

← Gibbons Parent Information Letter for fall 2020



STOUGHTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

J.H. Gibbons Elementary School

235 Morton Street

STOUGHTON, MA 02072

781-344-7008

www.stoughtonschools.org

Welcome to the 2020 - 2021 School Year!

While this is a very different year for all of us, one thing remains the same - we are extremely excited to see all of our students in whatever capacity they have chosen!

You are recognized as the *most important* person in your child's educational success. Cooperation and support both from and to home and school will help create a climate in which every student is able to pursue excellence throughout his/her life. On behalf of the staff, I wish you a great year and look forward to seeing you and your child.

The first week of school your child will bring home a great deal of information and paperwork. Please take the time to look it over and return to school any of the papers that require your information and/or signature. ***Emergency forms must be updated, front and back, signed and returned immediately.***

WELCOMES, GOODBYES & VIRTUAL LEARNING ACADEMY TEACHERS

Prior to the start of the school year, I wanted to be sure to identify some staffing changes that have occurred at the Gibbons for the 2020-2021 School Year.

- Ms. Quinn has retired as our school nurse. Ms. Houle will be in our clinic to start the school year.
- Ms. Giatrokos is one of our new special education teachers.
- Ms. Blaney, who was a substitute teacher in our Learning Center Program last year, is now in this role permanently.
- Our Gibbons Virtual Learning Academy teachers for the 2020-2021 school year will be: Ms. Hurley (Kindergarten), Ms. Dewsbury (Grade 1), Ms. Fleishman (Grade 2), Ms. Wallace (Grade 3), Ms. Donovan (Grade 4) and Ms. Maksy (Grade 5).

← Gibbons Parent Information Letter for fall 2020

SCHOOL HOURS FOR ALL STUDENTS, Monday - Friday are 8:25 AM - 2:45 PM.

There is no longer morning recess. Teachers will take classes outside at various times in the morning.

The first in-person day of school for all students in **Cohort A (in-person Mon/Tues)** is Monday, September 14, 2020.

Cohort B (in-person Thurs/Fri) students will start their in-person learning on Thursday, September 17, 2020. Since students who are in Cohort B will have their first in-person day after the start of school, please plan on hearing from your child(ren)'s teacher with information on how to virtually participate beginning on Monday, September 14th, as all Cohort B students are expected to log in for attendance on this first day of school.

Wednesday, September 16, 2020, as with all Wednesdays, will be virtual for all students.

All students, regardless of learning mode, are expected to be at school or online every school day by 8:40am as students will start their learning no later than 8:45 AM. Codes and directions of how to access individual Google Classrooms and the Google Meets embedded there will be sent by teachers to their students before the start of school.

STUDENT ARRIVAL / DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

On in-person learning days, students may be dropped off no earlier than 8:25 AM, since we do not have supervisory coverage available until that time. *Your punctuality is greatly appreciated.*

Dismissal will begin internally at 2:35 PM. Students who are "walkers" (*this means the student has written permission to walk home from the school*) will exit the building at 2:40 and students who are parent pick-ups will be exiting the building at 2:45. Students go home many different ways. Please always let the school know if there is a change in the dismissal routine for your child. If someone other than a parent/guardian will be picking-up your child, please send a note to the school indicating such. *Any change in dismissal or early dismissal requires a note with parent/guardian signature.*

Please use caution and common sense when approaching the school in a vehicle and follow the instructions of the staff members on duty.

KINDERGARTEN ARRIVAL

- Drop-off is from 8:25 to 8:35. You may park early and wait in your car until 8:25.
- Please park your car in the far end of the parking lot and walk your child to the Kindergarten Playground gate at the far left of the building. Please wear masks and maintain social distancing as you arrive at the gate.
- A staff member will greet you at the gate and walk your child into the building. You must remain outside the fenced area.
- If you arrive after 8:35, you need to accompany your child to the front door to sign them in.

KINDERGARTEN DISMISSAL

Parent Pick-Ups: Teachers will bring students to the Kindergarten playground and will wait outside until their parent/guardian picks them up. Parents wait outside the fenced off area while waiting for their children.

Kindergarten Siblings will come to the Kindergarten wing and be dismissed with their younger

← Gibbons Parent Information Letter for fall 2020

Bus Riders: A teacher will take bus riders to their buses. They will be monitored by teachers until their bus arrives for pick-up. If a kindergarten student's parent/guardian is not at the bus stop to meet them, the bus will bring the student back to the school to be picked up.

PAY AND RIDE BUS PROGRAM

Students who are eligible for free bus transportation, and pay and ride students, will receive a postcard with their bus assignment, bus stop, and approximate morning pick-up time 2 to 3 days before school starts. Please keep this postcard and use it as a temporary bus pass for the first few days of school until the driver gets to know your child. Only children who are eligible for free bus transportation and pay and ride students will be allowed on the buses. These students may only ride on their assigned bus to their assigned bus stop.

SCHOOL LUNCH & BREAKFAST

For this school term, **all students** are eligible for FREE breakfast and lunch from Stoughton Public Schools.

Students getting **breakfast** will report to the lunch line and bring their breakfast to their classroom. Please inform your child's teacher by email if your child will be getting breakfast each day.

Students will make their **lunch choice** upon arrival. Please review the weekly menu choices and prepare your child for their order before school EACH day.

Students may choose to bring **lunch from home**. Please **practice opening** containers/wrappers with your child.

Please make sure your child has a **drink** for both snack and lunch. **Reusable water bottles** can be refilled at school with the new bubbler systems.

ABSENCES/TARDINESS

Please call the school office before 8:00 AM if your child is going to be absent or tardy. Give your name, child's name, classroom number or teacher's name, and the reason for absence or tardiness. Parents are automatically notified of any absence each morning. Students who are tardy **MUST** be escorted into the school by a parent/guardian upon arrival. **PLEASE SEE ARRIVAL PROCEDURES ABOVE.** *Students arriving at 8:50 or after are considered tardy.*

PARENT CONFERENCES/BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

This year, Back to School Night and Parent Conferences will be virtual. At this time, they have not been scheduled. Please stay tuned for more information. Parents are encouraged to contact teachers at any time during the school year to share concerns or ask questions regarding their child's progress.

← Gibbons Parent Information Letter for fall 2020

Parent volunteerism is a critical component of the education of Stoughton's children. While parent volunteerism opportunities will not be available as we start the school year as they were during past years, filling out the appropriate CORI and Fingerprinting forms will be necessary if state guidance allows us to offer these opportunities later in the school year. If you are interested in volunteering in the future, please notify the main office. Your service as a volunteer is deeply appreciated.

Please be aware that the Massachusetts State Law requires every volunteer to fill out a CORI (Criminal Offender Record Information) before they can participate in our volunteer programs, classroom activities or field trips. A CORI must be completed every year.

Please be aware that if you are interested in chaperoning a field trip (*if we are able to have them later in the year*) you must also have fingerprints on file with the school department. Information on fingerprinting is available in the Student and Parent Handbook.

Students in the Stoughton Public Schools have the right to expect that all volunteers will keep information about students confidential. As such, you will be required to sign a *Student Privacy Statement and Volunteer Confidentiality Agreement* when you become a volunteer in addition to completing a CORI.

We will be looking for **Gibbons School Council** representatives once the school year begins. This is a wonderful way to contribute to our school community.

Additionally, our **Gibbons School PTA** is a vibrant part of our school community and will virtually meet on a regular basis this year- Look for more information on Gibbons PTA page:

<https://www.facebook.com/JHGibbonsPTA/>

COVID-19 INFORMATION

Please click on the link below to access information about COVID-19 symptoms and absences.

[COVID Flowsheet](#)

COMMUNICATION

Please check the Gibbons School web site often at <https://gibbons.stoughtonschools.org/> for the monthly calendar, Principal Newsletter, and menu as well as valuable information about the school.

Additionally, our Gibbons Twitter Profile is @Gibbonsgriffins - be sure to follow us on Twitter for pictures and updates. The "backpack" on our school's website contains copies of notices and community events - this application is now handled district-wide and will contain helpful information for all SPS elementary students. Finally, please be sure to follow Stoughton Public Schools Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/stoughtonpublicschools/> if you utilize this social media platform as well.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

Chromebook Distribution (Chromebooks will be distributed out of the Gibbons School for

← Gibbons Parent Information Letter for fall 2020

~~Wednesday, September 9- District-wide virtual Parent Q & A Session 7:00pm - 8:00pm -
<https://meet.google.com/yhk-dqib-dqq>~~

Previously Recorded Meetings

Students and Families new to the Gibbons School Orientation: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1WvsXLwoYWwxNlIBuhPJMQvxlDN0VOREFK/view>

Kindergarten (recorded September 3rd) https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-6uUgIB3DeL_Buz7ixLSBJyhk_XWW7Fs/view

Thursday, September 10- Grade Level Orientations with teachers

Grade 1 (2:00 p.m.) <https://meet.google.com/isv-ejhd-ffg>

Grade 2 (1:45 p.m.): <https://meet.google.com/gri-cupq-tqr>

Grade 3 (2:00 p.m.): meet.google.com/hqa-wwyk-txk

Grade 4 (1:30 p.m.):

meet.google.com/gkh-cbag-ggu

Grade 5 (1:30 p.m.) <https://meet.google.com/cvh-hcno-wej?hs=122&authuser=0>

We understand some families may have students in different grades. If you are double-booked, please note all grade level meetings will be recorded, posted on our web site and sent out.

We can't wait to see our Gibbons Griffins real soon! As always, if you have any questions, please reach out to the main office via phone or e-mail.

Have a wonderful Labor Day weekend!

Your Principal,

Mr. Guglia