UPDATE FROM THE WINCHENDON PUBLIC SCHOOLS SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE AUGUST 20, 2019

I hope everyone has enjoyed a peaceful and relaxing summer vacation. The administration and staff are excited to welcome our students back as we begin a new school year.

**2019-2020 BUS ROUTES**

The district will be posting the 2019-2020 bus routes on our website on Wednesday, August 21st, on the district website. Please contact me with any questions or concerns at the central office at 978-297-0031 ex. 1451 or by email janders@winchendonk12.org.

**OPERATION BACKPACK SCHOOL SUPPLIES DRIVE**

The district received a call from the Office of Transitional Assistance about a Backpack Drive being held before the opening of the new school year. This drive is not run by the agency but the staff in their office. As part of community service, the team at this organization is donating all the supplies collected in the drive to the children of Winchendon. They will be delivering filled backpacks on August 23rd to the Superintendent’s office.

If anyone from our school community would like to contribute to this drive, please see a list below outlining the supplies that are needed for our students. The central office has a box in the main office for this collection.

Superintendent Landers will open her office to parents who are in need of school supplies on Saturday, August 24th from 9:00-11:00 am.

**School supplies in need:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Backpacks</th>
<th>Pens</th>
<th>Hand Sanitizer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Highlighters</td>
<td>Crayons</td>
<td>2-pocket Folders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rulers</td>
<td>Glue Sticks</td>
<td>Composition Notebooks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supply Box</td>
<td>Markers</td>
<td>Spiral Notebooks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colored Pencils</td>
<td>Erasers</td>
<td>Loose-leaf Paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tissue Box</td>
<td>Pencils</td>
<td>Calculators</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**WINCHENDON SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

The next meeting of the Winchendon School Committee will be held on Thursday, September 5, 2019, at the town hall on the second floor at 6:00 pm.
MURDOCK ACADEMY

The Winchendon Public Schools will be moving the Murdock Academy alternative high school program into the space adjacent to the district's central offices, located at Toy Town Elementary School. The classrooms will be located in the central office wing.

There are important reasons for moving the program. First, the Academy is its own school, separate and distinct from Murdock High School. Being located at the high school has made it difficult for the Academy to develop its own distinctive, alternative community and identity. Over the last year, we have identified that different types of programming are needed in the Academy and at the high school.

Moving the program away from the Murdock campus will allow the district to build a positive learning environment and alternative educational experience in which these students can thrive. The students at the Academy will still be able to access academic classes, electives, extra-curricular activities, and additional programming within the high school when appropriate. Mr. Kris Provost will continue to oversee the program as the director. The Superintendent will also be directly involved in the development of the alternative learning community.

Some parents have expressed anxiety about high-school-aged students attending school in the same building as their elementary-aged children. The Academy students will enter their separate learning space via the Central Office entrance to the building. Their entry and exit from the building will take place at different times from the arrival and dismissal of the elementary-aged students. Those arriving by bus will be dropped off outside the central office doors rather than at the front of the building. Academy students will attend school in their own space, and will not make use of any of the Toy Town facilities utilized by the elementary school program.

Murdock Academy is holding an open house for students and parents on Tuesday, August 27th from 5-6 pm at the new location, 175 Grove Street, Winchendon.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns at jlanders@winchendonk12.org.

WINCHENDON RECEIVES SAFER SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY GRANT

Winchendon Public Schools received a Safer Schools and Community grant for $58,615 to update infrastructure and technology at Memorial School and Toy Town Elementary School, increasing security measures in these schools. Special thanks to Chief Walsh, Officer Tracey Flagg, Technology Director Bill Clinton, and the district's leadership team. These funds, along with other grant monies, will allow the following changes to occur:

The Toy Town main entrance will have an additional security checkpoint by containing all visitors between two sets of electronically locked doors. Egress out of the building will always be possible; however, entry into the building will be limited to those that have spoken with the building reception or someone who works in our schools with a district-issued key fob.

The Superintendent's wing and entrance will also get a revamp. There will be a second and third door along with a reception window installed. No one will be able to access Toy Town Elementary or enter the central office from Toy Town without the proper key fob.

The Memorial School will get additional locking mechanisms and a proximity card reader in other areas of the building.