



Weekly Newsletter from The Principal's Corner
October 16, 2020

Free Meals for All Students at WS!

The USDA announced last week that it is extending flexibilities to allow free meals to continue to be available to all children throughout the entire 2020-2021 school year. The USDA specifically noted that they will be extending the waivers that allow Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) meals to be served in all areas and at no cost; permit meals to be served outside of the typically required group settings and meal times; waive meal pattern requirements, as necessary, and; allow parents and guardians to pick up meals for their children. This is wonderful news! Parents no longer need to pay for breakfast and lunch, which is a huge burden off families.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent-Teacher conferences will be held the week of November 9-13, 2020 this year. Parents have been so giving and flexible that we wanted to offer a host of times and dates that you can choose from for your remote appointments. Things will look a little different this year, but we still think conferences can be fun and will work nicely:

1. All conferences will be either over the telephone, in an email exchange, or held remotely through Google Classroom. Parents can select which works best for them. Feel free to start scheduling your conferences today. Please email BJ if you need email addresses. The Tech Team is working on the directory for our website, but they are out straight right now with remote learning and other obligations, so until the website is updated, BJ is happy to help. Her email is bjesty@wsesu.net.
2. The Middle Level Team, grades 5K-8, plan to meet as a team using remote conferencing, so this medium is highly recommended for middle level parents. Please email all requests for middle level appointments to Diana Stillson, (diana.stillson@wsesu.net). Unified Arts Teachers, (Mr. Shambo, Mrs. Jarvis and Mrs. Berry), plan to sit in on all of the middle level conferences, but if you care to have an individual conference with any school employee, please shoot them an email and they will schedule a time for you. This is the same for Mrs. Cole, Guidance Counselor, Mrs. Shambo, SEI, Mrs. Stevens, School Nurse, Mrs. Perry, BCBA, special educators, the principal, and others, please send them an email and ask for a conference and it will surely happen.

3. Students are welcome to sit in with their parents and teacher(s) to hear about their progress.

4. We are not asking you to fill out conference forms this year. Simply send the teacher an email requesting a date and time, see schedule below, and they will confirm with an email and send you a google hangout invite or schedule a telephone conference with you.

Here are the Parent-Teacher Conferences times available:

Mon. - Wed., November 9-11, 2020 2:00 to 3:00pm

*AM will be regular in person teaching and learning- morning appointments are unavailable

Thursday, Nov. 12, 2020 1:30 to 8:00 pm

*AM will be regular in person teaching and learning- morning appointments are unavailable

Friday, November 13, 2020 8:00 to 11:00 am

*AM will be asynchronous, (independent), learning, so appointments up until 11:00 am are available, and the PM will be Fix and Finish time for students

Weekends Are For Family and Wellness

Over the weekends this year, we will be encouraging our staff and families, as well as ourselves, to practice taking time for personal wellness and family connections while minimizing screen time. To this end, we will be offline as much as possible over the weekends and be back, refreshed and ready to go, when school is back in session at the start of each week. If there is an emergency however, always feel free to contact Principal Oakman.

Bus Evacuation

On Wednesday, October 7, 2020 we conducted bus evacuations. Due to the restrictions during this pandemic, we had all students on the bus, evacuate out the front door. For this event, we allowed the students to take all their belongings with them. Normally, we have them leave all belongings behind on the bus. They did a fantastic job, followed all the rules, and exited the bus safely! We are so proud of our students and bus drivers.....WS is indeed a safe school!!!

Have a spectacular weekend,

JeanMarie

JeanMarie K. Oakman, WS Principal