

WISCASSET SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

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Dr. Terry L. Wood
Superintendent of Schools
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September 4, 2020

Dear parents and guardians,

We have been working diligently to get all of the requirements in place to return to school on Tuesday, September 8, 2020. As promised, here are the latest updates. All students and staff must wear masks. A video has been posted for WES to assist the students. We do have extra masks for any students needing one. Students need to have a mask on before boarding the buses. If you are dropping your child off and need a mask, we will have them available at the drop-off areas.

We have been coordinating schedules with the Wiscasset Middle High School to set up accurate dropoff and pickup times for students. The bus routes were posted yesterday on the school website. Please review prior to Tuesday. We needed to adjust routes due to the fact of limited seating on the buses. We have shifted some streets onto other buses, so please keep this in mind as we begin the new school year as your child's BUS NUMBER may have changed.

DROP OFF: Students will be dropped off at WMHS at approximately 7:30 am and then at WES at approximately 7:35 am. Students **may not be dropped off prior to 7:45 at both schools.** We have a number of parents

who have graciously offered to transport their children during this time. We will have very congested parking lots and designated school bus drop-off areas if everyone arrives at the same time.

At WES, the drop-off will be as follows: If your child is planning on having breakfast, you may drive around to the back of the school and drop them off at the back cafeteria entrance. There will be staff members in blaze orange vests to assist you. Please stay in your vehicle.

- If your child/dren is a kindergartener or PreK student, please drive around the back and you can drop them off at the side door. Again, there will be staff members available to assist you.
- If your child is a first grader, please proceed to the side door and there will be a staff member to assist you as well.
- Students in grades 3 and 4 will be entering through the front door. You will be able to drop them off in the bus loop if it is AFTER 7:45 am.
- Grades 2 and 5 can be dropped at the beginning of the loop where the stairs and ramp are located.

We will be placing signs on the doors and around the areas to assist you so please feel free to drive around the building on Sunday or Monday to get familiar with the drop-offs if you would like. If you have children in different grades, feel free to drop them at the front door. We know this is rather confusing, but we are trying to eliminate unnecessary student and staff contact as much as possible. Once we have a routine and a better idea of what the traffic flow will look like, we will be able to adjust times if necessary.

PICK UP: Students will be dismissed from the WMHS at approximately 2:30-2:35 pm and will head to WES for bus pick-up at approximately 2:35-2:40. Students at WES will remain in their classrooms and will be dismissed for pick-up after the buses leave to again eliminate the

congregation of students and congested parking lots and designated school bus drop-off areas. Students will be dismissed at about 2:45 pm and we will be using walkie-talkies to dismiss students so please be patient as we ensure your child is safely dismissed into your care. Once we have a routine and a better idea of what the traffic flow will look like, we will be able to adjust times if necessary.

SCHEDULES: WES students who have chosen the **hybrid model** of learning are divided into two groups of students. Group A students will be meeting on Mondays and Tuesdays and Group B students will be meeting on Thursdays and Fridays as was posted in a previous letter. When there is a Monday holiday, Group A students will attend school on Tuesday and Wednesday and Group B students will attend school on Thursday and Friday. The remote schedule will also be the same as we do not have any scheduled classes on Wednesdays. We will follow the Monday and Tuesday schedule for Tuesday and Wednesday. This will happen again in October, but we will make sure to send out a reminder. Again, I know this may be a bit confusing but your child's teacher will explain this as well. During the remote days for these students, there will be Allied Arts scheduled. The Allied Arts are the music, art, physical education, computers, library, guidance, and math or ELA enrichment classes. You will have one scheduled in the morning and one scheduled in the afternoon. If you have other services such as speech, occupational therapy, physical therapy, or social work services, you may have them scheduled during the remote days or on Wednesdays. On Wednesdays, Group A and Group B students may have an opportunity to get together on ZOOM and your classroom teacher will be scheduling this as well. Your child's teacher has all of these schedules and may have already shared them with you. To make things easier, we are placing all of the ZOOM links for the remote learning on one document. It will be on Clasdojo as well as the school's website so you will not have to be searching for the correct links. During the first week of school, WES **WILL NOT** be having any remote lessons as we are adjusting schedules based on student changes.

WMHS students will logon to their scheduled classes whether in-person or remote.

REMOTE: Parents who have chosen the remote option will be receiving an Allied Art class in the morning and one in the afternoon. If they are receiving specific services as described above, staff may be scheduling them during remote times. On Wednesdays, Group A and Group B students may have an opportunity to get together on ZOOM and your classroom teacher will be scheduling this as well. Your child's teacher has all of these schedules and may have already shared them with you. To make things easier, we are placing all of the ZOOM links for the remote learning on one document. It will be on Classdojo as well as the school's website so you will not have to be searching for the correct links. During the first week of school, WES **WILL NOT** be having any remote lessons as we are adjusting schedules based on student changes. We are still adjusting schedules with staff and may be able to assign staff members to check in with your child and provide additional opportunities for learning opportunities. We will be able to make this determination after the first week of school. We appreciate your patience as we try and maneuver all of the obstacles that we have been faced with.

DEVICES: During the first week of school, WES **WILL NOT** be having any remote lessons as we are adjusting schedules based on student numbers. We will be scheduling device pickup times and locations for the end of next week for remote learners. Every student will be provided with their devices to bring back and forth to school if they are in the hybrid model and the devices will stay at home for those students who are completely remote at this time. It will be your responsibility to sign the appropriate paperwork that will be provided during the scheduled device pickup time or sent home with your child.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES: School supplies will be available for all remote learners when you pick up their devices. All students under the hybrid model will receive their supplies on their first day of school.

MEALS: There is the potential that students will be provided free breakfasts and lunches but we do not have the authorization at this time. We should be receiving this information hopefully within the next week or so. The Wiscasset School Department will provide meals (breakfast/lunch) for students who are in school during the first week of school at no cost. After we receive authorization for the free meal program, we will schedule the pickup times for students on their remote learning days and for those students who are completely remote. During the school year, we will not be able to deliver any meals to students at home.

The buildings are ready, the administrators are ready, the staff is ready and we hope your children are ready to get back to school! We are excited as well as a little anxious to see how everything goes on our first day back. We will be taking pictures during the first week of school to provide you with a snapshot as to what your child's school days are like and will post them on our website. We thank you for your continued support and I personally feel that we have everything in place to make this a very positive and productive school year. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Stacey Souza at ssouza@wiscassetsschools.org and she will place it on our Q & A document on the website under the red COVID tab.

Thank you for entrusting your children to us and we will do our very best to keep them safe as they return to school next week.

Best,
Dr. Terry L. Wood
Superintendent
Wiscasset School Department

