

# The Panther Piece

September-October Edition

2021-2022

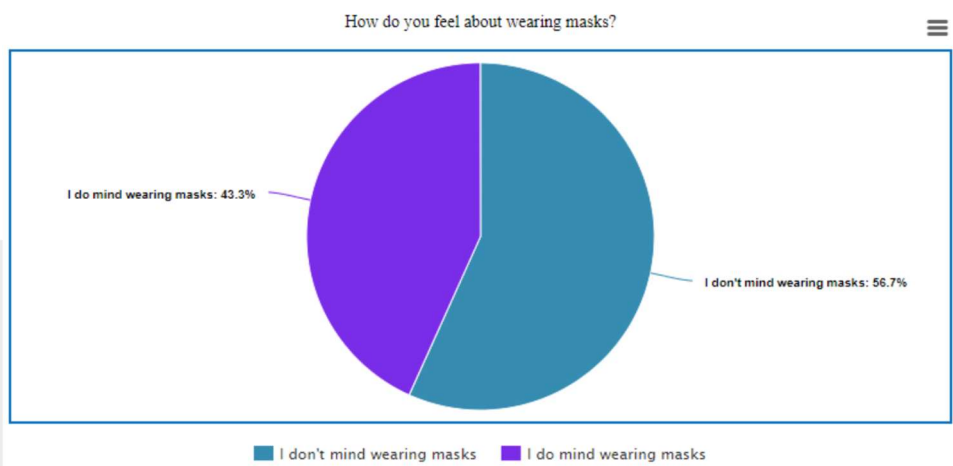
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## SEPTEMBER NEWS

We are pleased to announce that Westpine has gotten their iPads from the Verizon Innovative Learning Schools (VILS) program. The Verizon program will benefit this school in so many ways. Our school principal, Mr. Johnson, says that “A lot of kids think that everyone has Wi-Fi at home. But that is not true. Many families are living below the poverty line.” From this program, many students who may not have access to Wi-Fi at home will now be able to work productively. However, keep in mind, that the students must take care of and charge their iPads.

There have been several Covid cases taking place here at the school. Our school principal says, “It’s not only the positive cases but it’s the exposers. We not only have to deal with the positive Covid cases, but the people they were around, so this is why we have more students going off campus.” Some of the students are asymptomatic; this is a problem because they are spreading the virus without even knowing it. As a result, many students have been quarantined and taken home by their parents. Students should take precautions and wear their masks. We did a student survey to see what the students thought about wearing masks (*See graphic below*).



*Caption: This graph shows how the students feel about wearing masks*

## SCHOOL SPIRIT!

To bring back school spirit, the administration has decided to run a door decorating contest in all 1st period classes. “The theme is Panther Pride.” The winning class wins a pizza party, as for 2nd and 3rd place, they will win a donut party. Go Panthers! On that note, clubs are in session. The soccer, basketball and volleyball teams have started, so get your athletic packets in! Halloween is near. We have conducted a survey about who will be participating in Halloween this year. Although most students say that they will not be celebrating this year.



# October News

To all you students struggling with schoolwork, ASK BRIA is a helpful tool for all students. It is a free homework and tutor service. It is available after school four days a week (Monday-Thursday). Students in grades 6-12 will be able to get help from ASK BRIA from 3:30 to 8:30 p.m. It can be found by finding a link in Canvas and clicking it. Remember to have your Microsoft TEAMS account open.

Westpine Middle School is a Social Emotional Learning (SEL) school. As part of this initiative, during the first 10 minutes of class each day, students participate in a mandatory moment of silence. Most teachers have a SEL corner in their classroom for students to take a breather and relax their mind, while others have activities for SEL. Remember to always take breaks and put your mental health first!

Students make sure to always be in dress code. The school uniform being gray, black, white, and burgundy shirts with collars or approved Westpine T-shirts, along with jeans with no rips above the knees, and make sure your shorts are school appropriate. The colors for bottoms are khaki, navy, or black solid cotton twill to be appropriate. Pants must be secured at the waist, and no head coverings unless for religious reasons. No bedroom slippers or unsupportive footwear are allowed. We dress appropriately here at Westpine Panthers.

Our school, Westpine Middle has tons of sports and clubs for you to try out for. Join Soccer, volleyball, basketball, golf, cheerleading, cross country, E-sports club or Be the Change club. Be the Change club's mission is to "create a positive, loving and judgement-free space for everyone to be themselves, spread love, and make lifelong friends in the process."

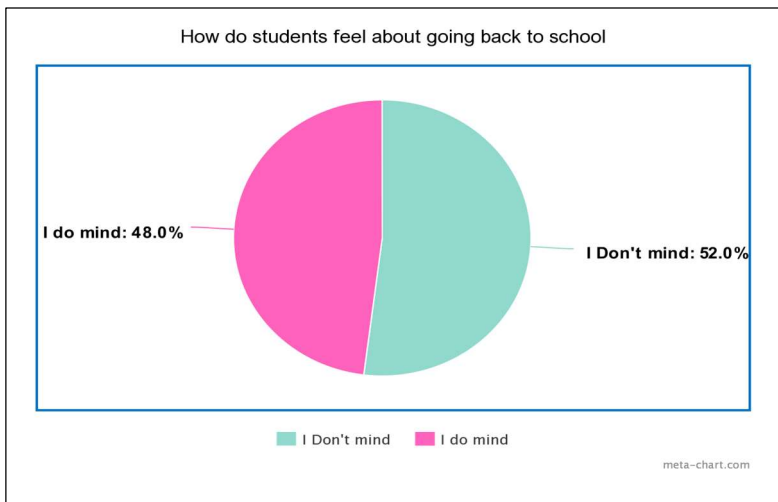
## Westpine's Mission

"Our mission is to shape the ideal middle school with student's to be equipped with critical thinking, problem-solving, and adaptability skills that will prepare them for a variety of academic and life challenges."



Hispanic Heritage Month started on September 15th and ended on October 15th . We celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month to honor the accomplishments and efforts of the Hispanic people and countries. In addition, we celebrate this month for their history and culture. Students should recognize Hispanic cultures and traditions as a part of our society.

Many students feel like coming back to school is a mistake, while on the other hand many students miss socializing instead of being confined in a house all day. Here are some of the students answers to the question... How do you feel about coming back to school? An anonymous student, answered, “I didn’t want to come back because of Covid. I don’t want to risk it”, and another said, “I was very estatic to come back because I get very easily bored.” We did a student survey on how students felt about coming to school.



*Caption: This graph shows how the students of westpine feel about coming back to school*

## UPCOMING EVENTS!

Book Fair - November 1<sup>st</sup> to November 5<sup>th</sup>

Westpine Middle vs Dillard Panthers Basketball Game - November 1<sup>st</sup>

Westpine panther’s vs Bair October 28<sup>th</sup>

Red Ribbon Week begins October 25<sup>th</sup>

Turn Your Back on Drugs Day - October 26<sup>th</sup>

Wack at Drugs Day - October 27<sup>th</sup>

Wear Red Day - October 28<sup>th</sup>

The School Improvement Plan (SIP) provides a mechanism for identifying needs and establishing a common approach to meeting those needs at the school level. School Improvement is based on a continuous improvement model using research-based accepted best practices. The job of the school improvement team is to lead the development of a school improvement plan that addresses student achievement needs, to monitor the implementation of the plan, and to revise it when appropriate. The plan can be found at [www.browardschools.com/westpine](http://www.browardschools.com/westpine)

