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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*

October 27, 2023

Dear Governor Wentworth Regional School District & Middleton Families,

It is with heavy hearts that we extend our deepest condolences and support to the families affected by the recent tragic events in our neighboring state of Maine and in Israel. Our thoughts and prayers are with those who have lost their loved ones, and we stand in solidarity with these communities during this difficult time.

We are aware that many of our families and community members have connections to Maine and overseas, and the impact of such events resonates deeply within our close-knit communities. In times of tragedy, it becomes even more evident how interconnected our lives are, and our hearts go out to all who are affected.

I want to express our gratitude to the New Hampshire state officials who have offered and are providing support to Maine as they navigate through this challenging situation. It is heartening to witness the strength of the collective effort to provide assistance and comfort during times of need.

In our own district, we want to reassure you that the safety and security of our students and staff remain our top priority. We have implemented and will continue to uphold rigorous safety and security measures. You may notice an increased police presence, and we are adhering to our safety protocols as always. Please rest assured that we are taking every step necessary to ensure the well-being of everyone in our school community. We want to express our gratitude to our families and the broader community for their commitment to keeping safety and security a priority for our students and staff. Your ongoing support and vigilance contribute significantly to maintaining a secure and nurturing environment for all.

In times like these, it becomes even more crucial for us to come together as a community. I encourage you to reach out and connect with your neighbors, friends, and family. A sense of connection and belonging plays a crucial role in preventing isolation and fostering relationships and wellness. As we approach the weekend, please take the time to prioritize the safety and well-being of yourselves and your loved ones.

Thank you for your understanding, support, and commitment to the safety of our school community.

Wishing you a safe and enjoyable weekend.

Sincerely,



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

## Family Surveys: Portrait of a Learner and Strategic Planning

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 Portrait committee is staff representing a variety of positions and all communities; this team is tasked with leading the work toward our Portrait of a Learner. We have attended 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. The form link below is your opportunity to provide input regarding your vision of the portrait of GWRSD. Please click the link to fill out the form that will take 15 seconds to a few minutes depending on your style of feedback.

### [Portrait of a Learner Form](#)

In addition, the GWRSD School Board embarked on a strategic planning process as of August of this year. They, along with SAU administration, identified four focus areas to guide the work (student wellness/ culture of belonging/ academic achievement/ family and community engagement & communication). We have a strategic planning team that has educator, board, administrator, parent, and student membership. We are seeking input toward this plan from stakeholders that includes staff, families, community, and students. The first reach-out method is the following survey. I hope that you fill out this anonymous, 4-question survey when you can over the next week or two so that we may incorporate your input towards this plan. We are hoping for as many voices from around our district as possible.

### [GWRSD Strategic Planning Survey](#)

Thank you for your participation.

## School Spotlight: Effingham Elementary School

This year marks Effingham Elementary School's 20th year, and students and staff started the month celebrating the birthday with cake! All K-3 teachers have signed on as early adopters of the updated literacy curriculum, and our youngest students have been learning letter sounds and blends and practicing with tapping, sensory strategies, and by listening to stories featuring newly learned sounds. Teachers are excited by early results showing stronger reading and language skills! This month also featured a visiting author and an all-school reading experience that brought every grade together with a common read. Students have also enjoyed the Gaga Ball pit, perfecting their Gaga skills and looking forward to a possible tournament with Gaga Ball players from other schools in our district. It has been a great start at EES, and they are looking to continue the positive momentum!

## Upcoming Events

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
11/6	<b>GWRSD School Board Meeting</b> - Ossipee Central School (Non-Public 6:00pm / Public 7:00pm)
11/8	<b>Early Release</b> - Parent/Guardian/Teacher Conferences
11/8	<b>Middleton School Board Meeting</b>

<b>11/9</b>	<b>No School</b> - Parent/Guardian/Teacher Conferences
<b>11/10</b>	<b>No School</b> - Veterans Day
<b>11/13 - 11/17</b>	<b>American Education Week</b>
<b>11/14 - 11/16</b>	<b>Finance Committee Meetings</b> - Crescent Lake School 6:00pm
<b>11/17 - 11/19</b>	<b>KRHS Fall Musical</b> - Beauty & The Beast
<b>11/22 - 11/24</b>	<b>No School</b> - Thanksgiving Break

~ Go to <https://www.gwrsd.org/calendar> to view the full 2023-2024 GWRSD & MSD Calendar ~

### Previously Shared Information

The following information was shared in a previous newsletter and may still be of interest to families.

### Inclement Weather Protocols

Please read carefully the procedures we use to make the decision to either hold or cancel school. GWRSD will hold “traditional” snow days (no remote learning) when in-person learning is canceled.

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 channel/ website/ app or Channel 6/ WSCH which list 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.

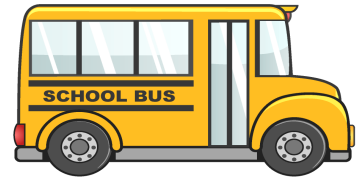
As always, the final decision as to whether or not children come to school is up to parents. We are geographically the largest district in the state which makes it impossible for us to know the conditions on every road. Students will be allowed to make up any work that has been missed if the parent determines their child(ren) will stay home from school and the absence will be excused.

## School Meals: Application Required for Free/ Reduced Lunch

The application process for free and reduced price meals is open online at [www.myschoolapps.com](http://www.myschoolapps.com) or families may fill out an application at any school within the district. Visit our Food Service web page for more information: [www.gwrsdfoodservice.org](http://www.gwrsdfoodservice.org).

## Transportation Updates

GWRSD routes are [posted on the Transportation page of the GWRSD.org](#) (Middleton routes are shared on Facebook). Please take note of your students' bus route and stop as there have been some changes made for this school year. It may be the case that the bus stop is farther away from your home than in years past due to driver shortages. As a result of the shortages, we have had to reduce the number of stops, combine select routes, and shift to a larger vehicle in some instances. We are striving to accommodate families as much as possible given the current situation with staffing, vehicles, and transportation resources. Thank you for your patience as we continue to be as strategic and accommodating while following the New Hampshire bus stop distance rules for students.



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## 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.

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

- Schoolhouse has launched its [registration](#) for the **December SAT bootcamps** – a free, four-week tutoring program in preparation for the SAT exam on Dec. 2. Students and parents may register until the Nov. 1 deadline.
- For all families with children covered by NH **Medicaid**, DHHS is asking all school districts to spread the word about the need to complete Medicaid redeterminations when they are due. Please share this printable [flyer](#) with your school communities. Let's help kids keep their health insurance coverage.
- NHED previously partnered with **Graduation Alliance** to provide 1-1 mentoring for students in need of an extra layer of support to boost school engagement and academic success. Students who choose to participate in the program will be assigned an academic coach at no cost. Call 603-758-3259 to get set up.
- Online, 24/7 **tutoring** is available at no cost for students in grades 6-12 through a partnership with Tutor.com. Students may [register](#) here. Please contact your school administrator to learn how KRMS & KRHS students can take advantage of this service through the "Clever" application