEERING:

We welcome parents to join us in the school. If you can lend a hand in any way, we would love to have you join us! Call us at 332-3938.



### P.T.A. ASSOCIATION:

The PTA encourages every parent and staff member to join the association. PTA supports instructional needs through fundraisers, donations, and volunteers, sponsors family fun nights and other activities, and is an integral component of our learning community. Please check our school web-site for meeting dates and times. We hope you can attend if your schedule allows.

Again, welcome to Ware Elementary...A Community of Learners!