

February 12, 2021

Dear Students, Staff and Families,

### **COVID**

We continue to monitor the number of COVID cases in our schools, and to date we have had 102. We continue to provide weekly updates to keep everyone informed, and I am pleased to share we have seen a decline in the past week in the number of cases. Our safety protocols are strong and it is essential that we continue to teach our students the importance of the social distancing, mask wearing, and increased hand washing.



With the upcoming school break, staff, students and parents need to be mindful of the Massachusetts Travel restrictions. They can be located at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-travel-order>

### **Hybrid Model**

Our school model has been consistent since September. I am proud that we have been able to offer a FULL day of learning to our students since September in a synchronous model. Our teachers and staff have done an outstanding job, as have our students and families with the dramatic adjustments we have all had to make.

We would all like things to go back to normal and have all of our students back in school at once, but at this current moment in time, we are unable to do that. It is important to explain that with our school model, students are in school for a full day on their assigned in-person learning days, and we must adhere to the 6 feet of distancing for lunch when students are unmasked. We have become creative and made additional cafeteria spaces, to ensure we maximize the number of students we have in all of our classrooms. We believe our adherence to all the safety protocols we have in place has assisted us in keeping the number of close contacts and COVID cases down.

We are keeping a close eye on our in-person seats to ensure all classrooms are filled to their capacity. For families who have students in Cohort A, B, or C that are not coming into school for their in-person days, will be receiving information from their principals this week. Recently, Bartlett invited 40 more students into school for in-person learning because they had in-person seats available.

It is important for everyone to know we are always planning for what is to come in the future, and we know that guidance may change. We are anxiously awaiting for the time when educators will have access to the vaccine. It is our hope that COVID vaccinations are one step closer towards getting to the normal we all miss and love.

### Two-Way Engagement with our Families

We continue to seek new ways to stay connected and engage in two-way communication with our families. Attached to this newsletter is Webster Public School's summary of ways to increase **Family Involvement and Two-Way Engagement**. While we have a lot of methods for two-way communications across our district, this document outlines what we have and the importance of having parents/guardians involved in their child/children's social, emotional, and academic development.

#### Opportunities for involvement include:

1. PTO
2. School Councils
3. SEPAC
4. EL Parent Advisory

### Annual Title I and Special Education Parent/Guardian Meeting

Two ZOOM meetings have been scheduled for March 17<sup>th</sup>; one at 11:00 a.m. and one at 7:00 p.m.

11:00 a.m. Zoom link - <https://webster-schools.org.zoom.us/j/83421942602?pwd=SUdUL1hnTDdmazEvZUF2RkFrYk1lUT09>

7:00 p.m. Zoom link - <https://webster-schools.org.zoom.us/j/85223321454?pwd=azhKUOlZZkpOUVROaFF2SmZlMzFSQT09>

### Residency Requirements

In order to be educated by the Webster Public Schools, families/students must live in Webster. Recently we have seen an increase of families/students continuing their education in our schools when they do not live in Webster. Our School Resource Officer, Detective Tim Whiting has been busy doing residency checks. We ask families to be honest and inform us in a timely fashion if you have moved out of Webster. We are available to assist helping you register your child/children in the town or state you live in. Please contact Central Office at 508-943-0104 x 2 for any assistance in this area.

### Updated Contact Information

We must have current phone numbers and addresses on file for each and every one of our students. This is a safety requirement. **If your phone number or your address has changed, please contact your child's school office to assist with updating our records.**

### Mental Health Supports

It's been almost a year of living with COVID-19 and we understand that this pandemic has created more stress and anxiety for everyone. We know all students have been impacted and hope this list detailing what each school's counseling department does and can do, is helpful at this time.

### Bartlett High School Counseling Services

BHS counseling department continues to offer services to all students and their families to support them with any social/emotional, college and counseling services. The Bartlett Student Support team, which meets weekly, consists of counselors, administrators, and members of the health team, to identify students at risk and in need of services.

Services offered by BHS Counseling Department:

- In-person/Zoom/phone meetings with students
- In-person/Zoom/phone meetings with parents/guardians
- Recurring individual/group counseling sessions for students
- Referrals to community partners
- Guidance Weekly Wellness Survey sent to students
- Communication with all students/families through Grade-level specific Google Classroom pages
- Collaboration with School Resource Officer
- School-wide mental health trainings for students on individual topics (ex: Signs of Suicide/Sandy Hook Promise)

### Webster Middle School Counseling Services

- Students/parents/guardians have access to their grade level counselor as needed, remotely or in person, for check in's
- Counselors are available for consultations with parents/guardians for student related issues and/or referrals to outside agencies
- Counselors teach the Second Step – a social emotional curriculum, during unified arts rotations
- Counselors have weekly meetings with the District Family Liaison
- Counselors have weekly meetings with the Administrative Team
- Counselors have weekly meetings with the Nursing Department and Administration
- Ongoing communication with the School Resource Officer
- *The Signs of Suicide Program* (Sandy Hook) is being implemented and focuses on educating our students to be more observant to watch for symptoms of depression and/or suicidal ideation
  - Offered 2 Parent/Guardian session on the signs of suicide
- School-wide Professional Development has focused on trauma and creating sensitive classrooms.

### Park Avenue Counseling Services

PAE counseling department continues to help all children get the most out of school. They work closely with teachers and parents/guardians to evaluate children's strengths, problems, or special needs in the classroom and interpersonal activities. We understand that this is a challenging time for all families and it is our hope that parents and students feel free to use the following services. Please reach out to us if you have any questions or concerns.

Parents/guardians, we are available to assist and help you with:

- Exploring ways to help your child succeed
- Improving parent-child communications
- Referrals for community resources
- Understanding the developmental changes of childhood
- Supply reference materials Information to help understand your child's special needs

Students, we are here to help you with:

- Working out friendship problems
- Setting goals
- Working well with others
- Feeling good about yourself
- Adjusting to a new school
- Learning how to make decisions
- Managing your feelings (stress, worry, anger, etc.)
- Dealing with peer pressure and bullying

Services we provide:

- Group Counseling  
(social skills, friendship skills, emotion regulation, and conflict resolution)
- Brief Solution-Focused Counseling
- Parent Consultations
- Community Resource Referrals
- Classroom Presentations
- Crisis support

List of community partners for families who need additional support:

<b>Harrington Health Care (HHC)</b>	161 West Main St	Dudley	508-765-2222	Individual Therapy Psychiatry Adult Partial Hospitalization
<b>Harrington Health Care (HHC)</b>	10 North Main St	Charlton	508-765-2222	Individual Therapy Psychiatry Adult Partial Hospitalization
<b>GB Wells (HHC)</b>	29 Pine Street	Southbridge	508-765-2222	Individual Therapy Psychiatry
<b>YOU Inc</b>	Southbridge Family Center 328 Main Street, #1	Southbridge	508-765-9101 Central Intake: 855-496-8462	Individual Therapy Group Therapy Psychiatry Family Supports In-home Therapy School-based services Substance Abuse Group Medication management
<b>YOU Inc</b>	81 Plantation St	Worcester	Central Intake: 855-496-8462	Individual Therapy Group Therapy Psychiatry Family Supports In-home Therapy School-based services Substance Abuse Group Medication management
<b>Centro</b>	11 Sycamore St	Worcester	508-798-1900	CBHI/Mental Health Services In-home Therapy Therapeutic Training and Support Parent Support Services Intensive Family Stabilization (DCF Referral Only)

<b>Massachusetts Psychiatric Services</b>	128 Main Street, Suite #3	Sturbridge	Tel: 508-418-68888 Fax: 508-418-6886	Medication management, initial assessment, ongoing care Individual Psychotherapy Couples and Marriage counseling Grief counseling Parent/Child Psychotherapy Group therapy for social skills with autistic and ADD children Anxiety Skills building groups for women Domestic Violence group
<b>Auburn Youth and Family Services</b>	21 Pheasant Court	Auburn	Tel: 508-832-5707 Fax: 508-832-5708	Individual Counseling Family Counseling
<b>East Point Services</b>	13 Arlington St	Auburn	Tel: 508-798-6699 Fax: 508-798-7011	Groups for depression, anxiety and stress-related problems Individual Psychotherapy Emotion Regulation Training Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Court-appointed divorce program Consultation with parents around behavioral issues with children and adolescents
<b>Riverside EMH Mobil Crisis Support</b>			508-765-3078	Emergency Mental Health Screening CBAT/ICBAT Placement Hospitalization stabilization referrals
<b>LUK</b>	251 Main St	Webster	Phone: 508-640-0011 Fax: 508-640-0012	Outpatient Counseling Group Counseling Home-based Counseling Psychiatry Assessments Addiction Treatment
<b>Children's Friend</b>	21 Cedar St	Worcester	508-753-5425	Individual Counseling Group Counseling: social skills, DBT Family Counseling Grief Support
<b>Children's Program at the Church of the Reconciliation</b>				Group Counseling for children of addicted parents
<b>LINK-KID UMass Medical School</b>	55 Lake Avenue North, S3-301	Worcester	1-855-LINK-KID ctcreferral@umassmed.edu	Centralized referral for trauma focused treatment
<b>Community Healthlink</b>	Youth and Family Center 335 Chandler St	Worcester	Main #: 508-860-1000 Tel: 508-791-3261 Fax: 508-795-1338	Individual Counseling Psychiatry Family Counseling Psychological Testing Families and Communities together- ICC, Family In-home therapy Victim Services Adolescent Recovery Services
<b>Harrington Behavioral Health</b>	139 South St	Southbridge	508-909-7260	Outpatient Counseling School Based Services Medication Management

<b>Family Continuity Program</b>	76 Church St	Whitinsville	508-234-4181	Outpatient Counseling In Home Therapy Therapeutic Mentoring
<b>Riverside Community Care</b>	206 Milford St	Upton	508-579-7000	Early Intervention Outpatient Counseling In Home Therapy Therapeutic Mentoring Emergency Mental Health (877-750-3127)
<b>Arbour Counseling Services</b>	411 Chandler St	Worcester	508-799-0688	Outpatient Counseling In-home Therapy Therapeutic Mentoring Medication Management Partial Hospitalization Program
<b>South Bay Community Services</b>	340 Main Street	Worcester	508-427-5362	Early Intervention Outpatient Counseling In Home Therapy Therapeutic Mentoring School-based services
<b>Enlightened Interventions</b>	25 Union Street, Fl 3	Worcester	<a href="https://www.enlightenedinterventionsllc.org/">508-317-2323 https://www.enlightenedinterventionsllc.org/</a>	Outpatient Counseling School based services Group counseling
<b>New Beginnings Wellness Center</b>	1280 Main Street	Worcester	<a href="tel:508-754-1141">508-754-1141</a>	Outpatient Counseling In home therapy Therapeutic Mentoring Group Counseling Medication Management
<b>New Beginnings Wellness Center</b>	803 Main Street	Leicester	<a href="tel:508-892-5554">508-892-5554</a>	Outpatient Counseling In home therapy Therapeutic Mentoring Group Counseling Medication Management

### Mass211

- **Mass211** is the centralized hub for comprehensive information about and referral to the complete spectrum of services in **Massachusetts** that address the social determinants of healthy lives and communities. They also have multiple resources and updates regarding Covid-19. Information can be found at [mass211.org](http://mass211.org) or by calling 211.

**Mobile Crisis services and our community hotline** are managed by the Riverside Crisis Team. They can be reached at **508-765-3035**.

### Counselor Contact Information

<b>Park Ave Elementary</b>	
Stephanie Errera	<a href="mailto:serrera@webster-schools.org">serrera@webster-schools.org</a>
Renee Harrington Freeman	<a href="mailto:rharringtonfreeman@webster-schools.org">rharringtonfreeman@webster-schools.org</a>
Samantha Lopez-Avila	<a href="mailto:Slopez-avila@webster-schools.org">Slopez-avila@webster-schools.org</a>
Gina Wojnarowicz	<a href="mailto:gwojnarowicz@webster-schools.org">gwojnarowicz@webster-schools.org</a>

<b>Webster Middle School</b>	
Michael Sweeney	msweeney@webster-schools.org
Jennifer Keary	jkeary@webster-schools.org
Erin Pelletier	epelletier@webster-schools.org

<b>Bartlett High School</b>	
Kim Granger	kgranger@webster-schools.org
Christopher Shen	cshen@webster-schools.org
Patrick Diggins	pdiggins@webster-schools.org
Nancy Guiney	nguinney@webster-schools.org

### **Other Updates**

#### **Bartlett High School Educational Visioning Working Group**

We are excited to be working with Flansburgh Architects and Educational Consultant on the visioning for Bartlett High School's future programming. The following list represents the committee working on connecting the future programming to the building renovation.

Peter Twiraga	BHS Music/Band Teacher	ptwiraga@webster-schools.org
Angela Duffy	BHS Special Education Teacher	aduffy@webster-schools.org
Michele Bigelow	BHS Math Teacher	mbigelow@webster-schools.org
Maryann Hoenig	BHS Business Teacher	mhoenig@webster-schools.org
Yvonne Lambert	BHS Special Education Teacher	ylambert@webster-schools.org
Sarah Argentieri	BHS English Teacher	sargentieri@webster-schools.org
Kim Morris	BHS Special Education Teacher	kmorris@webster-schools.org
Donna Hurton	BHS Special Education Teacher	dhurton@webster-schools.org
Dane Laboissonniere	BHS Social Studies Teacher	dlaboissonniere@webster-schools.org
Stephanie Sanborn	BHS ELA Teacher	ssanborn@webster-schools.org
Terri Hensel	WMS ELA Teacher	thensel@webster-schools.org
Chrissy Meleti	WMS EL Teacher	cmeleti@webster-schools.org
Gina Nieves	Bartlett High Assistant Principal	gnieves@webster-schools.org
Fran Thomas	Bartlett High Principal	fthomas@webster-schools.org
Robin Parmley	Park Avenue Elementary Principal	rpmarmley@webster-schools.org
Heidi Peterson	Webster Middle Principal	hpeterson@webster-schools.org
Patty Mackay	Director of Title 1 and ELL	pmackay@webster-schools.org
Jill Chapdelaine	Director of Curriculum and Instruction	jchapdelaine@webster-schools.org
Kathy Baris	Director of Student Support Services	kbaris@webster-schools.org
Leslie Baker	Director of Adult Education	lbaker@webster-schools.org
Monique Pierangeli	Business Manager	mpierangeli@webster-schools.org
Ruthann Petrino-Goguen	Superintendent	rgoguen@webster-schools.org

### Innovative Pathways/Project Lead the Way

Principal Thomas applied and received the Innovation Planning Grant and also received the Project Lead the Way Grant. This will allow us to offer two new pathways next school year for our student: Advanced Manufacturing and a Health Care and Human Assistance Pathways. More details will be forthcoming in the Bartlett Program of Studies.

### Sports Updates

- Bartlett held Senior Basketball games where parents/guardians were able to celebrate their Senior!
- Webster Middle School will be holding a co-ed basketball game to celebrate the end of the season. This will be held on Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>, and due to safety precautions no spectators will be allowed, but it will be livestreamed.

### FALL 2 Sports

We will be following the MIAA sports safety guidelines. Any questions need to be directed to Athletic Director Tony Paranto - tparanto@webster-schools.org

- Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup> thru April 25<sup>th</sup> (9 week session)
  - Feb. 22 start date – BHS Football
  - March 1 start date – WMS Football, BHS Volleyball and WMS/BHS Cheer
  - Feb. 22 start date – REAL MADRID WMS Basketball Program for EL students



### Food Distribution Centers Information

No meal distribution over February vacation.

Meal distribution resumes:

Monday February 22, 2021 @ PAE & WMS 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

**School Break - February 15th-19th**

**School Resumes - February 22nd**

Stay safe!

Dr. Goguen





# Webster Public Schools

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## Family Involvement and Two-Way Engagement

The Webster Public Schools (WPS) is committed to ensuring that all students have access to a high quality educational experience. Effective parent and family engagement at all levels is critical in making this belief a reality. We define parent and family engagement as an ongoing process that supports parents/families/caregivers in effectively:

- supporting and enriching learning in the home
- promotes clear two-way communication between home and school
- involves families as leaders and decision makers at all levels concerning the education of their children

Effective connections between home and school will help to promote productive learning conditions for every child. These open communication lines will expand and enhance learning opportunities.

**Families...** You can influence the success of your child in school more than any teacher or federal program. By becoming an active participant in the programs at your school, you will:

- Serve as a role model, showing your child that you support his/her education
- Assure that you are aware of your child's educational progress, thereby demonstrating how important that progress is to you
- Teach your student that your input at school is appreciated and that you support its efforts

To ensure that parents and families have meaningful opportunities to engage in the education of their children and the ongoing development of the programs that serve their children.

- All schools hold regular School Council meetings where designated Title I programs can be discussed and reviewed regularly
- Student progress is communicated regularly through conferences, report cards and informal communication between school and home
- A Title I family compact is reviewed annually, revised as necessary
- Relevant and meaningful learning opportunities for families are developed, communicated and implemented annually
- Annual surveys of parents are administered and are used to gather feedback and inform programmatic decisions

Information about these opportunities will be published annually to all families via email, web, and printed communications.

**Research shows** that how well a child does in school depends a great deal upon how much their parents/families/caregivers get involved in their education. You can become more involved by:

- Joining local school/parent organizations (PTO, School Council)
- Supporting school extra-curricular activities
- Volunteering at the school
- Attending parent – teacher conferences
- Communication with your child's teacher regularly, by writing notes, telephoning the school, using email, etc
- Keeping your child's teacher informed about events in your child's life which may affect his/her performance at school
- Discussing with your child's teacher and parent organizations other ideas for parent involvement

The Webster Public Schools recognizes that parents/families/caregivers are their children's first and most influential teachers and that continued parental involvement in the education of children/youth contributes greatly to student achievement and a positive school environment.

When schools work together with families to support learning, children are inclined to succeed not just in school, but throughout life. Research shows that parental participation in schooling improves student learning. Such participation of parents/families/caregivers is critical not only in the very beginning of the educational process, but throughout a child's entire academic career.

A child's education is shared by the school and family during the entire period the child spends in school. To support the goal of the school district to educate all students effectively, staff and parents must work as knowledgeable partners. The Webster Public Schools, in collaboration with parents/families/caregivers, shall establish programs and practices that enhance parent/family/caregiver's involvement and reflect the specific needs of students and their families.

To this end, the Webster Public Schools and the Parent Councils (School Councils, ELPAC, and SEPAC) support the development, implementation and regular evaluation of parental involvement in each school and at the district level, which will involve parents at all grade levels in a variety of roles. The family involvement will be comprehensive and coordinated in nature. They will include, but not limited to, the following components of successful family involvement/engagement programs:

- **Communication:** Communication between home and school is regular, two-way and meaningful.
- **Parenting:** Responsible parenting is promoted and supported.
- **Student Learning:** Parents/families/caregivers play an integral role in assisting student learning and in working with and supporting the classroom teacher.
- **Volunteering:** Parents/families/caregivers are welcome and needed in the school, and their support and assistance are sought.
- **School Decision Making and Advocacy:** Parents/families/caregivers are partners and should contribute to the decisions that affect children and families when appropriate.
- **Collaborating with the Community:** Community resources are made available to strengthen school programs, family practices and student learning.

The Webster Public Schools supports professional development opportunities for staff members to enhance understanding of effective parent involvement strategies. The Webster Public Schools also recognizes the importance of administrative leadership in setting expectations and creating a climate conducive to parental/family/caregiver participation and engagement.

Engaging parents is essential to improving student achievement. Webster Public Schools shall foster and support active parent involvement.

The annual combined Title I and Special Education Parent Meeting will take place on Wednesday, March 17, 2021. There will be two meetings over ZOOM, one at 11 AM and one at 7 PM, whichever is most convenient for you. We will be discussing the role the family plays in the participation in Title I and/or Special Education, and the overall education of all students.

This is the link for the 11:00 AM meeting

<https://webster-schools-org.zoom.us/j/83421942602?pwd=SUdUL1hnTDdmazEvZUF2RkFrYk1lUT09>

This is the link for the 7 PM meeting

<https://webster-schools-org.zoom.us/j/85223321454?pwd=azhKU0lZZkp0UVROaFF2SmZlMzFSQT09>

[Bartlett High School Compact.pdf](#)

[Webster Middle School Compact.pdf](#)

[Park Ave Compact.pdf](#)

Every year, each public school and school district in Massachusetts receives a report card. Just as your child's report card shows how they are doing in different subjects, the school's report card is designed to show families how our school is doing in different areas. A link to our schools' and district report card is available at:

District Report Card: <https://reportcards.doe.mass.edu/2020/DistrictReportcard/03160000>

BHS Report Card: <https://reportcards.doe.mass.edu/2020/03160505>

WMS Report Card: <https://reportcards.doe.mass.edu/2020/03160315>

PAE Report Card: <https://reportcards.doe.mass.edu/2020/03160015>

The report card includes multiple measures of a school's performance – more than just MCAS scores. It represents a new way of looking at school performance, by providing information on student achievement, teacher qualifications, student learning opportunities, and more.

Report cards are designed to be useful tools for everyone connected to our schools. Families can use the information to have meaningful conversations with us about what the school is doing well and where there is room for improvement. Community and education leaders can use the information to better understand how to support students and our school.

We encourage you to become involved in helping us improve our school. We see parents as critical partners in the success of our students and school, and we are grateful for your continued support. You also have the right to request the following information about the qualifications of your child's classroom teachers:

- Whether your child's teacher is licensed in the grade levels and subject areas they teach,
- Whether your child's teacher is teaching under an emergency license or waiver,
- The college degree and major of your child's teacher, and
- Whether your child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

If you have questions about our school's report card, would like to become involved in school improvement activities, or would like to request information about the qualifications of your child's classroom teacher, please contact Dr. Mackay 508-943-0104 x. 40030 or email at [pmackay@webster-schools.org](mailto:pmackay@webster-schools.org).

Updated 1/3/21

# Invitation for Parents/Guardians

## Annual Joint Special Education and Title I Meeting



When: Wednesday, March 17, 2021

Time: 11:00am or 7:00pm  
(please choose which time is best for you)

Location: 11:00am Zoom link ~ <https://webster-schools-org.zoom.us/j/83421942602?pwd=SUdUL1hnTDdmazEvZUF2RkFrYk1lUT09>

7:00pm Zoom link ~ <https://webster-schools-org.zoom.us/j/85223321454?pwd=azhKU0lZZkp0UVROaFF2SmZlMzFSQT09>

Please join us for a conversation regarding  
Student Support Services'

- ❖ SPED Requirements for Parent Advisory Council
- ❖ Meet Special Education and Title I Staff
- ❖ Title I sponsored programs
- ❖ Summer programming and resources
- ❖ Questions and Answers...Suggestions...Feedback



February 10, 2021

Dear Parents:

Webster Public Schools is committed to providing excellent special education services to our children. To help WPS achieve this goal, we are inviting parents to join the Webster Special Education Parents Advisory Council (WSEPAC).

**What is SEPAC?**

SEPAC is a group of parents and community members who provide advice to the district regarding its special education programs and policies. The SEPAC can meet with school officials to engage in meaningful conversations and activities that enables the SEPAC to participate in the planning, development and evaluation of the district's special education programs and policies.

**What are the benefits of joining SEPAC?**

SEPAC provides parents with a platform to exchange information, ideas, concerns and solutions. Getting involved presents a unique and stellar opportunity to:

- Make a positive impact on your child's learning environment
- Contribute to the success of the district's special education program
- Expand your network and meet parents who share the same goals

**What are the responsibilities of a SEPAC member?**

As a parent and member, you would lend your experience, insight and advice. You have intimate knowledge of how the special education programs and policies are impacting your child. This information is valuable and can provide the district with the feedback necessary to address concerns, develop strategies and improve the services provided to our children.

**Get involved!**

**Our meeting will be held on February 24, 2021 at 6 p.m. The meeting will take place via Zoom. The link for the Zoom meeting is provided on the enclosed flyer.**

Even if you are not interested in becoming a member, attend the meetings, provide your voice and inspire change. If you have any questions, please contact Bonnie Czernicki, 508-864-2853 or follow us on facebook @WebsterSEPAC.

Let's advocate for our children together!

With Anticipation,

Special Education Parents Advisory Council