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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*

February 2, 2024

Dear Governor Wentworth Regional School District & Middleton Families,

As we embark on the month of February, it is with great pleasure that I share some important updates and commitments from the Governor Wentworth Regional School District community.

First and foremost, at the commencement of Black History Month, it is a time to honor the achievements and contributions of Black individuals throughout history. This month provides us with an opportunity to deepen our understanding of the rich cultural heritage and significant milestones of the Black community.

Furthermore, I am pleased to inform you that the GWRSD School Board has recently approved an equity policy (code ACB) at their meeting on January 8, 2024. This policy underscores our unwavering commitment to equity and the success of each and every student within our district.

Equity, as outlined in the policy, fosters an inclusive and barrier-free environment wherein everyone can fully benefit. It is the fundamental belief that student success will not be predetermined by any factors such as race, ethnicity, family economics, mobility, language, marital status, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, initial proficiencies, or religion.

The policy emphasizes that all students will have access to participate in a high-quality education. Additionally, the policy underscores our commitment to systematically using district-wide and individual school-level data to inform decision-making, providing equitable access to resources and support services, affirming the identity of each student, and incorporating diverse perspectives into our educational framework.

This equity policy serves as a guiding light for us, informing and shaping everything we do within the district. It underscores our dedication to ensuring that every student receives the support, resources, and opportunities they need to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

As we move forward, we remain steadfast in our commitment to integrating this policy into every aspect of our operations, programs, and practices in the best interest of all our students.

Thank you for your continued support as we strive to create an inclusive and equitable learning environment for all.

Sincerely,



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

## School Spotlight: Carpenter School

Carpenter School has had a busy January, both in and out of the building. Kindergartners are continuing learning their letters and putting them together to read and spell basic words. The first graders have been learning how to ice skate at Pop Whalen and staff have enjoyed watching them! The school also had a very fun and well-attended Cabin Fever family night hosted by their PTO. There were games and crafts set up throughout the building and participants enjoyed snacks and hot chocolate; families also had the opportunity to get a picture with the school mascot at a photo booth. Carpenter is eager to fill the few weeks before February vacation with more learning and fun!

## School Board: Deliberative Session

This Saturday, February 3, 2024, the GWRSD Deliberative Session will be held at the Kingswood Arts Center beginning at 10:00am as our community considers the proposed operating budget and warrant articles. You are encouraged to attend and participate. The Middleton Deliberative session will be held on Saturday, February 10th at 10:00am, preceded by a State of the Schools presentation at 9:00am.

The Deliberative Session is an opportunity for our community to come together and exchange information in a meaningful way. Warrant articles will be presented and discussed. Residents may ask questions, speak to the merits of a particular article, and make amendments to those articles. Group decisions are generally made after deliberation through a vote or consensus of those involved. Deliberative is when the community decides what will be on the ballot on March 12th, 2024.

The GWRSD Warrant Articles are available for your review on our district website:

<https://www.gwrSD.org/school-board/annual-meeting>

## Upcoming Events

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
<i>2/3/2024</i>	<i>GWRSD Deliberative Session @ Kingswood Arts Center 10:00am</i>
<i>2/5/2024</i>	<i>GWRSD School Board Meeting @ Tuftonboro Central School 7:00pm</i>
<i>2/7/2024</i>	<i>Middleton School Board Meeting @ Middleton Elementary School 6:00pm</i>
<i>2/10/2024</i>	<i>Middleton State of the Schools 9:00am / Deliberative Session 10:00am @ Middleton Elementary School</i>
<i>2/26-3/1/2024</i>	<i>February Recess - No School GWRSD and Middleton School District</i>

~ 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.

## Calendar News

We have recently communicated a change to the 2023-2024 calendar due to the New Hampshire primary scheduled for January 23rd, 2024. Governor Wentworth schools will be closed on this date, and in lieu of this closure, we have rescheduled a school day to be held on February 6th, originally designated as a day off. Your understanding and flexibility are greatly appreciated.

Looking ahead, the GWRSD School Board has approved the 2024-2025 calendar, and it is now available on GWRSD.org. Please take a moment to review the calendar for important dates and events. Additionally, the Middleton School Board approved their 2024-2025 calendar at their meeting on December 13th, 2023. We encourage you to stay updated on any further calendar adjustments and appreciate your ongoing support and cooperation in these matters.

## Inclement Weather Protocols

Please read carefully the procedures we use to make the decision to either hold or cancel school. GWRSD and MSD 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).

### 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

- 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 4-12 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
- \* **New** \* **SAT bootcamps** are now available for students! Schoolhouse launched [registration](#) for its March SAT Bootcamps in preparation for the March 9 SAT exam. For the first time, these free bootcamps will also be catering to the new Digital SAT. Students and their parents may register in advance by Feb. 7.