

IN | SIGHT

FALL | 2026

A Newsletter from Bishop John T. Walker School for Boys | EDUCATION IS THE DOOR TO OPPORTUNITY

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Community

A COMMUNITY WELCOME TO A NEW SCHOOL YEAR!

Each year, Bishop Walker School begins with a celebration. Families, faculty, staff, board members, and community friends gather to welcome our scholars as they arrive for the first day of school. For returning boys, it is a joyful reunion. For new students, especially our kindergarten class, it is their first experience of our school community ready to cheer them on.



This warm community welcome is intentional. We want every scholar to begin the year knowing that there are many people who are committed to his education and growth. The smiles, greetings, and applause are an early expression of how the Bishop Walker School Village supports each boy throughout his journey.

Dr. Arrington greets kindergarten students on the first day of school









WHAT'S NEW AT BWS

New colleagues and familiar faces step into important roles for the year ahead.

WHAT'S NEW



MS. EDWARDS

Fourth Grade Lead Teacher
Fourth and Fifth Grade ELA Teacher

Ms. Ashanti Edwards joins BWS as the fourth- and fifth-grade ELA teacher. Raised in Ward 8, she holds a Bachelor of Arts in political science from McDaniel College and brings 10 years of classroom experience. She is committed to serving her community, building relationships with families, and creating an engaging learning environment.



MS. FOSTER

Finance and Operations Manager

Ebony Foster is a finance and operations professional with over 14 years of experience in accounting and financial management. She holds an MBA from the University of Phoenix and a bachelor's degree in marketing from Johnson & Wales University, with recent training in project management and process improvement.



MR. NEWSOME, JR.

Fifth Grade Lead Teacher and Math Coordinator (All Grades)
Fourth and Fifth Grade Math Teacher

Mr. Marvin Newsome, Jr. is an elementary math educator who uses data-informed teaching and differentiated strategies to strengthen achievement, critical thinking, and confidence. He holds a bachelor's degree in public relations with a minor in graphic communication from Florida A&M University and serves as BWS's fifth-grade lead teacher, fourth- and fifth-grade math teacher, and the math coordinator for all grades.



MR. ODULATE

Director of Academics and Achievement

Our former fifth-grade teacher and longtime BWS community member, Mr. Odulate, brings classroom experience and a strong understanding of our scholars to his role as Director of Academics and Achievement. He holds degrees from Bowdoin College and the University of Pennsylvania and guides curriculum, strengthens instruction, and supports student learning across grade levels.

BLESSINGS FOR THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR

Evensong: A Service of Evening Prayer







On October 6, the BWS community gathered at Washington National Cathedral for Evensong, our annual service of evening prayer. Together, we prayed for our scholars, their families, faculty and staff, and the school year ahead. This tradition renews our shared commitment to supporting the education and growth of each scholar.

During the service, our scholars served as scripture readers, and the BWS choir lifted their voices in song. New Governing Board members were formally commissioned, affirming their commitment to the school's mission, and Dr. Arrington, in her homily, reflected on the community we intentionally create at BWS, grounded in a distinct, divine purpose.



Bishop Mariann Budde commissioned new board members and offered a blessing for our community and the year ahead.



Board Chair Liz Brown and Laura Steuart during Board commissioning



NEW BOARD CHAIR!

LIZ BROWN

After many years of service on the Bishop Walker School Governing Board, Liz Brown has stepped into the role of board chair this year. She is the executive director of the Richard Lounsbery Foundation and brings extensive experience in nonprofit development, foundation leadership, volunteer service, and longstanding support of BWS.

WELCOME NEW GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS

- Grace Speights
- Laura Steuart
- The Hon. James E. Boasberg
- Jeffrey Wright

STARTING THE YEAR WITH A STORY!

BWS Welcomes Wade Hudson

Literacy



The BWS library began the school year by bringing a story to life for our scholars. During our first author visit of the year, Wade Hudson, an award-winning author, publisher, and co-founder of the publishing company Just Us Books, shared his journey as a writer and presented his book, *Black Boys, I See You*.



The visit reflects what we want our library to be: a place where boys see themselves in books, meet the people who create them, and grow as readers. Thank you to our Library Literacy Specialist, Dr. Jae, for making these experiences possible.

To learn more about what's happening in our library, visit our online Biblioblog: bishopwalkerschool.org/blog



Every scholar received a signed copy!

POETRY AND SOCCER

How Sports and Literature Go Hand in Hand



Our K.I.N.G.S. and coaches celebrate their first win of the season!



BWS fourth- and fifth-grade scholars with Gonzaga students during their Langston Hughes-inspired walking tour.

This fall, fourth- and fifth-grade scholars are strengthening both their voices and their teamwork through soccer and poetry.

As part of DC SCORES, a youth program that blends athletics with the arts, students develop discipline and collaboration on the field while building creativity through writing and spoken-word performance off the field.



Beyond DC SCORES, scholars continued exploring poetry through workshops with Mr. Joseph Ross, a Gonzaga College High School teacher whose ongoing partnership brings BWS and Gonzaga students together through literature. During a recent Langston Hughes-inspired walking tour through D.C., the boys wrote poems about their favorite places with Gonzaga students and shared their work with the group.

Experiences like these help scholars connect poetry to their own lives and build confidence in expressing their ideas.

BISHOP JOHN T. WALKER
SCHOOL FOR BOYS

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GATHERING AS A COMMUNITY

Opportunities for Reflection



The K.I.N.G.S. choir with third-grade lead teacher and choir director, Mr. Mooney

Governing Board members Liz Brown and Rev. Leonard Hamlin with Dr. Arrington and fifth-grade scholars at Opening Convocation



Chapel brings the BWS community together to pray and reflect. These shared moments nurture our scholars' spiritual growth, strengthen their sense of belonging, and help them practice the values that guide our school.