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Mt. Ascutney School District Vision

To honor, encourage, and celebrate the excellence, diversity, and aspirations of each learner through creative and motivating challenges.

November 20, 2020

Dear Windsor Parents, Guardians, & Caregivers,

We have arrived at our first long break. You and your students deserve this down time next week. We hope you are able to safely celebrate and appreciate your family next week. We are incredibly thankful for our teachers and staff, our families, and our students. We are thankful to serve this school and community. Reminder that ALL students, including our HACTC students, are off November 23rd - the 27th. This year we are encouraging all to practice self care and take time off. If you need to get in touch on weekends or days off please call and leave a message at 802-674-8326.

Colleen DeSchamp & Kate Ryan

New Information for All:

Remote Learning Attendance:

Remote learning takes place the week of November 30th until December 4th.

Attendance for remote instruction has changed since last spring. A 'sign of life' will no longer be enough for a student to be counted as 'present'. In order to be counted as 'in attendance', a student must follow the schedule for the day and spend the required time participating in lessons and school work (see grade level requirements below). Attendance will be taken in PowerSchool at the end of each day when a teacher knows if a student has met the minimum requirements.

Kindergarten - a minimum of 2 hours per day not less than 10 hours a week

1st and 2nd - a minimum of 4 hours per day not less than 20 hours per week

3rd - 8th - a minimum of 5.5 hours per day not less than 27.5 hours per week

This includes breaks and physical activity, but not lunch breaks.

If your child is absent from learning on a Remote Day please follow standard protocol.
K-6 families please report absences to Alissa Nelson at 802-674-8225
7-12 families please report absences to Wendy Moody at 802-674-8305
All HACTC absences are also directed to Wendy. We appreciate you calling.

Collaborative Problem Solving Workshop:

Facilitated By a THINK:KIDS Certified Practitioner:
Jenifer Aldrich, jaldrich@wsesu.net

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Parents; Foster, Adoptive, and Step-Parents, Grandparents and Caregivers raising kids who are looking for effective ways to address challenging problems.
Collaborative Problem Solving sessions are Confidential.

What you will gain from attending the Collaborative Problem Solving (CPS) session:

- A new way of looking at challenging behaviors
- A compassionate approach to addressing challenging behaviors that builds skills in both caregiver and child
- A space to connect with like-minded parents
- Learn about future CPS learning circles and community resources

DATE: Saturday Morning, December 5, 2020

TIME: 9:00-11:00 am

LOCATION: On-Line at Google Meet

Type into Chrome Browser: meet.google.com/df-dcgg-edc

Questions: Jenifer Aldrich, jaldrich@wsesu.net or Courtney McKaig, courtney.mckaig@mahhc.org
or call 802-674-7189

Lunches During Remote Days:

We encourage all to please come out and get lunches. For the Week of November 30th to December 4th, we will have 4 pick up spots from 9:30-10:00

- Horse School at the Elementary School
- Good Year Plant
- Union Square Apartments
- Windsor Green

In addition, we will run the [following bus routes](#). If you cannot make it, leave a cooler with your name and number of lunches at your stop. All lunches are free. Please take advantage of this.

Vermont Physician Groups Call on Vermonters to Prioritize their Communities and Protect Schools for our Children: [PLEASE READ](#)

Reminders:

Employment Opportunity:

WSESU is hiring for part time support staff positions working with students in several grades. If interested please apply directly with your cover letter, resume and three references directly to Katie Ahern, Interim Director of Special Services, katie.ahern@wsesu.net, 674-8108

High School Information

Parking Lot: Please see Wendy Moody for a parking permit if you have not done so already. After Thanksgiving break we may have to adjust parking space and location to accommodate the number of cars in the parking lot.

Student Council and NHS: Thank you for these two organizations for continuing to keep our traditions going during this time. Student Council recently provided a “to-go” Thanksgiving for our custodial staff and the NHS is working on safely coordinating a holiday activity for our K-8 students.

Elementary and Middle School (K-8) Information:

Ascutney Outdoors Ski Program:

Due to the Governor’s order we are currently on pause with this program. We will update you when we resume this activity.

Holiday Bazaar:

Windsor Students, Families, and Faculty - During the week before Winter break, the Windsor High School NHS will be holding a holiday bazaar for elementary students to choose gifts for their families. Leading up to the bazaar we ask that students and their families come up with a list of who the student might want to get gifts for and what items their family might like. “Prices” will range from 5 - 25 cents.

Students should bring their own bag to hold the gifts that they get.

We’re looking forward to seeing you there!

Wednesday Assemblies:

Our Wednesday student showcases are back! Thanks to our teachers for keeping this tradition alive. They can be found on both <https://windsor.wsesu.net/> and our Windsor School Facebook page. Please check them out.

From Nurse Martens:

Please remember that students should not bring medications of any kind into the school. This includes both prescription and over the counter medications along with vitamins. All medications that need to be taken during the school day require written permission from parents/guardians and must be kept in the health office. Students should never share medications with other students at any time. If you have any questions please contact the school nurse at 802-674-8313 or elizabeth.martens@wsesu.net. Thank you for keeping our school healthy and safe.

Your help is appreciated if you can share your tentative travel plans, if occurring outside of Vermont, during the upcoming holidays. This data can help us plan accordingly for the safe return to school after the holidays for all students and staff.

Travel Guidelines - The Health Dept. encourages school administrators, school nurses, and designated school personnel to share the link to the travel map/info on the ACCD website with parents and families. We encourage you to consult the map before planning a trip outside of VT. [Here is the link](#) to the map. It is updated on Tuesdays. If you are traveling over the Thanksgiving break, please share with the administration and/or school nurse. <https://accd.vermont.gov/covid-19/restart/cross-state-travel>

Full Remote Learning:

The Windsor Supervisory Union will be preparing all students in our four schools for **Full Remote Learning** from **November 23- December 4** (see HACTC schedule below), to mitigate the spread of Covid-19 during a time of many family and social gatherings.

HS Remote Schedule:

The morning remote schedule will mimic the current in-person schedule:

Period 1: 8:30-9:20

Period 2: 9:20-10:10

Period 3: 10:10 -11:00

The duration of these classes might vary, though, given the content area and the nature of the assignment being worked on. The face-to-face nature of the instruction might last 10-15 minutes or it might last the entire period, and it might vary from day to day. The expectation, though, is that students log in at the beginning of the class period every day, just as if they were going to class in person. Attendance will be taken for every class, every day, and absences will be reported.

Afternoon classes, which are already Remote, would remain the same as they are now, with the same attendance expectations.

K-8 Remote Schedule:

The remote day will resemble the in-person school day as closely as possible with set times for academic subjects. These will vary based on the AOE guidelines which are as follows:

Remote Expectations from AOE - Vermont Rule 2312.1

Kindergarten - a minimum of 2 hours per day not less than 10 hours a week

1st and 2nd - a minimum of 4 hours per day not less than 20 hours per week

3rd - 8th - a minimum of 5.5 hours per day not less than 27.5 hours per week

This includes breaks and physical activity, but not lunch breaks.

Further information will come directly from your child's teacher.

Important Dates

11/23-11/24 – No School for students Teacher Inservice Days

11/25-11/27 – Thanksgiving Break, No School

11/30-12/4 – Remote Learning

12/21-12/23 - Remote Learning

12/24-1/3 – Holiday Recess, No School

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 Colleen DeSchamp or Kate Ryan.

Helpful links:

[School Website with daily bulletin](#)

[WSESU 2020-2021 School Calendar](#)

[Health & Safety Handbook](#)

[VT Dept. of Health - Travel Guidelines](#)

[Mt. Ascutney School Board Meetings & Windsor Southeast Supervisory Union School Board Meetings](#)

