

WACHUSETT REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

CORE VALUES

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

September 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians and Incoming WRHS Freshmen:

On behalf of the entire Wachusett community, I would like to officially welcome you and your child to Wachusett Regional High School. Understandably this school year will bring more than the usual challenges to all of our students and families and I hope that this letter will be a good next step in providing you with as much information as is available and necessary in order to best ease the transition to WRHS. There is much information available regarding our school programs and policies via verified avenues such as emails, etc. from staff and administration, school and district websites as well as staff controlled social media sites. This year more than ever I believe that communication between home and school will be paramount in order for all of our students to reach the highest possible levels of success.

Like most other things pertaining to the 2020-2021 school year, this letter to all of our freshman families looks 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 transitioning 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 tomorrow as well.

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. This 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 non-academic 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.
- Please note that Wednesday's will be a half day for students with the day ending at 12:25 p.m. for students.
- 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 construction 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 and Chromebook distribution. We have scheduled these events to take place at the same time in order to minimize trips to the school. 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 some textbooks wouldn't be picked up unnecessarily. That being said, freshmen are scheduled to pick up textbooks and Chromebooks on Friday, September 11 either from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. or 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 and Chromebook. It is important to note that not all classes may require a textbook and also that we know these pickup 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.

The freshman and sophomore classes are split in half and as a result each half is assigned to an administrator for their first two years while at Wachusett. If you are in the Green House you have Mr. Costa and he can be reached at andrew_costa@wrsd.net and likewise if you are in the White House you have Mr. DiBenedetto and he can be reached at anthony_dibenedetto@wrsd.net. These are the people that will most likely work with students on a closer day to day basis while serving as a good resource for families to reach out to with any questions and concerns you may have.

Lots of information contained within this letter and there will be more to follow. Please let us know if you have any additional questions and I once again I want to welcome the Class of 2024 and wish them a great year.

Very truly yours,
Bill Beando
Principal

WPB:cml