



2020-2021

Newsletter #21
February 1st-5th

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: FULL OPEN MODEL PROCEDURES & RULES

The following announcement was made at BMS on Thursday, 02/04/2021 at 8:35 a.m.; this text was also posted to the BMS Schoology page, which is automatically included in every students' Schoology feed.

Good morning and welcome Bedford students and staff, this is Dr. Rosen speaking. This is an exciting day for BMS! Starting today, our school is fully open, which means we have both Cohort A and Cohort B students together in school, and because of this increase to our in-school population, there are procedures and rules that all students are expected to follow and fully respect - these are designed to keep everyone as safe and healthy as possible. To be very clear, on behalf of all students, parents and staff, I am counting on you to uphold these expectations and fully cooperate with the following:

Updated Lunch Procedures for Full-In Model:

- **For Lunch Waves**
 - All students in grades 6, 7 and 8 have been assigned to a lunch table and there will be up to 4 students assigned to a lunch table;
 - Students are to remain seated and there is no visiting other tables at any time during lunch;
 - All lunch tables have plastic dividers - do not move them or stand up during to speak over them during lunch;
- **For Recess & Mask Break**
 - All students are required to go outside for recess & mask break;
 - Face masks are to be worn at all times on the blacktop whether participating in 4-Square or Basketball, or watching and socializing, face masks are to be worn while on the blacktop.
 - Face masks may come off for a mask break while on the concrete sidewalk and grass areas.
 - Students should wash/disinfect their hands in school after engaging in play at recess; hand sanitizing stations are available in common areas throughout the schools.
- **Recess Equipment Hygiene**
 - Students may use basketballs and 4-Square balls;
 - Students that want to play basketball or 4-Square will be provided with a ball; students are to wipe-down the playground equipment at the start of recess.
 - Wiping down the equipment at the start of recess is consistent with hygiene practice in our Physical Education program and in classrooms where students wipe down their desks and equipment at the start of classes.

The BIG rules at BMS:

- **SAFETY AND SECURITY: Cell phones prohibited between 8:30 a.m. and 2:45 p.m.**
 - Please make sure you either power-down or silence your cell phone and store it securely in your backpack for the duration of the school day. The only exception to this rule is when you have direct permission from your teacher and only for instructional purposes. First offense is a warning; second offense the main office will hold your device for your parents to pick up.
- **SAFETY AND SECURITY: Hats Off, Hoods Down**
 - For the safety and security of yourself and everyone in school, BMS does not permit students to wear hats or have their hoodies up inside the school building
- **SAFETY AND SECURITY: No AirPods, Headphones, Earbuds**
 - Students may not use or wear airpods/earbuds or headphones in the hallways and during lunch; the only time you should be using these is when directed to do so by a teacher for instructional purposes;
- **SAFETY AND SECURITY: Morning Arrival ---> Go Directly to First Period Class**
 - BMS students may enter the school building starting at 8 a.m.. All students are required to walk directly to their 1st period class location. There are no lockers assigned to any students and no areas between 8-8:30 for students to congregate; there is no stopping in the hallways.
- **SAFETY AND SECURITY: Bus Transportation**
 - Students must wear a face mask securely covering the nose and mouth for the entire bus ride without exception

Black History Month 2021 at BMS!

To honor and draw special attention to our celebration of Black History Month, throughout the month of February BMS will feature Black history through the lens of "Leadership, Achievement and Inspiration." With the help of our Library Media Specialists, Literacy Coach, Department Coordinators, and administrators, we will be curating resources on our school's Library Media Center home page combined with an awareness campaign, which will be posted throughout our school community including this weekly principal's newsletter. We are sensitive to the message that celebrating Black History should not be relegated to only one month, but woven into the fabric of the ongoing curriculum. To this end, the leadership team and curriculum supervisors continue the work with our staff to engrain diversity, equity and inclusion into learning as a constant, not a special event. At this time, we are proud to highlight the importance of Black History Month and provide our students and families with rich and relevant resources, which we hope spark curiosity, interest and learning with our students and families.

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

Please visit the [BMS Library Media Center online](#) for featured resources to honor and celebrate Black History Month 2021 through the lens of Leadership, Achievement and Inspiration



Did You Know?



Nikki Giovanni is one of America's foremost poets. Over the course of a long career, Giovanni has published numerous collections of poetry. Giovanni's first published volumes of poetry grew out of her response to the assassinations of such figures as Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, Medgar Evers, and Robert Kennedy, and the pressing need she saw to raise awareness of the plight and the rights of Black people.

BLK History Month

By Nikki Giovanni

If Black History Month is not viable then wind does not carry the seeds and drop them on fertile ground
rain does not dampen the land and encourage the seeds to root
sun does not warm the earth and kiss the seedlings and tell them plain:
You're As Good As Anybody Else
You've Got A Place Here, Too

Did You Know?



Carter G. Woodson was the second African American to receive a doctorate from Harvard. Known as the "Father of Black History," Woodson dedicated his career to the field of African American history and lobbied extensively to establish Black History Month as a nationwide institution. He also wrote many historical works, including the 1933 book *The Mis-Education of the Negro*.

Carter G. Woodson, Ph.D., Harvard University



Did You Know?



Jennifer King is the first black woman to become a full-time coach in the NFL for Washington (but she worked with the Panthers for 3 years before that!). She is from Eden, NC and a former two-sport athlete at Guilford College.

Jennifer King, NFL Coach



Did You Know?

It was March 2, 1955, when this fifteen-year-old schoolgirl refused to move to the back of the bus, nine months before Rosa Parks' stand that launched the Montgomery bus boycott. Her name was **Claudette Colvin**.

Claudette Colvin, Civil Rights Activist at 15 years old!

**BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH**

Did You Know?

Lonnie Johnson invented one of the most successful toys of all time, the Super Soaker water gun. It has racked up retail sales of more than \$1 billion. He developed the toy after-hours while working as an engineer for NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, CA.

**BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH**

Did You Know?

The iconic cartoon character Betty Boop was inspired by a Black jazz singer in Harlem, named **Esther Jones**. She was known as "Baby Esther" and performed regularly in the Cotton Club during the 1920s.

**BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH**

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!



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!

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)

NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE: FEBRUARY 8th-12th

DAY, DATE	IN-SCHOOL HYBRID COHORT	SCHEDULE ROTATION
Monday, 02/08/2021	FULL OPEN for Cohorts A & B	D-Day
Tuesday, 02/09/2021	FULL OPEN for Cohorts A & B	C-Day
Wednesday, 02/10/2021	REMOTE LEARNING ½ DAY	E-Day
Thursday, 02/11/2021	FULL OPEN for Cohorts A & B	B-Day
Friday, 02/12/2021	FULL OPEN for Cohorts A & B	A-Day

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](#)