

Newsletter

Superintendent Goguen

June 10, 2020

Dear Students, Staff and Families,

As we come to the conclusion of the school year, I would like to thank everyone (students, staff and families) for the ongoing persistence, patience, and collaborative efforts that have been demonstrated during our school closure. As a team, we made the best out of a very, very difficult situation. We had no idea back in March when school closed due to COVID-19, that we would be tasked with remote learning for the remainder of the school year.

Well, WE DID IT... and we did it together and as a team! We prioritized safety, maintaining social emotional connections with our students, while focusing on the pre-requisite content standards that DESE outlined for academic success.

While remote learning could never replace in person teaching, we did our best to meet our students' needs remotely. We were able to do this successfully because of our teachers and the strong commitments from our students, parents, guardians, and caretakers. There is no doubt this journey of remote learning been hard for our students, families and staff. Here is a brief list of some positives and what we have learned:

PAE:

- Strong grade level collaboration and 2-way family/school communication
 - 55,232 Class Dojo messages went out this year
 - 16,936 Stories were posted
 - 11,895 Student portfolio posts
- Compassionate, customized support for our students and their families
 - Counselors made over 3000 calls
- Creative ideas, creative teaming and creative instruction!
- Increased technology skills that resulted in high quality remote learning

WMS:

- Systems were created to document student work
- All teams had ongoing contact with students and families
- WMS guidance department did a phenomenal job working with students remotely
- WMS staff demonstrated flexibility and creative ways to engage students

BHS:

- Students have developed a deeper appreciation for the opportunities school provides
 - Numbers of students said, "I can't believe I'm saying this but I miss school"
- Remote learning highlighted the need for the personal connection and increased the awareness of the value of the social/emotional side of learning.
- We were able to connect with EVERY student and family within days of the closure
- This school closure has shined an even harsher light on the inequities the current funding mechanism creates for districts with a high percentage of economically disadvantaged students, those with cultural and linguistic barriers to learning, etc.
- Creative methods of teaching and sharing student work were developed by the Art Department. <https://www.bartlettartdepartment.com/bartlett-shutdown.html>

Special Education/EL Department:

- There has been more frequent contact with the special education and ELL staff
- There have been more conversations regarding how to adapt to handling crisis
- We have seen just how resilient people (staff, students and parents) are.

Year- End Activities:

As you know, June 15th is our last day of school. We have several special events being planned for students to wrap up the school year.

Polar Bear Reverse Parade at PAE:

Date: Monday, June 15th

Location: Front PAE Parking Lot

Directions: Families will enter the bus loop at their scheduled time and proceed to the parking lot. Signs will be up and everyone is expected to stay in their vehicles. Students can give a wave or shout-out to your teachers as they drive by! Surprise your teacher with a sign! **Your teachers can't wait to see YOU!**

PreK/K - 8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

Grade 1 - 9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Grade 2 - 10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Grade 3 - 11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Grade 4 - 12:30 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Note: No walk-ups will be allowed. The building will not be accessible during the parade. Families with students in multiple grades may choose one time frame or attend each grade represented. Any questions, please contact Principal Parmley.

WMS 8th grade celebration

Date: July 17th
Location: Front of WMS
Directions: At the **front of the school**, eighth grade will be welcomed by their teachers and provided with their completion certificates, end of year awards, and celebratory t-shirts. They will also be able to gather any belongings bagged up by their teachers and any fundraising cookie dough. If you have any questions please contact Principal Zajac.
Times: Noon to 2:00 p.m.

WMS fundraiser and student belonging pick up:

Date: July 17th
Location: Back of WMS
Directions: Students will drive through **the back of the building** to collect their bagged items. If you are a multi-grade family you do not need to come at separate times, we will work with you so you may do this in one stop. If you have questions, please contact Principal Zajac.
Times: 5th - 8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
6th - 9:30 a.m.- 11:00 a.m.
7th - 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

BHS Graduation

Date: July 18th
Location: BHS field
Time: 11:00 a.m.
Details: Graduates will be given tickets for immediate family. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic this will not be open to the public. More information will be forthcoming to Seniors and families once it is approved by the Board of Health. If you have questions, please contact Principal Thomas.

Virtual Access to Online Programming for Webster Students thru July 31st

We are providing access to the many online resources for our students during the month of July.

	Names of Online Programs	Grade Levels
1	i-Ready Instruction for ELA	K-8
2	i-Ready Instruction for Math	K-8
3	Lexia Core 5 *	K-5
4	Lexia Power Up*	6-8
5	Reflex Math*	2-8
6	ST Math	K-6
7	STEMscopes 3D	3-8
8	Tumble Books	PreK-12

If you have questions, please contact the curriculum office, Janice Daniels, Jill Chapdelaine, and Michelle Budney.

Summer Reading Programs Information:

Please see the PAE, WMS and BHS summer reading program fliers attached. We strongly encourage our students to participate in these fun programs. Everyone should enjoy the summer by reading many new books!

Park Avenue 21st Century Community Learning Center - Remote Summer Enrichment Programming

Dates: July 6th thru July 30th - Mondays and Tuesdays only
Times: 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Details: Parents can sign up
Contact: Lois Taylor ltaylor@webster-schools.org

Summer School Invitations are being sent for Remote Summer School Learning

Title I Summer Remote Learning Program for PAE and WMS

Dates: July 6th thru July 30th - Wednesdays and Thursdays only
Times: 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. – small group sessions will be scheduled
Contact: Janice Daniels jdaniels@webster-schools.org

Title I BHS Remote Summer School for credit recovery for gr. 9-12 for ELA, Math & Biology

Dates: July 6th thru July 24th, Mondays thru Fridays
Times: 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.
Contact: Colleen Nasis cnasis@webster-schools.org

Special Education Summer Programming

Dates: July 6th thru August 6th, Mondays thru Thursdays
Times: 8:00 a.m. to noon – small group sessions will be scheduled
Contact: Susan Ricard sricard@webster-schools.org

P-EBT Cards & Information:

All of our families should be getting P-EBT cards (Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer) because our district is a CEP (Community Eligibility Provision) district where all students receive free breakfast and lunch. These cards allow provide families with cost of breakfast and lunch for their children. Please review the attached flyer for more details. If you have questions regarding this free program please call 1-800-645-8333

Food Distribution Center Updates:

Beginning Monday, June 15th, we will only be serving food from the Park Avenue site between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. As long as participation from our families continues, we will maintain Head Start drop off between the hours of 11:00 and noon each day and the drop off to North Village. We encourage families to visit our site and take full advantage of this wonderful program.

Playgrounds, Tennis Courts, Basketball Courts:

We continue to work with our local officials on the re-opening of our outdoor areas. Tennis Courts will re-open as they are not a contact sport. Basketball Courts are not allowed to open in Phase 2 of the Governor's re-opening plan as it is a contact sport. PAE playgrounds will re-open, but it is important to note it only cleaned once a week and it is at your own risk.

With all of these areas, it is strongly recommended that masks and social distancing continue. Any students or adults who feel sick or are recovering from an illness may not visit the playground. As always, after visiting any public space visitors should wash their hands and/or use hand sanitizer.

Schools & Summer Hours

All meetings at each school building need to be scheduled through building principals and/ or administrative assistants.

BHS:

Fran Thomas - fthomas@webster-schools.org

Lisa Fifield - lfifield@webster-schools.org

WMS:

Heidi Peterson - hpeterson@webster-schools.org

Christina Radlo - cradle@webster-schools.org

PAE:

Robin Parmley - rparmley@webster-schools.org

Cari Reed - creed@webster-schools.org

District Administrative Summer Office Hours

The Administrative Offices is open 8:00 a.m. to 1:00, Mondays thru Friday. All visitors must wear masks.


Appointments for Central Registration can be made thru Desiree Moniz - dmoniz@webster-schools.org

Appointments for Special Education can be made thru Maria Santerre - msanterre@webster-schools.org

Looking ahead to the fall ... The unknowns...FY21 budget and School Model

The upcoming school year calendar is attached and the first day for grades 1-12 is September 3rd and the first day for Pre-K and K is September 9th.

The planning for the next fiscal year is difficult, because we do not have a set budget or school model to work with. We have been asked by the Town of Webster to reduce our budget by \$1,050,000.00 and the School Committee approved this reduced budget on June 9th. This budget will be included in the Town Budget at the June 22nd Town Meeting and can be found on our website www.webster-schools.org. Town Meeting will be held in the Bartlett Gymnasium



to ensure social distancing on June 22nd. In this reduced budget for Town Meeting, we have had to eliminate the Dean's positions at both the middle and high school to maintain teaching positions.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, we will not have solid budget numbers from the state until late August or early September. This makes it extremely difficult to plan. As if that wasn't bad enough, we really do not know what the school model will look like in the fall. We are anxiously waiting for more direction and information from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. As this information is shared with us by the Department of Education, we will be developing our district's plans and communicating that out to you.

Family & Student survey results on Remote Learning

Thank you to our students and parents who filled out the survey on remote learning. We have the results from 87 PAE parents, 64 WMS parents, 47 BHS parents, and 117 students from grades 5-12. The results are shared in an attachment for your review. This feedback has been extremely helpful and will be used to create stronger programming for our students as we continue to navigate learning during a health pandemic.

May each of our students spend time reading and utilize the free online resources we are providing this summer. Stay well and positive!

Kind Regards,
Dr. Ruthann Petrino-Goguen , Superintendent of Schools
