

Student Handbook



W I L D L I G H T
TRAILBLAZERS

WILDLIGHT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Message from Administration

Dear Students, Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to the 2025-2026 school year at Wildlight Elementary! We're thrilled that your child will be with us this year. We believe you will find our school to be a positive, learning-centered environment with an exceptional and dedicated faculty and staff. This handbook is designed to provide information regarding the school policy and procedures of both the Nassau County School District and Wildlight Elementary School. Please contact our Front Office (904-225-3053) if we can help clarify or interpret any of the information. We would also like to take this opportunity to encourage you to become involved in your child's education. Reading and assisting your child with homework every night is a great way to support our educational program and sends a powerful message to children about the value of school. Also, consider getting involved as a volunteer, as a member of the Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO), or by serving on the School Advisory Council (SAC). On behalf of the faculty and staff, we welcome you and your child to our school family and are looking forward to a successful rewarding year where we are Blazing a Trail of Excellence!

In education,

Sarah Ray, Principal

Michelle Chambers, Assistant Principal

Lilley Green, Assistant Principal

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Wildlight Elementary School is to embrace diversity and create a community of risk-taking, self-motivated learners who will reach their full potential academically, socially, and developmentally in a safe and nurturing learning environment.

BELIEF STATEMENTS

1. We believe that every student should have the opportunity to develop to their maximum potential in an emotionally and physically safe environment.
2. We believe all children should be given the opportunity to become successful learners, developing strength of character which is essential to making quality life choices.
3. We believe that the staff should encourage the students to take pride in their work and their school, accept responsibility for their actions, and develop effective relationships through mutual respect, trust, and communication.
4. We believe the school, the family, and the community should work together to maximize student achievement and moral development.
5. We believe that student achievement directly relates to the number and variety of quality experiences to which students are exposed and that the higher the expectations, the higher the performance.
6. We believe in teaching students the skills which will enable them to become lifelong learners, excelling in a changing society.

MOMENT OF SILENCE - In accordance with HB 529, each Nassau County School shall require teachers in first period classrooms in all grades to provide one minute for a moment of silence during which students may not interfere with other students' participation. A teacher may not make suggestions as to the nature of any reflection that a student may engage in during the moment of silence.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / PATRIOTIC PROGRAMS - According to Nassau County Administrative rules, the Pledge of Allegiance is recited on a daily basis at Wildlight Elementary School. Please know that House Bill 7029 authorizes student rights to not recite the Pledge of Allegiance should this be the desire of the student or family. Please contact the school should you desire to have your child opt out of the pledge or patriotic experiences at WES.

FISCAL TRANSPARENCY -According to House Bill 7029, parents have the right to a report card about the school grade, including a school financial report that indicates the average amount of money expended per student in the school. Once this report is released, WES will send a copy home with your student. By signing the "Handbook Acknowledgement" form, you are signifying that you will let the school know if you do not receive this information so that we can send you another copy in a timely manner.

To the knowledge of the Administration and Staff, there are no rules in this brochure which are contrary and not in complete accord and agreement with the policies of Nassau County School Board and the Florida State Board of Education. If there should be a difference in the policies adopted herein or in the manner of stating such policies herein when compared with the policies of the Nassau County School Board, then the latter shall prevail.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

1. **Expect Respect:** Students are expected to demonstrate courtesy and respect to faculty members, staff members, and guests on the school campus and at any school activity.
2. **Peaceful Problem Solving:** Fighting or aggressive behavior towards others is prohibited at Wildlight Elementary School.
3. **Take Pride in Our School:** Students must take care of school property and any student who destroys or defaces school property will be held responsible for restoration of that property. Parents will be expected to make financial restitution.
4. **Food Items (food, candy, nuts, etc.):** Students shall not sell food items at school during the regular school day to conform to federal guidelines governing our school lunch program. This is not intended to prevent students from selling such items after school hours for fund-raising purposes.

5. **Respect toward School Board Employees:** Students are expected to follow directions given by those in authority.
6. **Chewing Gum:** Students shall not chew gum on school grounds.
7. **Weapons, Explosives, or Facsimiles:** Students are forbidden from bringing weapons, explosives, or facsimiles on school grounds or to school events. Any such item will be confiscated and student is subject to suspension. Any student inflicting injury upon another student with any weapon may be referred to the School Board for expulsion from school.
8. **Choose Kindness:** Students are expected to refrain from using profanity, obscene, or abusive language at school or at any school functions.
9. **Walk on Campus:** Students shall walk at all times in the school and on school grounds. (Physical Education and recess excluded.) Students are expected to move in a quiet and orderly manner.
10. **Toys:** TOYS, VIDEO GAMES, ELECTRONIC DEVICES, BATS, BALLS, DOLLS, TRADING CARDS, ETC. are NOT allowed at school. These items will be confiscated if detected and must be picked up by a parent or guardian upon notification. The school will not be responsible for the loss or damage of items brought to school in violation of school policy.
11. **Punctuality:** Students are expected to report to class on time. Students may not be allowed to make up work due to unexcused tardies or early dismissal.
12. **Student Supervision:** Students shall remain in designated areas with proper teacher supervision at all times.
13. **Flowers, Plants, Balloons, etc.:** No deliveries of any kind will be accepted for students.
14. **Back Packs:** Rolling back packs are not permitted. Rolling back packs will be confiscated and parents will be required to pick them up.
15. **Umbrellas:** Students shall not bring umbrellas to school. Please use ponchos or rain coats in inclement weather.
16. **Wireless communication devices:** Students shall not use said devices during regular school hours. All devices must be TURNED OFF and stored in the student's backpack throughout the school day, not on their person. Smart watches may not be used for communication purposes while on school grounds or field trips.
17. **Tobacco products, alcohol or drugs:** Students shall not be under the influence or in possession of tobacco (including chewing tobacco and vape pens/e-cigarettes), alcohol or drugs.
18. **General Code of Appearance:** Students must adhere to the dress code.

CONSEQUENCES:

Students who violate the above rules are subject to disciplinary action ranging from parent contact, timeout, in-school detention, out-of-school suspension to expulsion. Repetitive infractions will result in a more serious consequence.

SCHOOL TELEPHONE

The school telephone is for school business or in case of an emergency. Arrangements for alternative rides, visiting friends, field trips or lunch must be taken care of at home. Students will not be called from class to the phone. A message from the parent or guardian will be taken and delivered at the end of the day in order to minimize interruptions to our classrooms.

STUDENT DISMISSAL

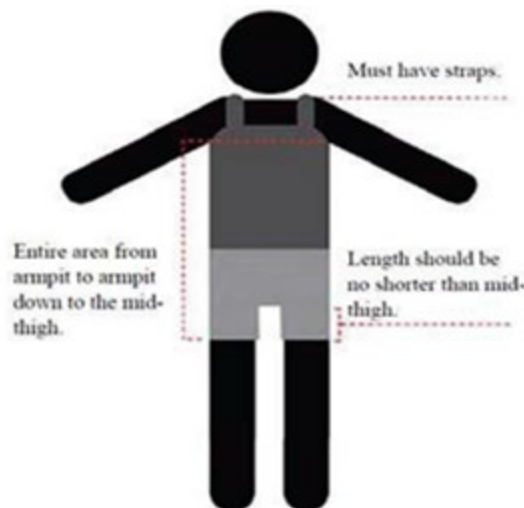
When dismissed, students should go immediately and directly home. All requests to ride an alternative bus or to be picked up must be approved by the principal and teachers should be notified. The student must have a note signed by their parent or guardian to go home any alternative way. These notes should be given to the teacher to be brought to the office first thing in the morning for approval. Only persons listed on the emergency card may pick up a student from school in the event of an emergency. Any other time a note must be presented from the parent/guardian for anyone to pick up a student. Please be prepared to scan your Driver's License into our Raptor System. No students shall be dismissed without clearance through the front office.

DRESS CODE

Students shall report to school in proper dress which will include the following:

1. Students shall wear shoes at all times. **Shoes shall have closed heels, backs, or straps.**
2. Students' pants shall be worn at the waist and pants may not have **holes, rips or tears above the knee.**
3. Students shall be permitted to wear shorts that are of appropriate length (**mid-thigh**). Short or extremely tight shorts or skirts are not appropriate.
4. All students shall wear full cover shirts or blouses. Shirts must cover midriff area and **may not have spaghetti or thin straps.** NO full cut tank tops or see through clothing.
5. Cut off T-shirts or T-shirts displaying profanity or inappropriate material may not be worn at school.
6. Students shall refrain from wearing distracting jewelry, body piercings, or cutting or dyeing hair in a manner that will be a distraction to the learning environment.
7. No cleats or wheeled shoes may be worn to school.
8. No caps, hats, scarves, or bandanas shall be worn at school unless deemed necessary by medical professional, for religious reasons, or due to a special dress up day or reward.
9. Students shall dress appropriately for activities on P.E. day.
10. Pajamas are not acceptable school attire, unless it is a designated PJ day.

Parents will be contacted to bring proper clothing if clothing is not appropriate. Please refer to Nassau County Code of Conduct -Elementary for a more extensive explanation of the Dress Code.



FIELD TRIPS

Field trips provide students with educational hands-on learning experiences. Please take notice that field trip forms must be correctly completed and returned with money by the deadline. **Field trip deadlines are strictly adhered to.** Please return forms early to eliminate last minute problems that may prevent a student from attending a field trip. New students will have one week from their enrollment date to provide field trip forms and money if it is possible for us to make necessary arrangements to include them. **No refunds will be given, due to bookkeeping procedures and the necessity for advance arrangements for ticket purchases and transportation contracts. If tickets are still valid, they will be given to students that are unable to participate. Many tickets are for the specific day of purchase only.**

Students must maintain a conduct grade of a C or higher to be eligible for a field trip.

All students are required to travel to and from school field trips with the school group. Chaperones must be 21 years of age or older. No siblings or other children may accompany a chaperone on a school field trip. Chaperones will be required to ride on the bus unless space prohibits. Chaperones are to wear appropriate modest attire and must supervise students at all times.

SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS

We appreciate our volunteers greatly! All volunteers must sign in at the front office and wear a volunteer badge while on campus. Please be sure to obtain a new badge for each visit to campus. Volunteers must be prearranged/scheduled with the classroom teacher. To provide our students with a safe and wholesome learning environment, volunteers are expected to dress modestly and conduct self with proper decorum at all times. **Siblings or other children may not accompany parents who are volunteering, regardless of age.**

DAILY ROUTINE

7:30 -Students permitted on campus
7:50 - Tardy Bell Rings
2:05 - Dismissal Bell

- No students should be at school before 7:30. There is no supervision of students prior to this time.
- If your child arrives after 7:50 you will need to park and come into the office to sign in your student.
- Please do not pick your child up before 2:05 except in extenuating circumstances. This minimizes disturbances in our classrooms and provides the optimum learning time.

PICK UP PROCEDURES

All students being picked up in the afternoon shall be picked up in the designated pick up zones in front of the school. You must display your school hanging pickup tag in the window or you will be required to go to the office to show ID. This will expedite the loading of students and provide a safe environment for students. No student shall be called up for early dismissal after 1:30 **After 1:30, ALL students must be picked up in the pick up line.**

If a student is deemed a “walker”, 1st-5th will be escorted across the crosswalk by school personnel and Kindergarten students will be picked up outside the café doors. It is the family’s responsibility to ensure that the child knows who will be meeting them there or if they are to walk home by themselves.

ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION

All medications must be prescription drugs contained in the original bottle from the pharmacy. The proper form must be completed by the parent and submitted to the office **before** any medication can be administered. Parents are responsible for delivery and pick-up of all medication. Students should not bring medication on the bus. **NO** over the counter medications can be brought to school by students

ATTENDANCE, ABSENCES, AND TRUANCY

1. Regular attendance of the student is required by Florida School Law and is the responsibility of the parent or guardian. Regular attendance is defined as attending school for the full day of each day during which school is in session. (1003.21—1003.27)
2. **A Written Explanation is Required for EACH Absence.** The parent is responsible for submitting a written explanation when a student returns to school from an absence within 48 hours of the student returning to campus, or the absence will be unexcused regardless of reason.
 - A) Parent or doctor’s notes for absences up to fifteen (15) **days** will be excused for illness of the student or death in the family.
 - B) Absences in excess of fifteen (15) days will be excused only if a doctor’s note is provided.

More Than Ten (18) Absences In A School Year May Result In Retention Since Regular Attendance Is A Promotion Criterion.

3. Students having more than ten (10) unexcused absences in a school year will have their cases reviewed by a school committee. After reviewing the evidence required in 2 A and B above, and providing parents an opportunity for explanation, the committee will determine whether to grant an exception to the ten (10) day rule.
4. A student who has had at least five (5) unexcused absences within a calendar month, or ten (10) unexcused absences within a ninety (90)-calendar day period, will be declared a truant. The superintendent may take such steps as necessary to bring criminal prosecution against the parent, guardian, or other person having control.
5. Students shall be excused from an examination, study, or work assignments for observance of a religious holiday or because the tenets of his/her religion forbid secular activity at such time. The school principal shall implement this provision on an individual basis pursuant to Section 1003.21 (2)b. No adverse or prejudicial effects shall result to any student who avails himself/herself to the provisions of this rule.
6. **Students must arrive by 11:15 to be counted present for the day.** Students checked out prior to 11:15 or signed in after 11:15 will be marked absent for the day.

MAKE UP WORK

The responsibility of making arrangements for make up work and for the completion rests solely upon the STUDENT AND PARENT. STUDENT AND PARENTS MUST ARRANGE TO MAKE UP WORK WITHIN FIVE (5) SCHOOL DAYS AFTER RETURNING TO SCHOOL. These arrangements need to take place before or after school so it does not disturb the regular school day. Students may not be allowed to make up work due to excessive tardies or early dismissals.

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

For your child's protection, everyone must check in the office before entering campus. No visits may be made to talk with the teacher during class time. (7:50—2:05) You may call and leave a message on the teacher's voicemail, e-mail, or via FOCUS etc. Appointments to meet with the teacher can be made for after school hours by contacting the teacher. All projects or items for classes are to be sent in with students or dropped off at the front office.

TEXTBOOKS

Textbooks are the property of Nassau County School Board and are loaned to pupils attending Wildlight Elementary. Parents or guardians of the student are liable for any loss, destruction or damage to these materials or for failure of the student to return the materials.

IN THE EVENT THAT A TEXTBOOK IS LOST OR DAMAGED, THE PARENT MUST PAY THE FULL REPLACEMENT COST OF THE BOOK BEFORE ANOTHER BOOK CAN BE ISSUED.

REPORT CARDS AND PROGRESS REPORTS

Grading Scale:

A= 90-100	Outstanding		
B= 80-89	Above Average		
C= 70-79	Average		
D= 60-69	Lowest Acceptable Progress	F= 59 or below	Failure
E= 90-100	Excellent		
S=70-89	Satisfactory		
N=60-69	Needs Improvement		
U= 0-59	Unsatisfactory		

Progress Reports will be provided after the first 22 days in a nine week period. Report Cards are given out each nine weeks. Parents may check student progress at any time on the FOCUS website: <https://focus.nassau.k12.fl.us/focus/> Please feel free to contact your child's teacher concerning your child's performance in school. You may contact the school to make an appointment.

WILDLIGHT ELEMENTARY (904) 225-3053

HONOR ROLL/AWARDS

Student may qualify for honor roll each nine weeks by maintaining all A's and B's as well as excellent or satisfactory in all other areas. Students may also earn a variety of other awards, including the citizenship award, AR Award, "BUG" Award for bringing up 3 grades a whole letter grade each, and Perfect Attendance.

DISCIPLINE CLASSROOM

Disruptive behavior in the classroom will not be tolerated, especially if this behavior is at the expense of other children learning or being safe. Cooperative discipline techniques will be used at our school to help students choose and maintain appropriate behaviors. If these interventions do not succeed, the student will be sent to the office with the intervention form and action will be taken by the administration. This action may include but not be limited to parental notification, detention, in-school suspension and/or out of school suspension.

BUS

The same policy governing a student's classroom behavior is applicable to the student's behavior on the bus. Any student misbehaving on the school bus may be suspended from riding the bus, but is still required to attend school. Riding the bus is a privilege, not a right. Students are to ride the bus to which they have been assigned. Only in an emergency is this changed and a note from home is required

LUNCHROOM

For the 25-26 school year, universal free lunch will no longer be offered to all students. We encourage ALL families to apply for Free and Reduced Lunch via the link on the district website www.nassau.k12.fl.us. Also, please sign up for LINQ CONNECT at www.LINQConnect.com to deposit money directly into your student's lunch account. We encourage you to deposit as much money as possible at one time to make it easier for you and your child. If there are any previous lunchroom debts, now is a great time to take care of them. If you wish to allow your child to buy extra food items, this will be deducted from the meal account. The prices of extra items depends on the item purchased. If you do not wish for your child to buy extra food items, please notify the food service manager. If you have any questions regarding your child's lunch account, please contact the cafeteria manager.

Meal prices are as follows:

\$1.75 for breakfast and \$3.00 for lunch

Reduced price is \$.30 for breakfast and \$.40 for lunch

TITLE I

We encourage all of our families to complete the Free and Reduced Lunch Application. In addition to our school receiving federal dollars based on the percentage of students who qualify, families also receive benefits as well. You may be eligible to receive internet discounts and reduced summer camp fees at participating locations. You may complete a paper application (sent with the back to school paperwork or you can pick one up in the front office) or an online application via our district website.

www.nassau.k12.fl.us

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- All school rules and regulations pertain to extra-curricular activities and/or trips.
- All rules specific to any extra-curricular activity will be consistently and uniformly applied.
- Students must be counted present for the school day to participate in any extra-curricular activity.
- Student absenteeism and tardiness is a consideration for student's participation in extracurricular activities.
- Please read and discuss these rules and regulations with your child.

PARENT/TEACHER COMMUNICATION

Teachers will maintain regular contact with parents via school approved methods of communication (email or FOCUS). Weekly student work and newsletters shall be utilized to inform parents of student / classroom progress. Parent Communication folders will be sent home daily with our K-2 students, and weekly with our 3-5 students. Please check the folder for student work, conduct information, and other important notification from the school. Check/sign folders each night.

WITHHOLDING DIRECTORY INFORMATION

Legal guardians have the right to request withholding of any cumulative record information for a student enrolled in Nassau County Schools. To withhold student information, please request a form from the school, complete the form, and return the form to the school ASAP. The signed form will be placed in your child's cumulative record. Such forms are valid for one school year only.

The Nassau County Elementary Code of Student Conduct is available in its entirety at

www.nassau.k12.fl.us.

The School Board of Nassau County policy 2.31 prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, age, gender, religion, nation or ethnic origin, genetic information, sexual orientation, disability, political or religious beliefs, or marital status against student or employee in the state system of public education.

Information may be found on the district website at www.nassau.k12.fl.us or may be obtained by calling 904-491-9888.

www.nassau.k12.fl.us/we