

GRETCHKO NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 5, 2021



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

If you have questions, concerns or need clarification regarding our Return to Learn options, please do not hesitate to contact me. I can be reached through my email - sally.drummond@wbsd.org or phone (248) 865-6570. Thank you in advance for your thoughtful decisions.

DEAR WEST BLOOMFIELD FAMILIES

Dear West Bloomfield families,

We are happy to once again have students and staff learning and engaging through in-person learning in each of our schools. We can't thank our parents, staff and students enough for their grace and understanding as we developed and implemented our instructional plans in the midst of a once in a generation, global pandemic.

To help get us a better idea of our stakeholders' thoughts and feelings about the rest of the 2020-21 school year, we are once again asking for your feedback. Please take a moment to watch this short, [10 minute webinar](#) explaining the different options in the next phase of our Return to Learn process:

- <https://youtu.be/1JxFmmh8Dho>

After watching the webinar linked above, please find the survey links below to share your thoughts related to what you learned about in our short video presentation.

- **For Parents** of in-person students at Roosevelt, Gretchko, Doherty, Sheiko, Scotch, WBMS, WBHS, OEC and Transition Center: <https://forms.gle/Zm9G41L57MeYz4QS7>
- **For Staff** members of the above schools: <https://forms.gle/gb1CwUbbCHxLW2yg8>

Thank you as always for your partnership and feedback as we work to make decisions with the health and safety of our students, staff and families as our guiding principle.

Have a wonderful evening,

The West Bloomfield School District

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

As a reminder to families, if your child is sick, has been exposed to a confirmed, or probable case of COVID or anyone in your family is awaiting test results, please do not allow them to attend school activities, programs, or athletics. If you or anyone in your household has COVID-19 symptoms, please contact your health professional or Nurse on Call at (800) 848-5533. Families should also be aware of the **"COVID Help" Hotline** set up by Oakland County. Hotline staff can help answer questions about COVID-19 symptoms, the need for testing, and what is considered high-risk.

- **CALL:** (248) 858-1000
- **EMAIL:** hotline@oakgov.com

Please continue to follow all COVID-19 health and safety recommendations from the Oakland County Health Division and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):

- Cleaning your hands often, either with soap and water for 20 seconds or a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoiding close contact with people who are sick.
- Putting distance between yourself and other people (at least 6 feet).
- Covering your mouth and nose with a cloth face covering when around others.
- Cleaning and disinfecting frequently-touched objects and surfaces daily.

Please look after yourselves and one another. **Mask Up, Stay Safe, Save Lives.**

Sincerely,

Dr. Gerald Hill, Superintendent

West Bloomfield School District

REVIEW OF SCHOOL DAY INFORMATION

GRETCHKO SCHOOL

COHORT A - School Start and Stop Time **9:25 a.m. - 12:05 p.m.**

COHORT B - School Start and Stop Time **1:37 p.m. - 4:17 p.m.**

DAILY DROP OFF AND PICK UP

Cohort A – 9:05 a.m. – 9:20 a.m. – Drop Off

Cohort A – Pick up - 12:00 – 12:15 p.m.

Cohort B – 1:17 p.m. - 1:32 p.m. – Drop Off

Cohort B – Pick up - 4:12 p.m. – 4:27 p.m.

STUDENTS ARRIVING LATE - Please help us be able to start classes on time by arriving in enough time for your student to be in class and ready to begin **COHORT A by 9:25 a.m. and COHORT B - 1:37 p.m.** If your student is late, do not bring your child to the office. You must park in the lot, call the office (248-865-6570), the office will call the teacher and arrange to meet you.

* Please remember currently all students attend Gretchko for 1/2 day sessions only.

***No breakfast or lunch** is served at school.

* Students are in school for such a short time, **we will not have snacks.**

*Students should bring their own water bottle, as the drinking fountains are temporarily closed.

MASKS -All staff, students and other adults are required to wear a mask. If your student has a medical condition that requires no mask, you must provide a signed doctor's note that clearly states "no mask".

TRANSPORTATION AND CHANGES - please be sure your student and your student's teacher is aware of end of the day procedures for your child. Please plan ahead and avoid changes during the school day.

STUDENT SAFETY IN THE CAR LOOP

Student safety is a primary concern at Gretchko. We have developed several protocols to protect students throughout the building, as well as while they are entering and leaving the building. It is imperative that we are able to count on the parents and other adults follow safety guidelines. We have been receiving complaints from parents that are concerned about vehicle drivers jumping the line during the drop off and pick up times. Drivers in the cars are not waiting for their turn, and putting student safety in jeopardy. Please be patient, wait your turn and understand all parents want to move on just as much as you do. **Stay in line, and please do not pass the cars ahead of you.**

VALENTINE CARD PROTOCOL

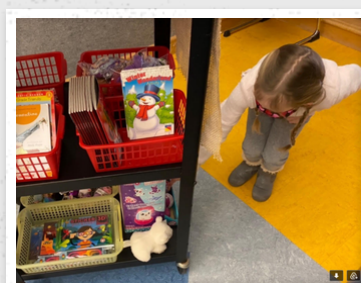
Please do not send Valentine's to school. Due to the pandemic we will not be exchanging Valentine's cards this year. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

FEBRUARY 10 COUNT DAY

Wednesday, February 10 Oakland County will be counting our students to determine funding for the rest of this school year. Since we are remote on Wednesday, students must be **signed in and have their attendance recorded by 3:00 p.m.** on February 10th.

PINE CONE UPDATE

Students are just loving all these new Pine Cone titles this year!! So many fun and interesting books! Show proof of checking out Pine Cone books at the WBTPPL and receive a prize from the Pine Cone Prize Cart! Bring in a receipt or email a photo of it to Mrs. Hammerick. A photo of yourself at the library will work too! The Pine Cone Prize Cart will visit classrooms daily. Prizes will also be awarded throughout the program for students who are participating! Keep up the great work, Readers



PARENT OPTION FOR KIDS IN CHARGE DRUG EDUCATION PROGRAM

There are some topics that may be difficult to speak with your child about. Drugs for example, can be a difficult conversation to have with your child. What are drugs, what they do to your body, and how to say no to peer pressure. West Bloomfield School District offers a great program called Kids In Charge to teach children about saying no to drugs, appropriate coping skills, and general drug education. Please read the following [parent letter](#) to learn more about our Kids in Charge program.

If you do not want your child to partake in Kid's in Charge, please fill out this [Google Form](#) by Tuesday, February 9th so they can receive an alternative assignment. If you have any questions about Kids In Charge, please contact me at emily.hubbard@wbsd.org

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

If you have a **resident** student that will be attending kindergarten next year, our district has requested that you **register your child by February 17th**. Please go to the West Bloomfield School District website (wbsd.org) and enter through enrollment to find the Gateway registration program

If you have a **SOC (school of choice)** student to enter kindergarten **you must first apply for SOC lottery to attend WB schools**. Please remember if you have a SOC student that currently attends WB schools any and **all new siblings wishing to enter WB schools still need apply for SOC acceptance**.

WB school of choice application window will close on February 2nd. Go to wbsd.org to apply.

New kindergarten students must be 5 on or before September 1st, 2021 or have a parent signed waiver on file and be 5 on or before December 1, 2021.



LEGO LEAGUE

OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

Attention 1st, 2nd & 3rd Grade Parents:

FIRST Lego League Explore (*previously FIRST Lego League Junior*) is the perfect opportunity for our youngest coders to launch their experience within the WBSD FIRST Robotics Program. All skill levels welcome!

This season, we're stepping into the world of sports, play, and fitness – moving, collaborating, competing, and celebrating. In PLAYMAKERS, FIRST LEGO League Explore students will discover a variety of activities in different kinds of play spaces and how we can ensure that our games and activities are fun and accessible for everyone involved.

FLL Explore will be a **"Virtual"** Learning Experience. Participants will be provided with a KIT of Lego materials to be used and then returned at the completion of the 8-week workshop. Teams are limited to 4 students per team and we will accept the first 20 applicants.

If you and your child are interested in participating, please RSVP to attend a **Parent Information Meeting via Zoom**:

Monday, February 8, 2021 from 6-6:45 p.m. [RSVP HERE](#)

Virtual meetings will be on Monday evenings from 6-7 p.m. March 1-April 26, 2021

Coaches needed to guide small teams.

If you cannot make the meeting and are interested, email andrea.frank@wbsd.org



BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS - WHERE ARE ALL THE BOOKS?

Still looking for overdue books! Please check to see if you have any books that belong at Gretchko. The I center as well as the classrooms are still looking for books that were loaned out while we were remote. Thank you very much for making the extra effort to check your homes for books that need to be back in circulation.

GRETCHKO PTO

It's been awhile so as a reminder here are this year's PTO board members:

President: Jen Amato

Co-Vice President: Ashleigh Davis/Stephanie Reynolds

Treasurer: Vanity Koop

Recording Secretary: Heather Aldrich

Co-Corresponding Secretary: Ufuoma Kaplan /Erica Daenzer

FEBRUARY 15 -16 - WINTER BREAK WBSD MEAL SERVICE PICK UP INFORMATION

No cost meals are available for curbside pick up to all children in the community.

Each child will receive:

- 7 breakfast and lunch meals.
- Please pre-order meals on the West Bloomfield School District Food Service page or at the [linked order form](#).

Pick up sites:

- **West Bloomfield HS main entrance** (4925 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield)
 - Pick-up day: Wednesday or by special arrangement
 - Times: 11:30am-12:30pm or 3:30pm-4:30pm or by special arrangement
- **Roosevelt Elementary main entrance** (2065 Cass Lake Road, Keego Harbor)
 - Pick-up day: Wednesday
 - Time: 11:00am-1:00pm

HUBBARD'S HEALTHY HINTS

Physical Education is a crucial part of a child's social, emotional, and physical development. They learn motor skills that assist in their academic development! Did you know a child's ability to skip can positively impact their reading proficiency? Skipping is a rhythmic activity, so is reading. The more proficient they are in skipping it allows for them to be more proficient in reading! Make sure your child is attending physical education each week to be a well rounded student :) Here is a great [article](#) on the benefits of physical education and how as a parent you can help build your child's foundational locomotor and non locomotor sk

COMMUNITY ED. OFFERS SPECIAL EVENT FOR FAMILIES

Staffed by West Bloomfield School
District Kid's Klub Employees

CHARM
ME

TRUE
LOVE

BE
MINE

PARENTS' NIGHT OUT

VALENTINE'S DAY PARTY
FOR WEST BLOOMFIELD
SCHOOL DISTRICT
ALL K-5TH GRADE

CRAFTS, GAMES & PIZZA

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2021

LOCATION:
SHEIKO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
6:30 - 9 P.M.

\$20 per student, *no discounts*



REGISTER ONLINE AT
WWW.WBCOMMED.ORG
USE SEARCH CODE: 0212

Community Education

Questions? Contact andrea.frank@wbsd.org

2019-20 YEARBOOKS

We still have several yearbooks available from the last school year (2019-20). If you are in need of one, please call the office at 248-865-6570.

Fun with Feelings and Mrs. DeSana



Students are learning about how to take a "Meta-Moment" from me,

Help your child with the first 3 steps by recognizing and asking...

1.



Something happens!

- What happened?
- How did it happen?
- Who else was involved?

2.



Sense!

- What sensations do you have?
- What are you thinking?

3.

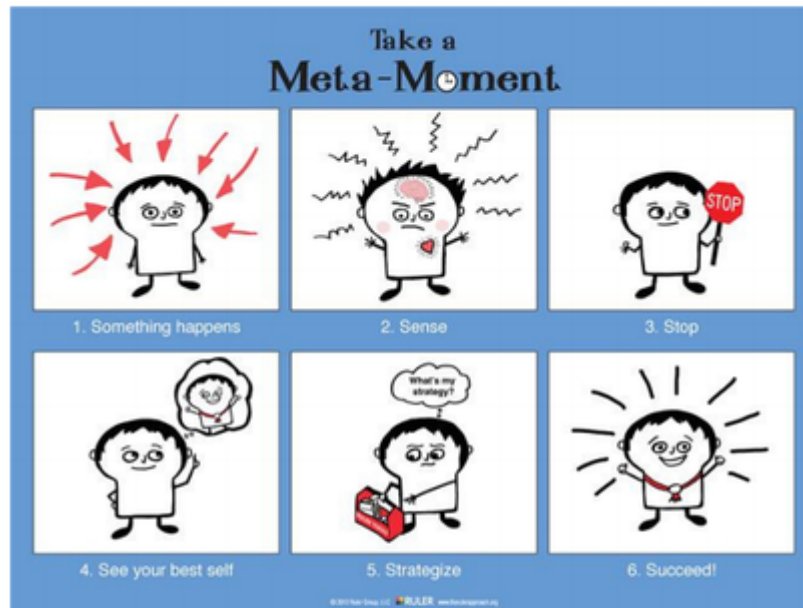


Stop!

- Take 3-5 deep breaths

↓ Keep scrolling to see all of the steps students will learn about! ↓

Fun with Feelings and Mrs. DeSana



Next up: Step 4 - See your best self!



Stay tuned to learn about ways to help your child see his/her best self!



Contact Lindsey DeSana, School Social Worker, for more information

TIPS FOR SCHOOL SUCCESS

Please take time to review the following information to assist your child's concentration and feeling of importance of their education.

- * Support your child with positive feedback
- * Have your child at class on time and ready to learn.
- * Student's should be dressed just like a normal school day.
- * Prepare early, check technology, screen background, etc.
- * Supplies -pencils, eraser, paper, workbooks available at your child's workstation.
- * Students should not be eating during Zoom sessions.
- * Remove other distractions from the student's work area. (Toys, pets, siblings)
- * Headphones may be helpful, especially if your student is distracted easily.
- * Help your child understand their workstation is their school.
- * Provide support, not the answers. Student need to learn to be able to "do" assignments for themselves.

All of the above learning requirements provide an environment of value to your student's education. Students need to see, hear and understand just how important you view their

education. To assist your student's classmates, please use the mute option and remember everyone in the class sees what is happening behind your student's screen.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

Please review the calendar for the next few weeks of school

February 8-12 -Hybrid learning model all week (A,B)

February 15 - 16 - NO SCHOOL - Mid-Winter Break

February 17 - Wednesday - Remote learning

February 18 - 19 - Hybrid learning model - Cohort A, B

February 22 - 23 - Hybrid learning model - Cohort A, B

February 24 - Wednesday - Remote Learning - Marco's Pizza Day

February 25-26 - Hybrid learning model - Cohort A,B

We will continue hybrid learning model until further notice.

March 29 - April 2 - Spring Break

BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK UPDATE

As we return to face to face instruction in our schools , **Preschool -5th grade** students and **Transition Center** students registered for Blessings in a Backpack will receive their bags of food for the weekend each Friday in their classrooms.

Middle School students can pick up their bags in the School Office .

All **Lakers On Line** and **West Bloomfield High School** Students / Parents can pick up their bags in the front circle drive of West Bloomfield High School every Wednesday from 11:30 am -12:30 pm and from 3:30-4:30 pm.

It is not too late to sign up for Blessings in a Backpack!! If you are interested in receiving six non perishable meals each weekend of the school year, please email

Kathetinesheiko@hotmail.com.

BOXTOPS FOR EDUCATION - GRETCHKO STILL PARTICIPATES

Earning money for your school has never been easier. Simply download the app, choose your school and snap a picture of your receipts! Encourage your friends and family to download the app as well! Grandparents, Aunts & Uncles, Cousins, literally anyone who grocery shops and has a receipt can help Gretchko earn and it adds up quickly!

https://www.boxtops4education.com/-/media/GMI/boxtopsforyoureducation/CRC-Downloads/June_19/BTFE_Overview.ashx?la=en We still accept boxtops cut from products

you purchase. We have a boxtop container in the front lobby.

GRETCHKO'S MISSION

"Our Mission at Gretchko Elementary, in cooperation with our community, is to foster curiosity, creativity, and the joy of learning. By providing opportunities and challenges, we will expand children's knowledge and enable them to be resilient, lifelong learners within an ever-changing global society."

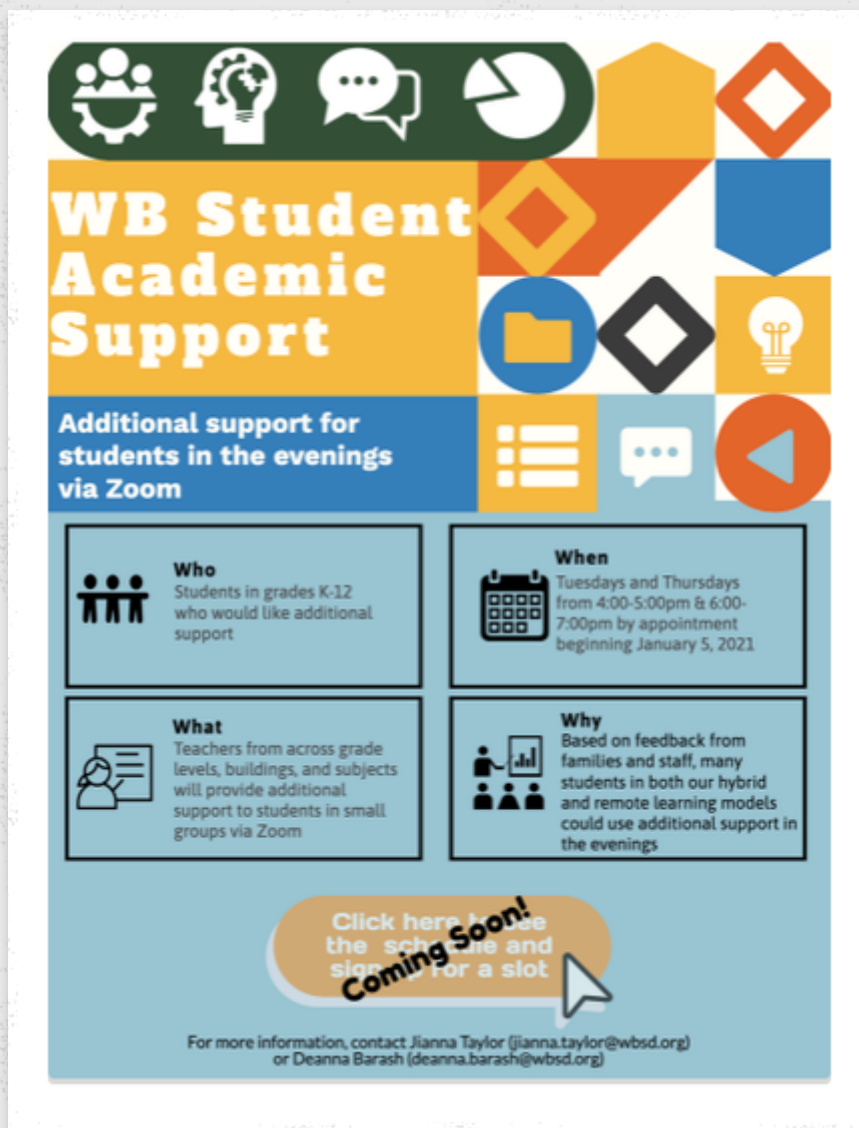
WBSD SMS TEXT ALERTS - SIGN UP TODAY!

As you may already know, our district utilizes the SchoolMessenger system to deliver text messages, straight to your mobile phone with important information about events, school closings, safety alerts and more. This resource is on top of the emails and phone messages you already receive from SchoolMessenger.

You can participate in this service just by sending a text message of **"Y"** or **"Yes"** to our district's short code number, **67587**.

You can also opt-out of these messages at any time by simply replying to one of our messages with **"Stop"**.

SchoolMessenger is compliant with the Student Privacy PledgeTM, so you can rest assured that your information is safe and will never be given or sold to anyone.



The poster features a header with icons representing various academic and social concepts: a group of people, a lightbulb, a speech bubble, a pie chart, a hexagon, and a diamond. Below this, the title "WB Student Academic Support" is prominently displayed in a large, bold, sans-serif font. Underneath the title, a subtitle reads "Additional support for students in the evenings via Zoom". The main body of the poster is divided into four quadrants, each with an icon and a heading: "Who" (people icon), "When" (calendar icon), "What" (document icon), and "Why" (person at a computer icon). Each quadrant contains specific details about the support program. At the bottom, there is a call-to-action button that says "Click here to see the schedule and sign up for a slot" with a mouse cursor icon pointing at it. Below the button, contact information for Jianna Taylor and Deanna Barash is provided.

WB Student Academic Support

Additional support for students in the evenings via Zoom

Who Students in grades K-12 who would like additional support	When Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:00-5:00pm & 6:00-7:00pm by appointment beginning January 5, 2021
What Teachers from across grade levels, buildings, and subjects will provide additional support to students in small groups via Zoom	Why Based on feedback from families and staff, many students in both our hybrid and remote learning models could use additional support in the evenings

Click here to see the schedule and sign up for a slot **Coming Soon!**

For more information, contact Jianna Taylor (jianna.taylor@wbsd.org) or Deanna Barash (deanna.barash@wbsd.org)

WBSD SCHOOL NUTRITION

WBSD SCHOOL NUTRITION UPDATE


Since the start of this very unusual school year our Food Service Department has done an outstanding job continuing meal distribution to all of our West Bloomfield families. We have set up a meal distribution system to safely and effectively provide those meals from two main locations, the **West Bloomfield High School** and **Roosevelt Elementary**.

Each Wednesday, seven days worth of breakfasts and lunches are available for pick up. For those families who have difficulty making it to our distribution times we have set up special delivery accommodations to better serve our community.

Since the start of this school year, our Food Service Department has served nearly **100,000 meals** and will continue to provide this valuable service as this school year continues.

We'd like to take this opportunity to recognize the efforts of our dedicated food service staff members, without whom, this would not be possible.

ZOOM MEETING HELP GETTING IN

A background image of various colorful LEGO bricks (red, blue, yellow, green) scattered and overlapping. The bricks are of different shapes and sizes, creating a textured, playful background.

Parents if you are struggling to get your student onto zoom meetings, please make sure they follow these steps.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1gx2jrtllw0d4Ns2Bv40YxdCyzHLoZfF1k2i2WHsbwp8/edit>

DO YOU NEED TECHNOLOGY ASSISTANCE

We are sharing some good resources below that may assist parents resolving common technology issues.

Help with Canvas: www.wbsd.org/academics/classroom-to-cloud/canvas or canvashelp@wbsd.org

Help with Chromebook: www.wbsd.org/departments/technology

Help with PowerSchool: www.wbsd.org/parents/powerschool

WBSD CHROMEBOOK ACCIDENT AND LOSS PROTECTION

Please click [HERE](#) for information on accident and loss protection for district issued Chromebooks. Please contact Allyson Dewar at allyson.dewar@oakland.k12.mi.us for more information or if you have questions.