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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

January 27, 2023

Dear Governor Wentworth Regional School District & Middleton Families,

Although winter weather is good news for skiing, it has certainly been disruptive to our school schedule this week. I am seeing a calmer weather pattern for the week ahead which should be helpful with respect to teaching and learning. Thank you to all of our families and staff for your flexibility and dedication to keeping students safe during inclement weather.

I welcome the community to join the GWRSD School Board and Administration at the Deliberative Session on Saturday, February 4th, 2023 and the same for the Middleton District on Saturday, February 11th (time and location in 'upcoming events' below). Presentations will include "State of the Schools" that are always enjoyable and informative for the public. Deliberative sessions are an important part of our communication to the community as it pertains to our programs, staff, students, and budget. As it is many months in the making, we hope the information presented is helpful for community members to make informed decisions at the polls on March 14th.

Finally, February 1st is the first day of Black History Month. Resources and links to learn about the origins of the month and how we can honor and celebrate diversity can be found on websites such as [About Black History Month](#) - "The Library of Congress, National Archives and Records Administration, National Endowment for the Humanities, National Gallery of Art, National Park Service, Smithsonian Institution and United States Holocaust Memorial Museum join in paying tribute to the generations of African Americans who struggled with adversity to achieve full citizenship in American society."

Sincerely,

Caroline Arakelian, PhD
Superintendent of Schools
carakelian@SAU49.org

Teaching & Learning Update: New Durham School

New Durham School Spotlight! Between winter sports and snow days, NDS students have been busy using what they've learned to write stories and essays, build models, and construct simple machines. First graders recently started Writer's Workshop, during which they write, revise, and illustrate their own story; some students even choose to read it to their class. After exploring the features of different habitats and ecosystems, second graders will be demonstrating what they have learned by building a model of a habitat and highlighting the relationships between living things in that habitat. Fourth graders are currently learning about how and why simple machines work; soon, they will apply their new knowledge and skills to building their own simple - and not-so-simple - machines. While first graders have been writing narratives, sixth graders recently wrote essays outlining the importance of sleep for teenagers, among other topics. Whether they follow their outlined advice regarding getting enough sleep remains to be seen! All students have been working with clay in art to create sculptures, cups, and other items. Finally, students in grades 3 through 6 have been participating in winter sports activities - skiing, skating, or snowshoeing - which has been a great opportunity to transfer the PE skills of balance, coordination, and exercise to new adventures. It is exciting to see our students demonstrating what they have learned thus far in a variety of ways! Respectfully submitted by Curriculum Director, Katey Hills, EdD

2023-2024 GWRSD School Calendar

The Governor Wentworth Regional School District School Board approved the School Calendar for the 2023-2024 School Year. The calendar can be found on this page of the GWRSD website: <https://www.gwrsd.org/calendar>.

Resources for Families

Summer Camp Assistance: The New Hampshire Department of Education is partnering with New Hampshire camps and school-age summer programs across the state to offer students the unique opportunity to move beyond COVID-19 and be a kid again. Students of all ages, backgrounds and abilities benefit from exposure to short-term summer enrichment programs, including in the areas of challenge, friend-making, positivity, and emotional safety. Details regarding eligibility for assistance and participating camps in our communities can be found here: [ReKindling Curiosity](#)

Mental Health: University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension provides Youth Mental Health First Aid, *which is intended for parents and adults working with youth* and trains them in the warning signs of youth mental illness/distress. Youth Mental Health First Aid is an evidence-based training that teaches you how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illness and substance use disorders in youth. This training gives adults the skills they need to reach out and provide initial support to children and adolescents who may be developing a mental health or substance use problem and help connect them to the

appropriate care. Any adult looking to enroll in this free YMHFA training, can register [here](#). The next course offering will be held February 21st, with an enrollment deadline of February 9th. An infographic with more information regarding Mental Health First Aid Trainings can be found [here](#).

Wolfeboro Public Library Community Survey

The Wolfeboro Public Library and Trustees are looking for input on library operations and programming. Input from surrounding communities is welcome. The more input the better!

The Wolfeboro Public Library is grateful for your time and effort to provide valuable input!

[WPL Community Survey - Click Here](#)

Upcoming Events

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
2/4/2023	GWRSD Deliberative Session @ Kingswood Arts Center 10:00am
2/6/2023	GWRSD School Board Meeting @ Tuftonboro Central School 7:00pm
2/8/2023	Middleton School Board Meeting @ Middleton Elementary 6:00pm
2/11/2023	Middleton Deliberative Session @ Middleton Elementary 10:00am
2/27 to 3/3/2023	February Recess - No School GWRSD and Middleton School District

Previously Shared Information

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

Inclement Weather Procedures

Please read carefully the procedures we use to make the decision to either hold or cancel school. On 1/9/23, the GWRSD School Board voted to eliminate remote learning during school closures due to inclement weather. As of this letter (1/27/23) the Middleton School Board has agreed to defer to superintendent discretion regarding remote learning during these closures.

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.

GWRSD & Middleton Safety & Security Taskforce

First Responders from all GWRSD towns and Middleton along with NH State Troopers joined Board Members and Administrators at the first Safety & Security task force meeting in November. Agenda items included SAFE grants, partnerships between police and Districts and training for educators. This meeting served as a launching point for the work that will begin in the new year to provide consistent training and messaging across GWRSD and Middleton schools regarding response to emergencies and violent events.

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 or fill out an application at any school within the district. Visit our Food Service web page for more information: www.gwrsdfoodservice.org.

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

[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 contact your school administrator to learn how KRMS & KRHS students can take advantage of this service through the "Clever" application