



Principal's Message

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) Regarding School Closure

As we continue on with our school closure and remote learning adventure I will try to answer some of the questions being asked by students and parents.

Are we going to be out of school for the remainder of the year?

At this point in time no decision has been made regarding closing RSU #12 schools for the remainder of the year. While you may have seen on the news that the Commissioner of Education, supported by the Governor, has recommended that all schools remain closed through the remainder of the year. However, that is only a decision that can be reached by each superintendent, in consultation with the local school board. Howard Tuttle, RSU #12 Superintendent of Schools, has indicated that a decision will be within the next 7-10 days.

If schools were to close for the remainder of the year, what will be done?

Should closure until summer recess occur we will continue both the use of our Continuing Learning Packets (CLPs) as well as our food delivery system.

Will students move on to the next grade or be retained in their current grade level?

Unless a plan for retention was already in place for a WHES student (I am not aware of any such plans at this time) all students will be promoted on to the next grade level as planned. 8th grade students will move on to the secondary school of their choice. If any parents are thinking retaining a child at the current grade level is in his / her best interests, you must contact both me and the classroom / homeroom teacher right away, as there is a RSU #12 procedure for consideration of a retention request whether it begins with a teacher or with a parent.

Won't students now be behind because of this time out of school?

We had completed two thirds of the school year before the COVID-19 closures went into effect so a great deal of ground had already been covered in terms of the learning growth of our students. With that being said, certainly much more growth would have occurred if we had been in school as planned. However, our philosophy around learning has always been to take each student where he / she is on the continuum and facilitate as much growth as can be mastered in the time we have them. That philosophy applies with or without a school closure. All students throughout Maine, as well as most states in the nation, are facing the same dilemma of time out of school so everyone will enter the 2020-2021 school year equally.

Are the Continuing Learning Packets (CLPs) required for students to complete and will they be graded?

Our goal with providing the CLPs is to do our best to continue the learning process as best we can under the circumstances. We would certainly ask that all students do their best, with help from their parents and teachers, to make strong attempts to do the various activities presented. However, there is no requirement for them to be turned in or graded. The CLP materials, along with continued reading and, hopefully, connecting to some of the recommended on-line learning apps will keep all students appropriately active in their skill areas and ready to return to school at which time it is deemed safe.

What is going to happen regarding the 8th Grade Trip, Promotion Night, the WHES Day of Caring, spring sports and other end-of-the-year traditions?

At this time all of those activities are off. Once we have a clearer picture of where we are in the state, in terms of public safety concerns, we'll take a look at what, if anything, can be salvaged. However, if the decision is to remain closed for the remainder of the year, I would not be optimistic about any of those activities taking place.

Will any of the school facilities be available during the school closure period?

We are trying to follow the guidelines set forth by the Governor's Office, the Department of Education and the Maine CDC regarding social distancing and, therefore, would not support the use of the school gym, playground or fields at this time. Statistics show that Maine citizens are doing an excellent job of social distancing as we realize that this is our best tactic in trying to minimize the spread of the coronavirus. We cannot become lax in our vigilance and resolve. This is not the time to assemble.

If school is closed for the remainder of the year, when will students be able to retrieve their personal belongings

from school?

We will be looking at a time later in the spring, perhaps even in June, when we'll provide an opportunity for students to pick up their personal belongings from school. More information will be forthcoming about that in the upcoming weeks. At this time we are doing our very best to limit even staff members (myself included) from being in the school building as this just increases the odds of spreading the virus and defeats the hard work the WHES maintenance staff has been putting in to disinfect and sanitize the school facility. Please be patient and we'll make sure all personal effects are returned when it is safe and prudent to do so.

Office: We are now accepting PreK applications for the 2020/2021 school year. Applications may be obtained by contacting Amy Perkins at aperkins@svrsu.org or by calling the school at 549-7691. We are also taking names for kindergarten registration for the 2020/2021 school year. Students already enrolled in an RSU 12 PreK program do not need to register for kindergarten.

“Hope is important because it can make the present moment less difficult to bear. If we believe that tomorrow will be better, we can bear a hardship today.”

– Thich Nhat Hanh

Kitchen News: Ashley and I have been busy preparing and making meals we hope you will enjoy! It isn't the same each morning that I don't see you running to get your breakfast! I miss seeing your faces in the morning and at lunch! I want you to be safe and kind. Be sure to wash your hands and cover your coughs. If you have pictures of activities you are doing while at home, please share them with us. I would like to see what you are doing during this time. I miss you and hope you are doing well. Hang in there... I know **you can do it!**
Missing you all, Miss Vicki

Health: Take steps to protect children and others from getting sick:

Help stop the spread of COVID-19 by doing the same things everyone should do to stay healthy. Teach your children to do the same.

- **Clean hands often using soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer.**
- **Avoid people who are sick (coughing and sneezing).**
- **Clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces daily in household common areas (like tables, hard-backed chairs, doorknobs, light switches, remotes, handles, desks, toilets, and sinks).**
- **Laundry items including washable plush toys as needed. Follow the manufacturer's instructions. If possible, launder items using the warmest appropriate water setting and dry items completely. Dirty laundry from an ill person can be washed with other people's items.**

You can find additional information on preventing COVID-19 at [How to Protect Yourself](#) and at [Preventing COVID-19 Spread in Communities](#). Additional information on how COVID-19 is spread is available at [How COVID-19 Spreads](#).

WELLNESS TEAM: Help your child stay active:

- **Encourage your child to play outdoors—it's great for physical and mental health. Take a walk with your child or go on a bike ride.**
- **Use indoor activity breaks (like stretch breaks or dance breaks) throughout the day to help your child stay healthy and focused.**

Help your child stay socially connected:

- **Reach out to friends and family via phone or video chats.**
- **Write cards or letters to family members they may not be able to visit.**
- **Some schools and nonprofits, such as the [Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning](#) and [The Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence](#), have resources for social and emotional learning.**

Grades Pre K- 2

Pre K: It was so nice seeing all of your smiling faces from afar yesterday when we delivered your goodie bags. We hope that you have been able to explore and enjoyed using all of the fun activities we have put together for you. Please continue to join in with us on Class Dojo and make sure you're getting outside and enjoying the beautiful weather! We miss you!

Beck: Hey to the K Krew! I miss you very much. Parents this is so very different than any of us ever expected school to be like, especially for little ones. Remember the packets are there as a supplement to what you are doing as Moms and Dads. They are optional. Actual sit down time for a 5 or 6 year old is only about 10-15 minutes at the most. After that, they lose focus and are on to the next best thing. Enjoy your little guys/girls.....hopefully this will all be over soon and we can get back to our regular lives. I hope they have enjoyed checking the mailbox and listening to my stories on our FB page as well as working on their packets. Take care and give your kiddos a "virtual" hug from Mrs. Beck!

Lamothe: Greetings to our Fabulous First Grade Families. To all our parents, THANK YOU for your continued efforts at home. To my firsties, keep doing all the reading, writing, math and science activities you are posting on our FB page. I am so impressed to see what creative ways parents are working and connecting with their children during this unfamiliar time. We are working through this together!

S. Brewer: I hope all are staying healthy. Keep reading everyday!!! Get outside and enjoy the sunshine!!

Grades 3-5

Northrup: "At the end of the day, the most overwhelming key to a child's success is the positive involvement of parents." -- Jane D. Hull

Parents- You got this!! Remember I am here if you need help. Call or send an email. We can do this...A Partnership in Education!!!

I have received many pics and phone calls!! Keep them coming. Stay healthy and know that I miss you very much!!!

Trask: I miss all of you. I have enjoyed the e-mails and letters from some of you. I hope all of you are working on Moby Max. Remember to work in Math and Language. Try to get outside and be active.

M. Brewer: It has been so nice seeing so many faces on zoom. I enjoyed playing zoom pictiography this week! I hope you have been taking advantage of the nice weather recently and getting outside some. Remember to read, read, read!!

PBIS News- It was really nice to see some of the 5th grade students last week during a zoom session with Ms. Brewer. I hope that everyone is staying active, keeping your mind and body active as we end another week of school closure. I have realized the importance of continuing to check and adjust daily routines for myself and my own children. It's very easy to get "stuck" in an unhealthy daily routine where watching youtube, tik tok videos, video games and movies becomes the norm. I struggle with limiting screen time with my own girls because it seems to be a coping skill that redirects their attention. However, finding other alternatives rather than screen time can be a trial. We continue to work on branching out of our comfort zone and exploring new activities which on most days are successful. If you are struggling to think of activities to add to your routine I have listed some below. Stay positive !!! Stay Active!! And keep challenging yourself to try something new. Please reach out to me any time or day. I am happy to do zoom meetings, emails, phone calls and or good old letter writing.

- *Bake or having family cooking contests (we've done this and it was a hit)
- *Build a fort
- *Zoom with your friends/teachers/neighbors
- *Practice a spring sport
- *Start a digital portfolio of daily activities
- *Anything Art
- *Write a letter (My girls have really enjoyed sending and receiving letters from their Grandmother)
- *Spring cleaning, organize your room,
- *Make your own board game

Middle School News

McCormick: It has been great to be able to see so many of you on our zoom meetings. Keep checking email and google classroom every day for new information. Also, reach out in an email or message via google classroom. I miss talking to you guys. Keep safe!

Capen: Loved seeing all your faces in zoom! Please continue to reach out via email or phone if you have any questions or just want to say hi! Miss you guys.

Crowell: Hey Everyone! Missing you so very much. If you need help with anything please email me. I have several students that have done so and I've offered several zoom sessions to work on reteaching the concept. Make sure to check your email and google classroom daily for announcements. I hope to see you all at our zoom meeting..

Resource News

Brann: Please let me know how I can best support your children at home. I've enjoyed phone conversations and emails with parents and students. Puzzles, board games, crafts, and small projects are some ways to pass time these days.

Frankhauser: Please reach out if you have any questions, require any support or would like additional materials in your packets. I hope everyone is doing well.

Grady/Richards: Hi everyone! We hope you've had a great week. Reach out to us if we can be of any help to you during this time away from school. Don't forget to read!

Marecaux (Social Work): I wanted to share a free mindfulness website: www.mindyeti.com that is made by the same people that provide the second step lessons we use! Hop on and access free videos to help you calm your mind and focus your attention.

Art - Learning Commons - Music - PE

Martin: Hello Everyone, I hope you are all doing well. Please continue to stay in touch. I love seeing pictures of all your creations.

I've started a facebook page (still in the works) "Art with Mrs. Trainor" Please check it out if you have access to facebook. I will continue to post various themed art projects and would love to share what you come up with. Miss you all so much and look forward to hearing from you.

Howard: I have received some great pictures and emails from students about what they are doing for hands-on activities. Our students have really stepped up in being creative and learning to share their learning. I enjoy hearing from all of you - keep sending emails!! I will be creating a Teacher Page on our website that will contain more hands-on activities for students to do.

YEARBOOKS are still on sale - please contact the office with details about ordering on-line. Yearbooks will be published later due to production but will be delivered as soon as they arrive (June).

Please click the following link to go to the Whitefield Town Library's homepage! <https://whitefieldlibrary.org/>

Simpson: Get outside and be active in the great spring weather! I miss you all!

Morgan: Hope everyone is doing well! If we end up closed for the year I will continue my 4th grade recorder unit next year in 5th grade. I hope you are having fun with some of the instrument projects I sent in the packets. Feel free to adapt these to the materials you have at home and be creative.

Have a great weekend!