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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.

January 10, 2021

Dear Windsor Parents, Guardians, & Caregivers,

We thank you for your perseverance during this remote week. We know it is not always easy but it is for our health and safety. To reiterate Dr. Baker's message, we have been notified that two WHS students, separate and unrelated, have tested positive for Covid-19. We are working with the VDH and you will be notified if quarantining is necessary. We send well wishes of health to all of our students and families and we are thankful for your dedication to health and safety for all. We will get through this together.

Colleen DeSchamp & Kate Ryan

New Information:

K-8 Extended Day:

We are planning a significant schedule change for grades K through 8 at the semester mark (January 25th). We will be increasing the instructional day by 1 hour. The instructional day will be from 8:15 to 1:15 every day. This will push the bus schedule slightly earlier in the morning along with parent drop-offs. The same will happen in the afternoon with bus pickup and parent pickup. Please stay tuned for more details, but we wanted you to know early so that you can start to organize for the different arrival and pick up times.

Second Semester:

The second semester starts January 25th. We are excited to welcome back some remote learners. We will be sending out information about your student's return once we have finalized the extended

day schedule. One thing is for certain, we are happy to see these faces.

HACTC Students:

This Thursday and Friday are in service days for HACTC, so there is no Hartford programming.

Lunches:

Universal Lunch (Free Breakfast and Lunch for all) will continue for the second semester. This is great news and we are thankful for our lunch program.

Reminders:

Parking Lot Update:

When we return to in-person learning please adhere to the following guidelines:

Sophomores park at the soccer field.

Juniors and Seniors park in the back row.

Faculty park in the first 3 rows.

Please make sure you have a parking permit. It's imperative to planning.

Upcoming Dates

January 29 High School Asynchronous Day

January 18 - MLK Day, no school

Week of January 19 - Senior Capstones

January 25 - Semester 2 begins

Senior parents: Postcards have been mailed regarding the purchase of senior yearbook recognition ads. Visit JostensAdService.com. Deadline is February 11th. Email RK at rkelly@wsesu.net with any questions.

Also, information regarding senior yearbook pages has been emailed to all seniors. Deadline for turning in senior portraits, etc. is January 4th. We are also looking for "throwback" pics from elementary and middle school.

Community News from Ascutney Outdoors: Ascutney Outdoors will be providing Free community Fridays starting January 8th. Parents are responsible for providing transportation as the school will not be providing transportation this year. [Please click here for ski equipment information.](#) While we are strongly encouraging the use of your own equipment if possible, you can email Laura at jlfarrel@gmail.com to make arrangements for individual fittings in the case of hardship.

Semester 2 Plans

The second semester starts January 25 and we are in the planning stages now. If your student is interested in changing their current status to remote or in person, please email Angela Ladeau (aladeau@wsesu.net) and your building principals(cdeschamp@wsesu.net and kryan@wsesu.net) as soon as possible so we can begin the process. We are happy to answer any questions.

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

From Nurse Martens:

Questions at health check:

Do you have any of the following symptoms of COVID? (Chronic conditions such as seasonal allergies do not need to be counted)

Chills

Shortness of breath

Fatigue

Muscle aches

Headache

Loss of taste or smell

Congestion/runny nose

Nausea/Vomiting

Diarrhea

New rash

Have you come into contact with anyone who has COVID within the past 14 days?

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.

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.
<https://accd.vermont.gov/covid-19/restart/cross-state-travel>

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](#)

[Vermont Physician Groups Letter](#)