



2020-2021

Newsletter #23

February 22nd-26th

Westport Schools COVID Reporting Hotline: if you've tested positive or have been directly exposed to a positive case, please call: 203-341-1016

**DISTANCE/REMOTE
LEARNING TECH HELP
CENTER LINK**

NEW ITEMS

PRINCIPAL'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Prior to the February break, our Superintendent provided the Westport families with an update on the schedule, attendance and some of the ongoing challenges our teachers face daily. Effective next week starting on Monday, March 1st, we will implement the new guidelines for student absences; included below is the Parent Process for Reporting Absences for our middle schools.

Thank you for making every effort to continue to follow CDC guidelines for Covid-19 to ensure the health and safety of all students and staff members. We encourage you to continue to keep your child home if they are not feeling well and that they should participate in classes remotely. Again, please refer to the Parent Process for Reporting Absences included below.

Parent Process for Reporting Absences

- If your Cohort A or Cohort B child will be absent from attending in-school and instead will be present online for remote instruction, CMS and BMS parents and guardians are required to either leave a message on the attendance hotline (CMS Attendance Hotline: 203-341-1699; BMS Attendance Hotline: 203-341-1599) or speak with the school nurse (CMS Head Nurse Maureen Kiernan at 203-341-1630 or mkiernan@westportps.org; BMS Head Nurse Carmel Keaveney at 203-341-1530 or ckeaveney@westportps.org).

Absence Types

- APO (Absent Present Online): This is for a student that should normally be in school, however is not in school due to being sick/ill and is feeling well-enough to remotely access their live streamed classes online. This requires a direct communication from the parent/guardian; the head nurse or main office attendance secretary may enter the APO code into PowerSchool denoting "absent present online."
- APOU (Absent Present Online Unexcused): If a student is supposed to be in-school and instead appears online in Zoom without parent/guardian notification to the school, teachers will mark APOU in the attendance record in PowerSchool. Students that are designated as APOU will receive an unexcused absence and may be subject to additional consequences.

- Four Unexcused APOs: After (4) APOUs in a marking period, parents and students will be required to meet/communicate with a school administrator or designee to discuss the possibility of moving to the Distance Learning Program and the potential impact of additional unexcused APOs.

Absence Code for Quarantines

- DL (Distance learning): Students who have Covid-19 or are quarantined due to direct exposure, will be coded as Distance Learning (DL) by the school attendance secretary until the quarantine period has ended. All quarantines must receive approval from the school's head nurse.

Movement from Distance Learning

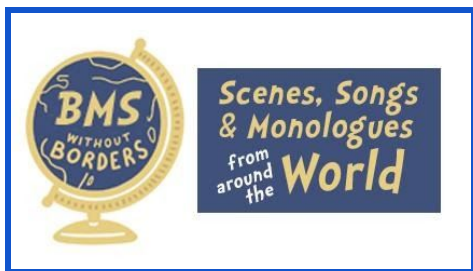
- Students that elect to participate in Distance Learning (DL) will be required to remain in DL until the mid-point or end of the marking period. Both dates will serve as opportunities to move from Distance Learning to In-Person Learning. (This does not apply to quarantined students).

Special Note on Classroom Assessments (aka tests)

- If there is an assessment on the day a student is APO or APOU, teachers reserve the right to have a student make up the assessment when they return to school. For example, if a student was supposed to take a math test in school, however they are absent on that day, the student will make up the test when they return to school.

NEW: Math Mentors for Distance Learning Middle School Students (no cost!)

We are continuing to identify efficient and creative ways to support middle school students who have opted for distance learning. We are fortunate to have talented math students in grades 9-12 who, as part of the Math Honor Society, provide support for students in math on a sign-up basis at the high school. We are now extending this opportunity to middle school distance learning students. By clicking this ([LINK \(MAΘ Extra Help\)](#)), a middle school student with a question regarding math can sign up to receive support from a high school math honor society student.



NEW BMS THEATRICAL OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENTS!

Bedford Theater Company Presents: "BMS Without Borders: Scenes, Songs & Monologues from Around the World." All 6th, 7th and 8th grade students are welcome to audition. Please visit the [Bedford Theater Company Homepage \(LINK\)](#) for all information relating to the auditions and performance.

ATTN: 8th Grade Students, Parents and Guardians: Transition to Staples High School

This week the Staples High School counselors visited the 8th grade students at both middle schools to complete their pre-registration process for the course selections for next year in grade 9 at SHS. The next step in the process, starting the 1st week of March at both middle schools, each 8th grade student will have an

individual meeting with their 8th grade school counselor during the school day to review their course requests, make any necessary changes, and submit and override forms that may apply. Students that are in the distance learning cohort will be contacted directly by their 8th grade counselor to schedule this meeting. Please note, students will be informed ahead of time when their meeting will occur. Also, please make note that the deadline to submit override forms to the 8th grade school counselor is March 26th by 3:00 p.m.

Staples Principal Stafford Thomas records a monthly podcast for the SHS school community through the high school's radio station ([LINK: WWP Radio Station Homepage](#)). We want to bring this station and this podcast series to the attention of our 8th grade students, parents and guardians as we prepare to transition to high school. We encourage you to tune-in and listen. Here is a link to "This is a Wreckording," which takes a deep dive into the 75% Opening Model at Staples, predictions for the spring and of course a quick reflection on the Super Bowl. Enjoy! ([LINK: This is a Wreckording](#))

Here again is the link to the recording of the "SHS Transition Night" held on 02/10/2021 as well as additional resources: [Grade 8 to 9 Transition Homepage](#)

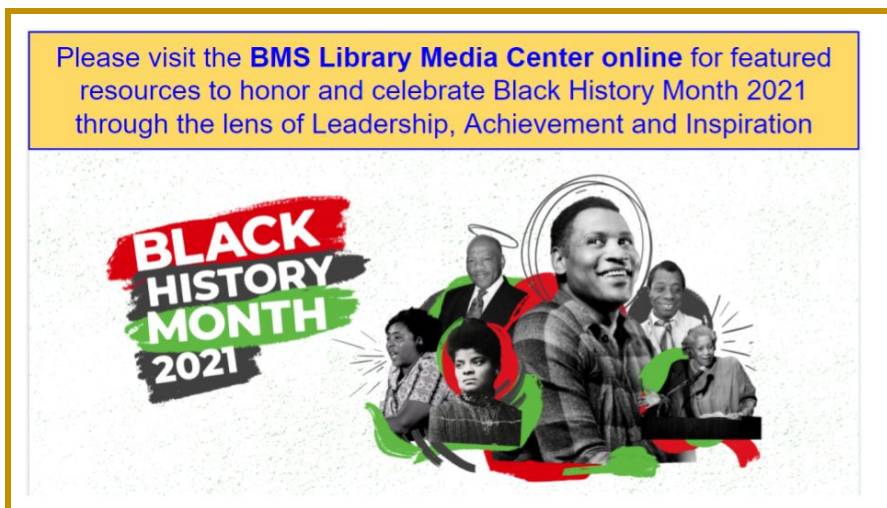
Contribute: Positive Message Photos

[LINK: Positive Message Photos Participation Form](#)

We are looking for your positive message pictures! Upload a picture of you, your pet or your family promoting a positive message. As an example option, you may want to write a message and hold it up in your photo. Answer the questions below, then upload your photo. Be sure to use your Westport email address for logging into the form! Please email Mr. Barbiero or Mr. Savage if you have any trouble.

Black History Month 2021 at BMS!

The following slides now appear on the digital signage screens throughout BMS and are also posted to BMS Schoology, which automatically goes to all BMS students. Please visit the BMS



Did You Know?



Pauli Murray's vision for a just and equitable world is a beacon of hope during troubled times. Her social justice tactics, legal strategies, speeches, letters, books, sermons, and poetry are models for our ongoing activism aimed at dismantling the oppression s/he faced and we continue to face because of white supremacy, sexism and oppression based on sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression.

BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH

Did You Know?



Yara Shahidi, Black-ish and Crown-ish star, is an advocate for diversity in Hollywood and girls' education across the country. In partnership with the Young Women's Leadership Network, she launched a mentoring initiative called Yara's Club. The organization connects young women, invites participants to talk about topics that matter to them, and encourages social activism. She has also worked with Michelle Obama on the Let Girls Learn initiative.

BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH

Did You Know?



One in four cowboys was Black, despite the stories told in popular books and movies. It's believed that the real "Lone Ranger" was inspired by an African American man named Bass Reeves. A Deputy U.S. Marshal, he was a master of disguise, an expert marksman, had a Native American companion, and rode a silver horse.

BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH

Did You Know?



Grace Dolan-Sandrino has become a nationally-recognized advocate for LGBTQ youth of color. She co-founded Youth Blackout DC, an organization that aims to amplify student voices and helped organize thousands of D.C. high school students to protest in a city-wide march. Under the Obama administration, she served as Ambassador to the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for African Americans.



Did You Know?



Fannie Lou Hamer was a voting and women's rights activist, community organizer, and a leader in the civil rights movement. She was the co-founder and vice-chair of the Freedom Democratic Party, which she represented at the 1964 Democratic National Convention. Hamer also organized Mississippi's Freedom Summer along with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). She was also a co-founder of the National Women's Political Caucus, an organization created to recruit, train, and support women of all races who wish to seek election to government office.



Did You Know?



When Marley Dias was 11, she couldn't keep her nose out of a book—but she was sick of reading story after story about white boys. start the #1000BlackGirlBooks campaign, aimed at finding 1,000 books with black girls as protagonists. The campaign collects and donates books and works with educators to discover and promote more diversity in reading.



Did You Know?



Bessie Stringfield, better known as the "Motorcycle Queen of Miami," is a pioneering motorcyclist who broke down barriers for Black riders and women alike. The late Stringfield is historically known as the first Black woman to ride across the United States.



Did You Know?



Mae Jemison is an American engineer, physician, and former NASA astronaut. She became the first Black woman to travel into space when she served as a mission specialist aboard the Space Shuttle *Endeavour*.



PARENT DRIVERS: PLEASE PULL FORWARD FOR MORNING DROP-OFF!

Please pull all the way forward before dropping off your child in the morning. Please make sure your child is ready to get out of the car - curbside only - as soon as you pull all the way forward and stop. Please do not stand/wait in the drop-off line as it causes a ripple-effect all the way down the BMS driveway onto North Ave. Thank you for your help in keeping traffic flowing safely at BMS!

LAST CHANCE: SOUP-ER-BOWL CANNED FOOD DRIVE



Are you ready for some football? Help kick off the Super Bowl by donating some canned goods. The food will be donated to the Gillespie Center of Westport, a food pantry that is part of a larger organization called Homes with Hope. Donation boxes will be located at the main entrance lobby & the Health Education classrooms. The canned drive will run from **February 1st through February 26th**. Help us tackle hunger by making a donation!

NEXT SCHOOL WEEK'S SCHEDULE: MARCH 1st-5th		
DAY, DATE	IN-SCHOOL HYBRID COHORT	SCHEDULE ROTATION
Monday, 03/01/2021	FULL OPEN for Cohorts A & B	A-Day
Tuesday, 03/02/2021	FULL OPEN for Cohorts A & B	E-Day
Wednesday, 03/03/2021	REMOTE LEARNING ½ DAY	B-Day
Thursday, 03/04/2021	FULL OPEN for Cohorts A & B	D-Day
Friday, 02/05/2021	FULL OPEN for Cohorts A & B	C-Day

IMPORTANT STUDENT TECH REMINDERS!

Students need to bring their school-issued Chromebooks to school CHARGED and in the protective case every day. BMS does not have spare devices or chargers on hand. Students are not permitted to bring their personal devices to school, however, they are welcome to use them at home on distance learning days.

- If students have a technical or physical issue with their device, they can report to the LMC, and the LMC staff will evaluate it and troubleshoot. If the device can not be repaired by the LMC staff, they may swap it out with another device OR provide a loaner while the device is being repaired by a Westport Public School IT technician.
- Please remember that if students have technical issues while learning from home an adult at home can contact the Distance Learning Tech Support. Here is a [link](#) (it is also a button on the bottom left of the BMS homepage)

Prior Newsletters

[BMS/CMS Newsletter #1 Week of Sept 8th-11th](#)
[BMS/CMS Newsletter #2 Week of Sept 14th-18th](#)
[BMS/CMS Newsletter #3 Week of Sept 21st-25th](#)
[BMS/CMS Newsletter #4 Week of Sept 29th-Oct 2nd](#)
[BMS/CMS Newsletter #5 Week Oct 5th-9th](#)
[BMS/CMS Newsletter #6 Week of Oct 12th-16th](#)
[BMS/CMS Newsletter #7 Week of Oct 19th-23rd](#)
[BMS/CMS Newsletter #8 Week of Oct 26th-30th](#)
[BMS/CMS Newsletter #9 Week of Nov 2nd-6th](#)
[BMS/CMS Newsletter #10 Week of Nov 9th-13th](#)
[BMS/CMS Newsletter #11 Week of Nov 16th-20th](#)
[BMS/CMS Newsletter #12 Week of Nov 23rd-25th](#)
[BMS/CMS Newsletter #13 Week of Nov 30th-Dec 4th](#)
[BMS/CMS Newsletter #14 Week of Dec 7th-Dec 11th](#)
[BMS/CMS Newsletter #15 Week of Dec 14th-Dec 18th](#)
[BMS/CMS Newsletter #16 Week of Dec 21st-23rd](#)
[BMS & CMS 2020-2021 Newsletter #17 Jan 4th-8th](#)
[BMS Newsletter #18 Jan 11th-15th](#)
[BMS Newsletter #19 Jan 19th-22nd](#)
[BMS Newsletter #20 Jan 25th-29th](#)
[BMS Newsletter #21 Feb 1st-5th](#)
[BMS Newsletter #22 Feb 8th-12th](#)
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