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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*

March 29, 2024

Dear Governor Wentworth Regional School District & Middleton Families,

As we move forward in planning for the upcoming summer, we want to ensure that we're meeting the needs and interests of all our students and families. Your input is invaluable in helping us shape our summer program offerings.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to those who indicated that making summer programming accessible to all students is the number one priority for utilizing the ESSER III grant funding. Your input has been noted, and we are committed to putting this into action immediately. However, we need your help to ensure that our plans align with the needs and preferences of our community.

Upon grant approval, **our goal is to reimburse families at a rate of \$1,000 per student** if registered for state-approved summer programs. A link to the list of approved programs is included in the survey. Additionally, we aim to reserve slots at Bearcamp in Tamworth and fully fund Camp Invention. Furthermore, we will continue to provide district-based programs which include special education and Title 1 services.

Your feedback will directly impact the allocation of resources and the design of our summer programs. The survey can be accessed by clicking here: [Summer Camp Interest Survey](#). Your participation in the survey is crucial in helping us allocate resources effectively. Please take a few moments to complete the survey so that we can *apply for grant funding accordingly*.

We also want to remind you to refer to the district letter regarding the **Total Solar Eclipse on April 8th**. Safety glasses will be distributed to all students that morning. Students may be dismissed early, return home via regularly scheduled transportation, or attend select activities after school across the district. We anticipate increased traffic in our communities due to a desire to reach the path of totality in northern New Hampshire, so please plan accordingly. Safety is our top priority, and we hope for clear skies that afternoon!

Thank you for your continued support and participation in shaping our programs to best serve the needs of our students and families.

Sincerely,



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

## District Updates

### 1. Approval of the Five-Year Strategic Plan:

We are thrilled to announce that the School Board approved the five-year Strategic Plan at their meeting on March 11, 2024. This comprehensive plan outlines our goals and strategies for enhancing academic achievement, promoting student wellness, fostering a culture of belonging, and strengthening family and community communication and engagement. You can access the full plan and a five-year timeline on the district website at the following link: [GWRSD Strategic Plan](#).

### 2. Portrait of a Learner Initiative:

We extend our gratitude to all those who contributed to the Portrait of a Learner initiative by participating in the voting process. With over 1,000 votes collected, your input has been invaluable in shaping the future direction of our district. More updates on this initiative will be presented to the Board on Monday, April 1st, and further discussed at the May 6th meeting.

### 3. Homeland Security Preparedness Event:

Last week, police and fire departments from across GWRSD and Middleton, along with Homeland Security and school administration, joined together for an event focused on preparing for extreme emergency circumstances. The event, which took place at Crescent Lake School, lasted for four hours and received excellent feedback for its productivity and helpfulness in enhancing our emergency preparedness efforts.

## School Spotlights

As winter turns to spring, students continue to learn and grow! Here are a few highlights:

- **Carpenter School:** In honor of March's Read Across America initiative, students at Carpenter engaged in a "book tasting." Students read a variety of genres and expanded their love of books! For more highlights and upcoming events, read the [Carpenter School Connection newsletter](#).
- **Crescent Lake School:** CLS fourth graders presented to the School Board on their animal adaptations project. Many animal creations featured bioluminescence as a trait. All students accepted the "mission" to do their best on the NHSAS state writing assessment. The school recently hosted a Family Game Night, as well. For more information on CLS happenings, see the latest [Crescent Lake Connection newsletter](#).
- **Effingham Elementary School:** Effingham students have been participating in various afterschool clubs, and in April students will get to see a performance by juggler Jason Tardy. The school also hosted a successful Wellness Fair, bringing community organizations and families together for the benefit of all. See [Effingham's Snippets](#) for more celebrations and upcoming events.
- **Kingswood Regional High School:** Kingswood Theater performed *Shakespeare in Love* for a recent competition and won several awards. The KRHS and KRMS Arts departments hosted an amazing Arts Knight last week; student art work and musical performances lit up the evening. Spring sports are underway and we are looking forward to cheering on our athletes starting next month. To learn more about KRHS happenings, see the [KRHS website](#).
- **Kingswood Regional Middle School:** The middle school is busy preparing eighth graders to transition to the high school while simultaneously readying incoming sixth graders from across the district to join the KRMS community. Sixth grade parents visited the school this week, while sixth

grade students will tour the school and speak with current KRMS students in the coming months. Find other upcoming events on the [KRMS Website](#).

- **Lakes Region Technology Center:** March was a busy month at LRTC. Health Science students competed in the HOSA State Leadership Conference, and many students earned medals for their skills. DECA students also competed in state contests, and they are headed to Anaheim, CA, in late April to compete at the national level! Find more updates on the [LRTC website](#).
- **Middleton Elementary School:** Middleton students have had the opportunity to participate in a variety of after-school clubs. Most recently, they have enjoyed building and creating in their new Lego Club, led by a team of dedicated teachers. Follow the [MES Facebook page](#) for other celebrations of student learning.
- **New Durham School:** Students participated in a week-long residency from the New Hampshire Dance Institute, which culminated in an evening performance for families and the community. Students recently took some literacy assessments, and we are excited to see growth in reading skills such as fluency and comprehension. The school also showcased student creativity at a recent Art Show. Learn more about NDS celebrations and upcoming events in the [NDS School Newsletter](#).
- **Ossipee Central School:** OCS celebrated Read Across America Week with reading-based costumes and activities, a visit from author Marty Kelley, and plenty of reading! Students in grades 3-6 worked hard on their state writing assessment, and the school hosted a Family Night in mid-March. For more events, see the [OCS Newsletter](#).
- **Tuftonboro Central School:** TCS students had the chance to visit sap houses and learn about the maple sugaring process, which is a significant industry in our neck of the woods. Students are also learning how to unicycle in PE class, which not only promotes physical skills like balance but also mental skills like patience and perseverance. For more TCS happenings, see the [TCS School Newsletter](#).

### School Board Elections & Warrant Results

**Thank you to our community for supporting the GWRSD School Budget.** It is due to your support that we can move forward with staffing and programs that will benefit all students across the GWRSD school district.

Go to [www.GWRSD.org](http://www.GWRSD.org) > School Board > Annual Meeting to find documents that include the March 12th election results. Direct Link: <https://www.gwrSD.org/school-board/annual-meeting>

### Upcoming Events

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
<b>4/1/2024</b>	<i>GWRSD School Board Meeting - Carpenter School (Non-Public 6:00pm / Public 7:00pm)</i>
<b>4/3/2024</b>	<i>Early Release - In Service Day GWRSD and MSD</i>
<b>4/10/2024</b>	<i>Middleton School Board Meeting</i>
<b>4/12/2024</b>	<i>New Durham &amp; Tuftonboro Kindergarten Registration</i>

<b>4/16/2024</b>	<i>Effingham Kindergarten Registration</i>
<b>4/17/2024</b>	<i>LRTC Summer Job Fair</i>
<b>4/18/2024</b>	<i>GWRSD Job Fair</i>
<b>4/18 &amp; 4/19/2024</b>	<i>Ossipee Kindergarten Registration</i>
<b>4/22-4/26/2024</b>	<i>April 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.

**GWRSD/MSD ESSER III Funds Survey**

“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](mailto:sau49@sau49.org) [title the email: ESSER III]

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

Go to [www.GWRSD.org](http://www.GWRSD.org) About > ESSER Funds to find all of this information.

### 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.

### 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.