



BARRE TOWN MIDDLE AND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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January 2021

Happy 2021!

While 2020 is now in our rearview mirror, the realities that we had to face then are still with us. However, our continued working partnership is making us smarter as to what tweaks and accommodations can be tried to make a difficult situation somewhat do-able for all.

A few reminders as we kick off the new year...

1. All adults in the vehicle are asked to wear a mask during the morning screenings. Students should have masks on prior to lowering the window for a health screening.
2. With the outside temperatures cooler, we are asking that families either turn the heat down or roll down the window where the child is sitting. A good rule of thumb is to lower your window when your vehicle gets to the first speed bump as you enter the drop-off loop. Our hope is that this will allow our thermometers to work effectively.
3. Please be sure the yellow name tag is placed in the passenger-side dash window for student pick-up. This helps to quickly and efficiently radio into the school for your child to meet you outside.

Beginning on Tuesday, January 19, our arrival time will shift from 8:15am to 7:50am for all students. We will follow the same drop off process and procedures...just starting earlier to help provide more in-person instruction. Again, health screenings will begin at 7:50am with an official school start time of 8:00am.

Tuesday, January 19, 2020 will also begin our expanded in person learning for grades K-4. These students will be in school Monday through Friday with a half day on Wednesday.

On Monday, January 25, 2020 grades 5 and 6 will also have expanded in person learning. These students will be in school Monday through Friday with a half day on Wednesday.

PreK students will still attend school Monday/Tuesday or Thursday/Friday.

7th and 8th grade students (who must still continue to remain 6' apart) will continue in their hybrid pods with the A pod attending school on Monday and Tuesday and the B pod attending school on Thursday and Friday. We continue to brainstorm ways to offer enhanced learning opportunities on remote hybrid days for our upper grades.

Our pick up procedures will remain the same. PreK and K students (along with older siblings) will have a pick up time of 1:30. Grades 1-4 (and any older siblings) will have a pick up time of 1:45 and grades 5-8 will have a pick up time of 2:00pm.

For students in grades K-6 who will have half day Wednesdays, here is some important information:

- Morning drop off and bus runs will remain the same.
- Pick up times will be as follows: grades K-3 (and their older siblings) will have a pick up time of 10:45am and grades 4-6 will have a pick up time of 11:00am.

Students who ride the school bus will soon receive information from Mrs. Murray, our transportation coordinator, around any busing changes that might directly affect your family.

Please stay tuned for more information. In the meantime, please don't hesitate to reach out to either one of us with any questions, concerns or celebrations that you might have.

Warmly,

Jennifer W. Nye Erica Pearson
BTMES Co-Principal BTMES Co-Principal



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News from the Nurses' Office

HERE ARE 8 WINTER SAFETY TIPS YOU NEED TO KNOW FROM THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS:



1) **Warm layers are key.** Dress infants and children warmly for outdoor activities. Several thin layers will keep them dry and warm. Don't forget warm boots, gloves or mittens, and a hat.

2) **Dress kids a little warmer than you would dress yourself.** The rule of thumb for older babies and young children is to dress them in one more layer of clothing than an adult would wear in the same conditions.

3) **Don't forget the sunblock.** The sun's rays can still cause sunburn in the winter, especially when they reflect off snow. Make sure to cover your child's exposed skin with sunscreen.



4) **Be careful when sledding.** Children should be supervised while sledding. Sledding feet first or sitting up, instead of lying down head-first, may prevent head injuries. Avoid sledding in crowded areas.



5) **All skiers and snowboarders should wear helmets.** Ski facilities should require helmet use, but if they do not, parents should enforce the requirement for their children.

6) **Do not take children under age 6 on a snowmobile!** The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that children under age 16 not operate snowmobiles and that children under age 6 never ride on snowmobiles.

7) **Allow children to skate only on approved surfaces.** Check for signs posted by local police or recreation departments, or call your local police department to find out which areas have been approved.



8) **Be sure to set reasonable time limits on outdoor play** to prevent hypothermia and frost bite. Have children come inside periodically to warm up.



January

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
4 Back to School for staff & students	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14 School Board Meeting—5:30 p.m.	15
18 Staff Development Day—No school for students	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29



February



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11 School Board Meeting—5:30 p.m.	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> Vacation </div>				