

SUPERINTENDENT  
Caroline Arakelian, Ph.D.  
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT  
Heather R. Cummings  
DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM  
Kaitlyn Hills, Ed.D.  
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR  
Kathy O'Brien  
DIRECTOR of SPECIAL EDUCATION &  
COUNSELING SERVICES  
Kelly Mask  
TELEPHONE: (603) 569-1658  
WEBSITE: WWW.GWRSD.ORG

**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*

December 23, 2022

Dear Governor Wentworth Regional School District & Middleton Families,

I'd like to begin by thanking our families and community members for all that you do to support our children and youth throughout the school year. A student's experience is at its best when we work together. There are many examples of school-community partnerships at GWRSD particularly during the holiday season such as the Thanksgiving meal at New Durham, the musical production at the Arts Center, and philanthropic endeavors like Knights Against Hunger at KRHS to name just a few.

Although we have much to be thankful for, we have also endured heartbreaking and challenging circumstances just in the past two weeks. As we navigate difficult times and events, it can be helpful when we make time to talk with children in order to listen to any concerns and reassure them of the safety measures in place. The National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) offers [Tips for Families and Educators](#) (click the link) when talking to children about violence or any frightening event whether in our community, state or even across the nation.

I wish you peace and joy during the holiday season. As always, let us know how we can support you and your children as we enter a new year.

Sincerely,



Caroline Arakelian, PhD  
Superintendent of Schools  
[carakelian@SAU49.org](mailto:carakelian@SAU49.org)

## 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.

## Teaching & Learning Update: Portrait of a Learner (POL)

This school year, the district has begun foundational work around the Portrait of a Learner. The Portrait of a Learner is a collaborative process to define the competencies and attitudes necessary for student success. This process will require genuine input from district and building administrators, teachers and staff, students, families, and community and business leaders. The resulting vision will become the district's North Star which guides school operations and pedagogy around a collective outcome for all students. The district's newly-formed Portrait committee is comprised of staff representing a variety of positions and all communities; this team is tasked with leading the work toward our Portrait of a Learner. Thus far, we attended two Portrait training sessions to gain a deeper understanding of the Portrait process and to develop goals, initial action steps, and a timeline for the work. In the coming months, we will be creating a plan for gathering input from all stakeholders and will continue to share updates as the work unfolds.

## Upcoming Events

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
12/26 - 12/30	Winter Recess
Monday, 1/2	Return to School
Wednesday, 1/4	Middleton School Board Meeting 6:00 pm (Change from 1/11)
Monday, 1/9	Governor Wentworth Regional School Board Meeting 7:00 pm
Monday, 1/16	Martin Luther King Jr. Day - No School

## 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. School will proceed remotely (**when feasible**) when in-person learning is canceled with the exception of one traditional snow day to be determined by the severity of precipitation.

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.

## **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](http://www.myschoolapps.com) or fill out an application at any school within the district. Visit our Food Service web page for more information: [www.gwrstdfoodservice.org](http://www.gwrstdfoodservice.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

[Families encouraged to sign up for free or discounted high-speed internet](#). To ensure that families in NH are connected to reliable broadband services, NHED and ExcelinED are sharing important information about the Affordable Connectivity Program, which lowers internet costs for eligible families, including students approved to receive benefits under the National Free and Reduced-Price Lunch Program and school breakfast program. For families to enroll, they must complete the application at [ACPBenefit.org](https://www.acpbenefit.org), and contact their preferred participating internet provider to select a plan and have the discount applied to their bill. The Affordable Connectivity Program is a Federal Communications Commission Benefit Program.

[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