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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 23, 2024

Dear Governor Wentworth Regional School District & Middleton Families,

“ESSER” stands for Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief. These are funds that have been allocated to the schools from the federal government for financial assistance during COVID. The funds have been allocated in three phases. They are intended to assist schools with certain circumstances associated with the pandemic, such as personal protective equipment, staffing, safety in school buildings, keeping schools open, supporting academic growth, and social and emotional learning. ESSER I, ESSER II, and ESSER III grants are posted on the GWRSD website for the public to review.

As we look to allocate the final of the ESSER III funds, the School Board proposed and approved to improve the air quality in schools after soliciting community input for more than one year. Middleton is considering several projects including storage solutions. Of this final phase, 20% (GWRSD \$1.2 million; MSD \$40k) must be allocated toward mitigating “learning loss” as a result of the pandemic. ESSER III must be spent by September 30th, 2024 unless the district applies for a late liquidation waiver for an additional few months.

We have compiled a list of needs across the district and will provide that here as well as in a survey to parents. We are soliciting community input on this list and any other items families would like to provide. You may elect to complete the survey, email us directly, or call the school or SAU office. We hope you will provide input as to your thoughts on how the funds should be spent.

GWRSD Identified needs:

- Transportation: Replace seven vans mainly used for out of district placements. They are on average ten years old with approximately 300k miles. Replace one 24 passenger bus. Replace cameras on all buses.
- Supplies for all schools.
- Technology: student chromebook replacements.
- Summer Professional Development & materials
- Training: behavior de escalation/ safety / special education topics/ Assessment (Academic Achievement)
- Summer Programming open to all students.
- Summer Materials for all students: books, supplies, STEM kits.
- Onboarding for online platforms.
- Safety materials for classrooms
- Other strategic plan activities such as the wellness and equity audits/ data collection.

GWRSD/ MSD ESSER III Funds Survey: [Click here to take the survey.](#)

Email: sau49@sau49.org [title the email: ESSER III]

Call: SAU Office (603) 569-1658 or your local school.

Go to www.GWRSD.org About > ESSER Funds to find all of this information.

On another note, I hope families have a restful February break. Upon return, the NHSAS Writing assessment will be administered in the first two weeks after February vacation for all students in Grades 3-8. It will be important to be well rested, eat a healthy breakfast, and come prepared to do one's best. Information about NHSAS testing went home to families in late January. Families can contact building principals or Katey Hills if they have questions.

Thank you for your support. It is an honor to be a part of this community.

Sincerely,



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

School Spotlights

Despite the cold weather, students have been busy! Here are a few highlights:

- **Carpenter School:** Kindergartners learned to make predictions about whether the groundhog would see his shadow and then made bar graphs of their predictions. Punxsutawney Phil predicts an early spring, but fortunately all Carpenter students had enough snow to enjoy sledding, skating, and snowshoeing for their Winter Fun Day. For more highlights and upcoming events, read the [Carpenter School Connection newsletter](#).
- **Crescent Lake School:** Sixth graders have been busy preparing their prototypes and their presentation boards for the annual Invention Convention. Band and chorus students are also gearing up for a field trip to see a performance in Boston. For more information on CLS happenings, see the latest [Crescent Lake Connection newsletter](#).
- **Effingham Elementary School:** Fourth graders at EES combined Valentine's Day with a lesson about symmetrical shapes to determine whether hearts are symmetrical, which blossomed into an investigation about lines of symmetry in other shapes. The school also hosted their Full Moon Snowshoe, which is a great tradition. See [Effingham's Snippets](#) for more celebrations and upcoming events.
- **Kingswood Regional High School:** KRHS Knights Against Hunger hosted a successful Empty Bowls fundraiser in early February. Thank you to all who supported with donations or to enjoy a warm bowl for a good cause. In early March, Kingswood Theater will perform *Shakespeare in Love*. The KRHS and KRMS Arts departments are also hosting Arts Night on March 21. To learn more about KRHS happenings, see the [KRHS website](#).
- **Kingswood Regional Middle School:** A huge shout-out to KRMS skiers for winning the Middle School Alpine State Championship, the first time in 35 years! The middle school is also organizing their annual 6th Grade Parents' Open House on March 27 at 6 pm. Find other upcoming events on the [KRMS Website](#).

- **Lakes Region Technology Center:** LRTC celebrated Career and Technical Education Week with student exhibitors from each program and community partners. It was a wonderful opportunity to showcase the amazing programs and certification offerings at LRTC. Find more updates on the [LRTC website](#).
- **Middleton Elementary School:** MES fifth graders recently made their own scratch paper art designs using oil pastels and black tempura paint. They also celebrated their 100th Day of School with various 100-themed activities. Follow the [MES Facebook page](#) for other celebrations of student learning.
- **New Durham School:** Students ended February with a lesson in positive and negative numbers through a school-wide Penny Wars fundraiser for the playground. The school PTO will host a Spaghetti Supper and Arts Night on March 19 and students will also participate in a week-long residency from the New Hampshire Dance Institute. Learn more about NDS celebrations and upcoming events in the [NDS School Newsletter](#).
- **Ossipee Central School:** OCS celebrated both the 100th Day of School and a Family Fun Night in February. They are kicking off Read Across America week when we return from February break and are looking forward to some good books with the students! For more events, see the [OCS Newsletter](#).
- **Tuftonboro Central School:** TCS hosted the February School Board meeting and showcased fifth grade's learning of Native American peoples and their ways of life. All students participated in the school's Souper Bowl, where students brought in cans of soup to donate to the local Food Pantry, which highlighted the importance of service and community among even our youngest citizens. For more TCS happenings, see the [TCS School Newsletter](#).

School Board Elections & Warrant

Go to www.GWRSD.org > School Board > Annual Meeting to find the following documents that include information regarding voting on March 12th. Links provided below:

[2024 Sample Voting Ballot/](#) [2024 School Board Elections](#)

[2024 Warrant Article/](#) [2024 Deliberative Session Minutes](#)

Upcoming Events

Date	Event
2/26 - 3/1/2024	<i>February Recess - No School GWRSD and Middleton School District</i>
3/11/2024	<i>GWRSD School Board Meeting @ Crescent Lake School 7:00pm</i>
3/12/2024	<i>District Voting Day - No School GWRSD & MSD - In-Service Staff Day</i>
3/13/2024	<i>Middleton School Board Meeting @ Middleton Elementary 6:00pm</i>
3/21/2024	<i>Arts Knight @ Kingswood Arts Center 6:00 - 8:00pm</i>

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

NH Education Department Information

- The **American Battle Monuments Foundation** is hosting its [Past Is Prologue Essay Contest](#). Eligible students ages 11-18 may compete for prize money ranging from \$1,500 to \$10,000. Essays are due April 12.
- ConvenientMD has opened its applications for **student scholarships**. It will be awarding five, \$2,500 scholarships to students in Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts. The [scholarship](#) is open to high school seniors pursuing post-secondary education in healthcare. The deadline to apply is April 30.
- **Manchester Community College** is hosting a campus tour and automated manufacturing and bio-fabrication Q/A panel with industry experts from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on April 9. The [event](#) is open to high school students looking for career opportunities in all aspects of the manufacturing industry.
- Summer is just around the corner! NHED recently launched its fourth year of **ReKINDling Curiosity** – a program that encourages and provides financial assistance so that every child can experience the benefits of a fun and engaging summer camp adventure. Registration remains open and we encourage school leaders to share this [flyer](#) with families.

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 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.