

Superintendent's Newsletter

— WELCOME —
BACK TO SCHOOL

August 30th, 2022

Dear Students and Families,

We are thrilled to welcome students in grades 1-12 back to school on Thursday, September 1st and to welcome Pre-K and Kindergarten students back to school on Wednesday, September 7th.

Student school hours are as follows:

Bartlett High 7:25 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Webster Middle 7:35 a.m. to 2:10 p.m.

Park Avenue Elementary 8:35 a.m. to 3:05 p.m.

Our schools look simply amazing! Please take some time to thank our custodians, administrative assistants, and administrators who have worked all summer long preparing for the new school year. The custodians emptied every single classroom for deep cleaning and school secretaries have been busy working with administrators on ordering materials, preparing student handbooks, and scheduling events.

I am pleased to share that we are back to full use of our cafeterias and the regular tables have returned. The libraries at the elementary and middle school will no longer serve as a make-shift cafeteria or as office space and classrooms ~ hooray!. Although we do not have librarians, the libraries are open and able to be used by teachers and students across the district. Should a parent/guardian/grandparent be looking for a place to volunteer their time, please consider spending some time in one of our school libraries. If volunteering in a school library interests you, please contact your school principal.

Save the dates for Open Houses:

September 15th, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. - Webster Middle School

September 22nd, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. - Bartlett High School

September 29th, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. - Park Avenue Elementary

Save the dates for the Mandatory Athletic Training for Parents/Guardians and Student Athletes:

September 1st, 6:00 p.m. in the Bartlett High School auditorium for high school students/families

September 8th, 6:00 p.m. in the Webster Middle School gymnasium for middle school students/ families.



Other News and Updates:

1. **Safety Preparedness:** Teachers and Staff returned on August 29th. All staff received training on de-escalation strategies and A.L.I.C.E. training during the opening professional development days. Safety is our number one priority and part of the training for staff included having staff respond to various types of simulated experiences. Detective Whiting, School Resource Officer Mehlhouse, and members of the Webster and Dudley Charlton Police Departments provided much support during these drills and our staff learned how to respond to different type of scenarios.

As a reminder, we conduct monthly District Safety Meetings with our local officials. We will be conducting age appropriate safety preparedness drills with students throughout the school year and these will include: fire drills, lockdowns, and evacuation drills. Principals will be keeping parents/guardians informed about these safety preparedness drills in their newsletters and outreach.

2. **Two Way Communication with Parents/Guardians:** We are asking families to fill out the attached survey that will assist us with formulation action steps for our district and school improvement plans. [Instructional Priority Survey 2022-2023](#)

3. **EBT Cards:** We have been informed that some EBT cards have been compromised, in particular in the Eastern part of the state. It is recommended that cardholders take the extra steps of protecting their EBT cards by changing their PIN. Please see the attached flyer for assistance or go to <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/protect-your-ebt-benefits-outreach-materials>

4. **Busing:** The transportation lists are currently posted on the Website at www.webster-schools.org. We would like to point out to parents that we may encounter delays in the Lake Street area due to the ongoing construction. We have been informed that during the week of August 29th through September 2nd that the streets from Harris Street to Dresser Street may be closed off to through traffic along with the week of September 6th thru September 9th from Dresser Street through Greystone Ave. Buses may be allowed to travel through if it is safe for them to do so, but there may be times they have to reroute around.

We also ask parents to have your children out at the stops early for the first few weeks until the buses get into a more scheduled routine.

We appreciate all your patience as we move through the first couple weeks of school. Please don't hesitate to call the business office or Assistant Superintendent of Business and Finance, Monique Pierangeli, with any questions.

5. **September Update from the WPS Food Service Department:**

We are looking forward to a great school year and in welcoming back our school community! Webster Public Schools continues to offer free breakfast and lunch to all students. Research consistently shows that students who eat breakfast perform better, are more concentrated, and have more energy for their school days...and we encourage all to take advantage of our breakfast programs. Our district also commends Governor Baker for the expansion of Universal Free Meals to all students in Massachusetts for School Year 2022-23.

The school gardens at Park Ave and Webster Middle continue to thrive and offer produce that we are able to offer in our cafeterias. Harvest of the Month will be incorporated into our cafeterias, offering

our school community exposure to fresh and local produce. The gardens await our community's return as we aim to continue and expand our Farm to School Program. Community and family involvement is always welcome, so please reach out if interested!

Over the summer, Webster Schools provided free meals to anyone 18 and under in the community at Webster Middle, Park Ave, and the Webster Library service sites. This year we saw much success as participants were able to eat on site and take part in fun activities as well. Summer Eats free meals to students will continue to operate in summer 2023.

The Food Service Department also has a new Facebook page where you will find updates, news, and menus. You can find the page by visiting <https://www.facebook.com/WebsterFoodService>, or searching "Webster Schools Food Service Department." For any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact our new Food Service Director, Kelsey Sanders, at ksanders@webster-schools.org or by phone at 508-943-0104 ext.40016.

6. **Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Support Group:** This group meets the 2nd Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. at the Oxford High School Community Room and the 3rd Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at the Gladys E. Kelly Public Library. Please see flyer attached for more information.
7. **Mapfre Insurance is sponsoring the Central MA Pan-Mass Challenge Kids Ride on Saturday September 10th.** This event brings families and friends together for some outdoor fun, and also supports the fight against cancer. All of the dollars raised by riders will go to the Dana Farber Cancer Institute.

This event takes place on Saturday, September 10th from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m., and is open to all kids ages 2 – 12. The event features two bike courses and an after-party with music, carnival games, face painting and more. To learn more about the ride and to register for the ride, and/or to volunteer, [click here](#) to visit our PMC Kids Ride Challenge website or see the attached flyer.

8. **Webster Adult Basic Education *Linkages* offers *FREE* GED/HiSET preparation classes and English for Speakers of Other Languages.** All classes offered have a face-to-face option or remote option available and are held on Tuesday and Thursday evening's 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Face-to-Face classes are conveniently located at Bartlett High School.

Interested students can complete their pre-registration by using this link: <https://sites.google.com/view/wabelinkages/registration> Once the pre-registration is complete, students will have to complete a face-to-face orientation process with staff. Classes begin on September 27, 2022.

Please email websterabelinkages@webster-schools.org or call 508-949-8282 for more information.

Looking forward to a wonderful school year!

Kind Regards,

Dr. Ruthann Petruno-Goguen, Superintendent