



Superintendent Goguen

September 10, 2019

Dear Students, Staff and Families,

We are off to a GREAT beginning and we hope each and every one of our students is enjoying the new school year!

Communication - Home to School Partnership

- ◆ Our home to school communication is key to each of our student's success! Should your child/children be having a difficult time with the transition back to school, or you have outstanding questions about the new school year, please contact the school. Our teachers, staff, administrators and counselors are here to assist.
- ◆ It is crucial that all parents/guardians fill out and return the emergency contact forms sent home from each school. We must have current phone numbers and emergency contacts in our data base to ensure two way communication.

Attendance Matters!

- ◆ Each school is monitoring student attendance closely.
- ◆ There are bulletin boards in each school listing the percentages of students who are coming to school by grade level. Right now, we are in the high 90's for all grades... we are striving to have all grades maintain a 97-98% attendance rate throughout the year. Help us accomplish this goal!
- ◆ Excused absences are listed in our handbooks as medical, religious holidays, court-related, college -visits, or bereavement.



Webster Residency & School Choice

- ◆ As a friendly reminder, only Webster residents and the students who have been accepted into the *available seats via School Choice* are allowed to attend the Webster Public Schools.
- ◆ Each school is required to ensure that families/students who no longer live in Webster fill out the appropriate paperwork to transfer to the school district where they live and sleep.
- ◆ We are here to assist you with following the regulations, so please do not hesitate to contact us with questions.

Safety First!

- ◆ The Town of Webster sprayed for EEE on August 25-26 and we received a waiver from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Agriculture Resources regarding the emergency situation and notification (attached).
- ◆ **Aerial spraying is also scheduled from Tuesday night until further notice per the announcements from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Agriculture Resources received today (attached).**
- ◆ **For more information visit**
 - www.mass.gov/guides/eee-in-massachusetts
 - <https://www.mass.gov/news/state-officials-announce-additional-aerial-spraying-for-eee-in-critical-and-high-risk>
 - <https://www.mass.gov/guides/aerial-mosquito-control-summer-2019>
 - <https://www.mass.gov/emergency-response-to-mosquito-borne-virus-aerial-spray-map>
 - <https://www.mass.gov/guides/aerial-mosquito-control-summer-2019#-frequently-asked-questions->
- ◆ **From dusk to dawn all outdoor activities will not take place on municipality fields. We are taking all precautionary measures there will be no sports or practices after 6:00 p.m. All games will end at 6:00 p.m. regardless of the outcomes or status of the game at 6:00 p.m.**
- ◆ We are currently reviewing the night time game schedules for Football and any changes will be communicated through the athletic website www.southworcestercountyleague.org
- ◆ A Massachusetts Public Health Fact sheet on EEE is attached for your review.

Open Houses

BHS September 11th @ 6:00 p.m.

WMS September 19 @ 6:00 p.m.

PAE September 12 @ 6:00 with the PTO Book Fair

- ◆ We encourage ALL families to come out for our Open Houses.
- ◆ These are wonderful events scheduled to give our families time to meet teachers and administrators and learn more about your children's school and educational experience.

Curriculum and Instruction News and Announcements

- ◆ Our Strategic Plan/Instructional Strategies for 2019-2020 is attached for your review.
- ◆ The middle school teachers' grades 5-8 are piloting a new Social Studies resources (free).
- ◆ We received the ST MATH GRANT at PAE! This is FABULOUS NEWS for our students. ST Math is a supplemental software program that helps teach mathematical concepts with no words. It is based on neuroscience and the visual instructional program builds deep conceptual understanding of mathematical concepts in a fun way. JiJi the Penguin visited PAE to roll out the introduction to our students last week!



Supports for students and families

- ◆ Attached is a flyer regarding the *Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Support Group* every Tuesday at the Gladys E. Kelly Public Library
- ◆ We provide free breakfast and lunch to all our students
- ◆ YOU. Inc. Therapy is available in all three of our schools. Contact your guidance counselor for more information.
- ◆ Worcester Family Health Center provides free dental care to students. Contact your guidance counselor for more information. The newly renovated room at the middle school hangs a tribute to Judith Ruskin!



Our Students Matter!

Kind Regards,

Dr. Ruthann Petruno-Goguen