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# Governor Wentworth Regional School District

*Brookfield, Effingham, New Durham, Ossipee, Tuftonboro, Wolfeboro*

**Post Office Box 190, Wolfeboro Falls, New Hampshire 03896-0190**

*Helping Each Child Create the Future*

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October 5, 2022

Dear Governor Wentworth Regional School District & Middleton Families,

Our schools are reporting successful school openings thanks to the cooperation and support of our families and employees. Students are enjoying in-person learning and an increase in activities and events that haven't occurred in three years. Principals and teachers enjoyed very well-attended open houses this month. We would like to thank our students, staff, and parents for all that you bring to our schools at Governor Wentworth and Middleton!

COVID-19 cases have drastically reduced in our school communities since last year due to your cooperation and support. We depend on families to follow recommendations to reduce the spread of COVID-19. As always, please keep children home if they are experiencing cold or flu-like symptoms. Students should only return to school when their symptoms are improving and fever free for 24 hours.

Although it is only early October, inclement weather procedures are included in this letter. Whether you are new to the district or have been a resident for many years, please read carefully so you are fully aware of our procedures when we are considering a cancellation due to unsafe road conditions.

Thank you again and we look forward to being in touch with you.

Sincerely,



Caroline Arakelian, PhD  
Superintendent of Schools  
[carakelian@SAU49.org](mailto:carakelian@SAU49.org)

## Inclement Weather Procedures

**Please read carefully the procedures we use to make the decision to either hold or cancel school. School will proceed remotely when in-person learning is canceled with the exception of one traditional snow day to be determined by the severity of precipitation.**

**When a weather event is anticipated, the GWRSD Transportation Supervisor monitors both the Maine and New Hampshire weather forecasts beginning at 4:00 a.m. The Transportation Supervisor is in touch with the road agents in all of our communities for road conditions as well**

as plans for plowing, salting and sanding. The Strafford and Carroll County Dispatch also provide information regarding road conditions based on police calls and any other concerning road activity. Communication with bus drivers for conditions in their areas is ongoing throughout the morning.

Additionally, we utilize Precision Weather which targets weather and road conditions in the region. It is not uncommon for WMUR to be reporting conditions that may be true for much of the state but not targeted or accurate for our specific region. The decision whether to hold school or not is based on all of the gathered information. School is only held if the total assessment indicates that buses can safely pass over the roadways. Safety is the number one priority in making the decision.

If the roads are not expected to be in good condition and buses cannot pass safely by the time routes normally begin but they are expected to improve to an acceptable standard within two hours, the policy is to delay school for two hours. If it is determined that road conditions will not be safe by 7:15 a.m., school will be canceled. Every effort is made to get a message to families between 5:15 a.m. and 5:35 a.m. through your chosen option(s) of voicemail, text or email.

These messages are for your convenience; however, even with the most reliable system we are still dependent on satellite technology, electricity, and the internet to successfully communicate with families. If you do not receive a message please check Channel 9/ WMUR or Channel 6/ WSCH which lists the information about school closings. WOKQ also lists closings on their website, and several radio stations still broadcast the names of schools that are closed.

As always, the final decision as to whether or not children come to school is up to parents. We are geographically the largest district in the state which makes it impossible for us to know the conditions on every road. Students will be allowed to make up any work that has been missed if the parent determines their child(ren) will stay home from school and the absence will be excused.

## Upcoming Events

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
10/10	No School - Indigenous Peoples' Day
10/12	LRTC CTSO Officer Induction Ceremony
10/12	Middleton School Board Meeting
10/17	Middleton Open House

The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character—that is the goal of true education.

Martin Luther King, Jr., 1929-1968

## Previously Shared Information

The information below has been shared with families in previously issued communication but may still be of interest.

## School Meals: Application Required for Free/ Reduced Lunch

The federal government allowed schools to offer free meals to all students during the pandemic, however Congress did not extend this benefit for next school year. Families that are eligible for free or reduced price meals must apply to receive them, and all other students must pay full price for their meals. The application process for free and reduced price meals opens on July 1, families can go online at [www.myschoolapps.com](http://www.myschoolapps.com) or fill out an application at any school within the district. Visit our Food Service web page for more information: [www.gwrdsfoodservice.org](http://www.gwrdsfoodservice.org).

## GWRSD Adopts CDC & NH DHHS Close Contact Quarantine Rule Change

Close contacts of those who test positive for COVID-19 will no longer be required to quarantine per the GWRSD Stay-Open change effective August 15th, 2022. On August 12th, NH DHHS announced that they will adopt the CDC updated guidelines that relaxes the requirement for close contacts to quarantine if there is a positive test result in the home regardless of vaccination status. Click the link to read the complete advisory from NH DHHS: [COVID-19 Pandemic, Update # 64: Updated CDC COVID-19 Prevention and Quarantine Guidance](#).

Both the NH DHHS and CDC continue to recommend individuals stay home when feeling sick and await test results prior to returning to school or the workplace. Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 will be required to quarantine for five days and return on day six provided symptoms are improving. Please reach out to the health office at your school if you have any questions regarding quarantine and safe practices to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

## Bus Routes: 2022-2023

GWRSD routes are posted [here](#) (Middleton routes are shared on Facebook and are posted [here](#)). Please take note of your students' bus route and stop as there have been some changes made for this school year. It may be the case that the bus stop is farther away from your home than in years past due to driver shortages. As a result of the shortages, we have had to reduce the number of stops, combine select routes, and shift to a larger vehicle in some instances. We are striving to accommodate families as much as possible given the current situation with staffing, vehicles, and transportation resources. Thank you for your patience as we continue to be as strategic and accommodating while following the New Hampshire bus stop distance rules for students.

## We're Hiring!

Please help us spread the word about our open positions! We are looking for caring individuals to work with our incredible students and staff. Prospective candidates can reach out to principals if they have questions about flexible hours. GWRSD and Middleton are hiring for the following open positions: paraprofessional, substitute, long-term substitute, lunch/recess proctor, reading assistant (Title 1), food service, office assistant, hall monitor, high school coach, bus driver and more.

Click the "[Employment](#)" link at the top of the district website for all GWRSD & Middleton employment information including locations & the application process.

## NH Education Department Information

**Families encouraged to sign up for free or discounted high-speed internet.** To ensure that families in NH are connected to reliable broadband services, NHED and ExcelinED are sharing important information about the Affordable Connectivity Program, which lowers internet costs for eligible families, including students approved to receive benefits under the National Free and Reduced-Price Lunch Program and school breakfast program. For families to enroll, they must complete the application at [ACPBenefit.org](https://www.acpbenefit.org), and contact their preferred participating internet provider to select a plan and have the discount applied to their bill. The Affordable Connectivity Program is a Federal Communications Commission Benefit Program.

**New Hampshire expands access to free online tutoring for students grades 6-12.** Continuing with its efforts to close gaps and recover from missed learning, the New Hampshire Department of Education has selected Tutor.com to provide 24/7 online tutoring for every middle and high school student in the state. Through this partnership, more than 100,000 middle and high school students will gain unlimited access to Tutor.com – anytime, anywhere, from any internet-connected device. Please stay tuned for more information regarding how KRMS & KRHS students can take advantage of this service through the “Clever” application.

