



From the Principal....

January 26, 2021

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! I hope you and your family are safe and healthy. I know the 2020-2021 school year has been an extremely difficult one for families and schools. With the Board of Education decisions and changing learning environments, it is hard to make consistent plans. We are all having to adjust and adapt on the go. Please know how much we appreciate you and the enormous amount of educational support you are providing your children during this time. Your patience, flexibility, and willingness to learn how better to assist your child does not go unnoticed. We are extraordinarily grateful for your partnership as we navigate this 20-21 school year together.

Remote Learning – Jan. 20th – Mid February

On Thursday, Jan. 14th, the WCPSS Board of Education voted to continue remote learning for all students until mid-February. The Board will meet again on Feb. 2nd to assess the situation and decide whether to return to in-person learning or to continue remote learning for all students. When a decision is made, WCPSS will send communication directly to parents.

Supporting Your Child During Remote Learning

With the start of the second semester and all students engaged in remote learning, families and caregivers can support their learners by:

- Encouraging students to attend and engage in all live instruction sessions.
- Encouraging students to turn on their cameras during whole group and small group live instruction sessions. We have seen an increase in the number of students who are attending live instruction with their cameras off. This is especially true in the upper grades. With cameras on, teachers are better able to connect and engage with students. It is also helpful in determining if students are understanding a concept, skill, or direction by seeing their faces. Although teachers can't make them turn on their camera, we strongly believe children will be more actively engaged and learn more with their cameras on.
- Guiding students as they complete work and assist when possible and encourage students to seek help from the teacher. I also want to remind you that your teacher has daily office hours from 3:00-3:45. So, if your child needs additional support or if you have questions, please reach out to your child's teacher about meeting during office hours.
- Allowing students to work independently and allow students to grapple with the content.
- Helping students maintain a daily schedule that the teacher communicates.
- Assisting in designating a space for learning with minimal distractions to the degree possible.
- Asking for help when needed to support your student.
- Asking for technology assistance when needed to support your student. ([Guides to Technology for Parents and Students](#))
- Maintaining communication with the teacher. Make sure the teacher and school have up-to-date contact information for you to promote school-home communication.



Mid-Year Class Changes

On January 20th, we had 80 students begin the second semester with a new teacher and classmates. We know this was a difficult change for students and families. We hope the virtual Meet-the-Teacher helped reduce some of the anxiety about switching classes, but we know some students may still be struggling with this change. In addition to your child's teacher, please do not hesitate to reach out to our school counselors, Nancy Stavrakakis (nstavrakakis@wcpss.net) and Teri Armstrong (tarmstrong@wcpss.net), if you need assistance helping your child with this change. And I hope it goes without saying, Mrs. Pauls and I are always available to you as well.

WCPSS 20-21 Second Semester Calendar

- **Asynchronous Learning Days:** Unlike the first semester, asynchronous learning days will not occur weekly. Here are the dates of the 2nd semester asynchronous learning days: **Feb. 3, Feb. 24, March 10, March 11, April 14, May 5, and May 26.** Remember, all students work from home on asynchronous learning days and there is no live instruction.
- **Calendar Out Days:** Due to calendar law changes impacting the development of the 2020-2021 Traditional Calendar, days were added to the traditional school calendar identified as Calendar Out Days. These days are like track-out days for our year-round calendar schools. The two days identified as Calendar Out Days are **February 15 and April 5.** Calendar Out Days are non-instructional days for students and non-paid days for 10-month staff (most school employees). Students and 10-month employees do not report to school or work.

Math Manipulative Kits (K-5) and Headsets (1-5)

Math manipulative kits, which were recently sent home, will be collected at the end of the 20-21 school year. The kits contain manipulatives specific to each grade level. Next year, students will be re-issued new kits that correspond to their new grade level. Additionally, we will collect the headsets at the end of the school year as well. Parents, we ask that you please help keep track of these items (organize them all in one place at home), so when it comes time to collect them, you can find them easily.

Thank you for your continued support! Cheers to 2021...a year of hope and better days ahead!

Sincerely,

Michael Regan
Principal

Please see below for upcoming events for February 2021



Upcoming Events for February 2021

- Feb. 1- 2: Remote Learning for All Students
- Feb. 3: Asynchronous Learning Day...No Live Instruction
- Feb. 4: Student of the Week lawn sign pick up and drop off
- Feb. 11: Student of the Week lawn sign pick up and drop off
- Feb. 15: Calendar Out Day – No School for Students & Staff
- Feb. 16: Teacher Workday - No School for Students
- Feb. 18: Student of the Week lawn sign pick up and drop off
- Feb. 24: Asynchronous Learning Day...No Live Instruction
- Feb. 25: Student of the Week lawn sign pick up and drop off
- Feb. 26: Quarter 3 interim reports sent home for all students.