

WISCASSET SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

83 Federal Street Wiscasset, ME 04578 (207) 882-7767

Dr. Terry L. Wood, Principal

twood@wiscassetschools.org

October 27, 2020

Parents/Guardians,

The months are going by so quickly! We have had such a gorgeous fall, hopefully it will continue for a little while longer. Here are a few updates to help keep you informed.

WELLNESS CHECK: Parents must conduct self-checks on their children prior to them boarding buses or being dropped off at the school each day. If your child is showing symptoms, you must report their symptoms and they may not come to school. We continue to find errors in email addressing and you may be receiving a phone call until we have all errors corrected. Please make sure you complete a request for each of your children separately. A paper version is available for you to fill out if that would be easier. Please let the office know and we will send them home with your child. You will see that there are four days (or two weeks) on each paper. Please sign the bottom of the form as well. Your child may be prevented from entering the building if we do not receive the email/form completed. The email goes out early in the morning and should be completed before 7:30 am for the office to track students entering in the buildings. I apologize for this inconvenience but, we do not have a choice with this mandate given to schools across Maine in order to have in-person instruction.

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES: Parent/teacher conferences are scheduled for Wednesday, November 4th and Thursday, November 5th from 3:00-7:00 P.M. This is a wonderful opportunity to touch base with your child's teachers and check on their progress. ZOOM Conferences are being offered on both days. Just sign up on the website below for the teachers you would like to conference with. Our teachers will reach out with a ZOOM link for the meeting. Here is the link to sign up for conferences.

https://www.ptcfast.com/schools/Wiscasset_Elementary_School_1

SAFETY: Thank you for paying close attention to the speed limit at the schools. The speed limit signs have been installed. The safety of students and staff are a priority for all of us.

WES would like to invite you to be part of the decision-making process by joining our new **WES Parent Advisory Committee**. If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact Cindy at ccollamore@wiscassetschools.org, and we will schedule meeting times based on everyone's schedule.

In order to keep fresh air flowing in the building, we are continuing to keep windows opened and will continue to do so, as long as possible. We would appreciate it if you could send an extra sweater or jacket so your child can be comfortable while learning.

FACE COVERINGS: When dropping off your children, or if you leave your vehicle to assist your child, please wear a face mask to protect yourself and those around you. We would appreciate your attention to this request. There is a new executive order from the Governor, which has been posted on our website. The order includes the requirement of mask wearing in parking lots and other public areas, which we have been requiring since re-opening.

REMOTE LEARNING: The information regarding the remote learning in this section is for **WES**. For clarification, even if parents have chosen fully remote learning for their children, students need to be logging into their remote classes in the morning and afternoon if they are scheduled to do so. Students attending the hybrid model are expected to be logging in on their remote days. Next week, we will begin tracking the attendance of **ALL** students attending classes remotely. Assigned work is expected to be completed and graded. We have definitely had some issues with this, but it seems like we have the major issues under control. Please remember that you should not be recording the teacher's lessons. In the future, teachers may be recording lessons that you may use for your child, but these are not available at this time. Classroom teachers are using their cameras and are practicing their remote instruction. They may be requesting your child who is completely remote to join in a class, or students who are home on their remote days to join a class as well. I have asked teachers to begin planning on the possibility of having to teach fully remote if we are designated as a "red" zone in the future. If we are in the "red" zone, all students would be instructed remotely, so we want to be prepared. We will keep you posted and updated if this occurs. Communication will be the key for us to successfully transition between color designations. If you do not receive any information from me, there is nothing for you to be concerned about. I will be very transparent and share information if, and when, I receive it based on the CDC guidelines and our Framework to Return to Classroom Instruction. This is posted on our website as well as on the Maine Department of Education website.

ZOOMING: With students being expected to attend remote learning via ZOOM, there are protocols to follow. Students should be sitting at a table, desk or other area and should not be

shutting off their cameras or be outside playing around as teachers cannot hear, focus or continue teaching their classes. There are a lot of disruptions and teachers are doing their best to keep your child engaged and focused. We would appreciate any support you can give your child during this time. I believe that it will continue to get easier for all involved!

TECHNOLOGY: All students in grades PreK-5 have 1-1 access to devices. Students are expected to travel to school with their CHARGED device every day they have in-person classes. We will continue to send the devices home and ask you to complete the appropriate green form. **For students without internet access at home please contact Ms. Pooler dpooler@wiscassetschools.org immediately. A hotspot will be available for your use with the laptop. If you need ANY assistance with the technology, please contact your classroom teacher or the school and we will set up a time to assist you.

SUPPLIES: Teachers are preparing remote learning packets/supplies for students. We have a table near the front entrance where we are keeping all of the materials. Teachers are contacting parents to let them know when they are ready to be picked up. There are still several packets and music materials at WES. Please pick them up so your child can stay on top of their assignments.

Our priority is the safety, health and wellness of all students and staff. It is my sincere desire that each and every student participates and engages in the learning process successfully. Again, thank you for your continued support during this very complicated time. We are ALL in this together!

Yours in Education,
Dr. Terry L. Wood