



MLWGS will host a two-day Freshman Orientation event on August 17th and 18th prior to the start of school on August 24th, 2026 that is designed to introduce students to all things Maggie Walker. Because of the importance of the information being provided during these two days, student attendance on both days is expected. Please note the links below to the agenda for each day. As needed, students can be dropped off early or picked up late. The building will be open from 7:30-4:30.

August 17th – 9:00am to 1:00pm (Freshman Orientation: [Day 1 Agenda](#))

- Parent drop off (parent program will take place on the second day)
- Focused on teambuilding
- Dragon Advisory group introductions
- Rotating group activities themed with the pillars of **“The Walker Way”**
- Donuts provided at break (no lunch)

August 18th – 8:15am to 3:30pm (Freshman Orientation: [Day 2 Agenda](#))

- Focused on academic orientation
- Students will receive school-issued computers (must complete [Device Loan Agreement](#) linked in the [Freshman Information](#) page of our website)
- Parents are asked to
 - park and enter the building with their child
 - pick up their parent packet outside the Auditorium
 - attend the parent orientation session from 9:00am-10:00am
 - return to MLWGS to pick up their child at 3:30pm
- Students can expect to
 - receive their schedules and meet their teachers
 - eat lunch with their Dragon Advisory groups (*bring lunch or order a box lunch using [this form](#)*)
 - hear from a panel of student mentors on tips for academic success
 - receive electronic accounts for email, PowerSchool, Schoology, etc.
- Popsicles and access to the Dragon’s Lair bookstore will be provided at the end of the day

The four pillars of **The Walker Way** are: **courage, compassion, community, and collaboration**. We use these four pillars to welcome incoming freshmen and to introduce them to the uniqueness of the school's mission. The framework of The Walker Way is based on the life and legacy of our school's namesake: Maggie L. Walker, a trailblazer and the first African-American woman bank president, who used her resources and influence to promote equality. She demonstrated courage and compassion to inspire collaboration that led to a stronger community. We are using the four pillars of The Walker Way to provide both information and encouragement to freshmen as they begin navigating their path and exploring myriad academic and social opportunities.

Here is a brief descriptor of each pillar:

Courage: demonstrating fortitude, persistence, and integrity when confronting challenges.

Compassion: possessing a sense of empathy for the plight of others and a willingness to serve in order to improve the circumstances of others.

Community: understanding and accepting differences but also acknowledging and celebrating the connectedness of the human experience.

Collaboration: harmoniously working together and using critical thinking skills to achieve a common goal.

In addition to an outstanding academic education, Maggie Walker Governor's School tries to teach our students to be courageous, compassionate, communal, and collaborative. As a school community, we will find ways throughout the year to make a difference as learners and citizens. We will incorporate activities both in and out of the classroom that highlight **The Walker Way**.

Over the two-day orientation program, students will be organized in their **Dragon Advisory** groups, consisting of a faculty advisor, approximately 7-8 upperclassmen mentors, and 15-17 of our newest Dragons, our freshmen. These groups will be year-long Advisory groups, and they will also constitute an academic class entitled MLWGS 101, where students will rotate through some foundational academic preparation for the school year. It is our hope that you will get to know a few classmates right at the start of the year, making the first day of school a little less intimidating.