

WACHUSETT REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

CORE VALUES

Critical Thinking/Problem Solving
Creativity/Innovation
Citizenship/Responsibility
Communication
Collaboration

September 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians and Incoming Grade(s) 10, 11, and 12 Students:

I hope the summer break has found all of our students rested and prepared for what appears to be a very interesting year at Wachusett. Certainly, the past six months have been some of the most challenging times for our students, families, and educators. It seems like a lifetime since students were walking through the halls and speaking for the staff, we've missed them. I will continue to strive to make this the best place possible for all of our students to excel both in and out of the classroom.

Like most other things pertaining to the 2020-2021 school year, this letter to all of our Grades 10 through 12 families look much different than it has in years past. Typically, we would begin reviewing student handbooks and policies, as well as bus routes, etc. and although there is much information to share, I think it is important to take the information step by step based on the juncture of the school year we are entering.

As you all are aware, the Wachusett Regional School District Committee supported the idea to delay the start of the school year for all WRSD students with the first day of classes taking place on September 16. Additionally, our students will all begin with remote learning while eventually some students transition to a hybrid model in early October but the vast majority of students are scheduled to go hybrid by mid-November. Much more on that to come later.

As far as immediate information, all WRHS students will be able to access their class schedules for the 2020-2021 school year after 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 3. Please note that handbook signoff information is not available through the PowerSchool mobile app. Parents must visit <https://ps.wrsd.net> and click submit on the handbook and policy sign off page in order to view schedules when they are posted. If your child does not have PowerSchool access or cannot remember their password, etc. please reach out to Julie Scott at julie_scott@wrsd.net or by calling (508) 829-6771 ext. 1614. For more information on how to request a schedule change through the counseling department, please see these [google slides](#). Lauren Clark, Director of School Counseling, will also be following up with scheduling information soon.

As mentioned above, students will begin classes on September 16 with a remote school day that runs from 8:20 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. This is not the normal high school start and end times but it is what is in place while we are remote. A copy of the Remote Bell Schedule is attached to this

email. I imagine there may be many questions about this schedule and as such, please note the bulleted information below:

- This schedule will be in place while we are remote and will most likely be adjusted once we have students in the building which may be as early as October 5.
- While we are remote the weekly schedule will stay the same from week to week other than one week being a Green week and the next being White. This is how we will accommodate every other day classes such as PE, Freshman Seminar, and Health. The first day of classes will be a Green C Day as Thursday and Friday of that week will be Green as well. The following week we will run all White Day classes as identified on the Remote Bell Schedule.
- On Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, you will notice a 15-minute Activity Period block. In a typical year this block usually meets most Tuesday mornings and is where students connect with their homeroom teachers and where nonacademic discussions and activities can take place, in addition to extra help, etc. However, for the time being, these 15 minutes will be embedded into the classes that take place right before the Activity Period and these meetings will take place with the teacher of that class that the students are in. This will hopefully be used for students to ask staff questions, get help, and support, etc.
- Please note that Wednesday's will be a half day for students with the day ending at 12:25 p.m.
- Thursday afternoons from 12:50 p.m. to 1:40 p.m. we have the Independent Work and Counseling Presentations block. This time will be used for support and information sessions led by school counselors and in some cases school administrators.
- Finally, as you can see to end the day on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays we have scheduled a block for Online Help and Support. This time will be used for extra help, etc. for students. The construct of how this block will work is being developed by teachers during the Staff Training Days leading up to September 16. Once finalized this information will be shared.

The final item I'd like to cover in this letter is that of textbook distribution. We have tried to schedule the distribution as close to the start of school as possible in case courses need to be changed and therefore textbooks wouldn't be picked up unnecessarily. That being said, sophomores are scheduled to pick up textbooks on Thursday, September 10, either from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. or 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Juniors are scheduled for pick up on Monday, September 14 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and then again from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Seniors will have pick up on Tuesday, September 15 again from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. More information will be sent next week to serve as a reminder but basically, we ask that students/families enter the grounds via the service entrance (across from the fire station) and we will have several stops at various entryways around the building in order to pick up the necessary textbooks. It is important to note that not all classes may require a textbook and also

that we know these pick-up times may not work for all families and as such we will be sending out pick up plans for those that can't make it during these original times.

There are many opportunities for parents to assist directly in the life of Wachusett. The Mountaineer Booster Club is extremely active in supporting Wachusett's extracurricular activities and interscholastic athletic programs and can use your talents, time, and contributions to further their endeavors. TEMPO is the parent group that actively supports Wachusett's exemplary Music Education Program, and UPSTAGE provides similar support to our Theater Arts Program.

Also, feel free to contact your child's counselor, teacher, or administrator as needed. I can be reached at william_beando@wrsd.net, check our school website and class pages regularly for information and please follow on our Twitter account @wachusettbeando and on Facebook at Wachusett Regional High School.

Lots of information contained within this letter and there will be more to follow. Please let us know if you have any additional questions. I wish all of our students a terrific year.

Very truly yours,
Bill Beando
Principal

WPB:cml