



WINTHROP SCHOOL

FAMILY UPDATE #10 2020-2021

DECEMBER 14-DECEMBER 18

Weather Related Remote Learning Day:

There are a few possible scenarios that can occur if we have inclement weather this year that is severe enough to interrupt or cause the cancellation of in-person school days:

Possible Scenarios:

- **Full Cancellation** - No power in communities results in “No School Day” and will need to be made up at the end of the year.
- **Weather-related Remote Learning Days:**
 - **Remote Day Cohort** (regularly scheduled learning day at home) Students will continue as usual with the asynchronous Google Classroom/paper assignments. Students will still have their synchronous Morning Meetings and academic check-in with teaching assistants.
 - **In-Person Cohort** - the scheduled in-person cohort will learn remotely, following a schedule created by each classroom teacher.
 - **APL Students** - APL students will have a typical day.
- **Delayed Opening** - 2-Hour Delayed Opening if weather conditions are expected to be safe for travel within a two-hour window of regularly scheduled school travel times. *(Rare)*
- **Early Dismissal** - If inclement weather is predicted to impact the safe travel home from school, the District may call for an early dismissal. *(Rare)*

Cancellations will be posted on Twitter, local news, and you should receive a call and written cancellation via Blackboard Connect. It is important that you keep your family information correct in Aspen. If your information is not correct, you may not receive a notification from the superintendent.

Please log into the Aspen Parent Portal to make any necessary changes. Our District will be rolling out the text messaging feature for BlackBoard Connect as well.

Link Aspen Parent Portal:

<https://ma-hamiltonwenham.myfollett.com/aspen/logon.do>

Help with Aspen login: aspenhelp@hwschools.net

IMPORTANT DATES

Friday, December 18

Gr. 1-5 Report Cards open in Aspen

Wednesday, December 23

Specialist zooms end at 11:15 for early holiday dismissal

Monday, January 4

End of holiday break; school resumes

Friday, January 8

Last day of coat drive

Tuesday, January 12

Picture Day for Cohort A and APL Students

Thursday, January 14

Picture Day for Cohort B and APL Students

Monday, January 18

No School

Important COVID links and travel information:

[Massachusetts Travel Orders](#)
[Stop the Spread Testing Sites](#)

Follow Winthrop & Mrs. Shediak on Twitter

@WinthropEagles @ShediakC

Report Cards

Students in grades 1-5 will have their first-trimester report card released into the Aspen family portal on Friday, December 18. Please take time now to practice logging into the Aspen portal. If you need assistance, you may reach out to aspenhelp@hwschools.net.

We value report cards as one of our important ways to communicate progress with families. The students' performance connected to a specific learning standard is evaluated on an academic performance indicator scale, ranging from N (student is not yet demonstrating progress toward the standard), B (student is beginning to progress toward standard), P (student is progressing toward consistent and independent proficiency of the standard) and M (student consistently and independently demonstrates mastery of the standard).

Each child will receive evaluative marks from their classroom teacher in social skills and academics. You may see X's in standards or subjects that have not been focused on this term, as those areas will be a focus in the second and third terms with marks shared then. Teachers will continue to comment on students' progress in social areas as well as the academic areas in the core class comments text box each term. In addition, specialist teachers will provide marks and comments in each of their respective disciplines. As has been our practice in years past, Kindergarten students will receive their first report cards at the mid-year on February 5.

Winter Gear:

While the winter weather has us mostly eating lunch inside now, we still will go out for recess daily and will eat outside as the weather allows. It's the one time of day that kids really can move and play without as many restrictions as they face inside. Thank you for making sure your child has appropriate boots, coats, mittens, and hats to be comfortable while we are outside multiple times each day.

New Dates For School Picture Day:

Tues., January 12 for Cohort A and APL Students

Thurs., January 14 for Cohort B and APL Students

Massachusetts Flu Vaccine Reminder:

Please remember that all PreK-12 students (including remote students) are required to get a [flu vaccine](#) by December 31 unless exempt due to a religious or medical exemption. Nurse Jess Baker is tracking our compliance so be sure to submit your vaccine paperwork to the nurse's office.

HW Girls' Basketball Community Scavenger Hunt:

The high school girls' basketball team has organized a community-wide Holiday Scavenger Hunt. More info on this fundraiser [here](#).

HW Gives Back Coat Drive Dec. 7 - Jan. 8:

Two years ago the high school students started a charitable giving campaign #HWgivesback to promote awareness of challenges impacting families in our communities and to raise money to support various causes. Starting Monday, Dec. 7, Winthrop School will be participating in a [coat drive](#) with #HWgivesback, collecting gently used/new coats for kids through adults.

Important Family Resources:

School Counselor, Debi Lanigan, has compiled a list of local resources to assist families in need. Please reach out to her with any questions at d.lanigan@hwschools.net or 978-468-8484.

The Hamilton Foundation (Hamilton residents)

The Hamilton Foundation (THF) was created to help meet unexpected, urgent, and short-term needs of Hamilton residents due to job loss, death, divorce, or catastrophic illness. It also maintains a directory of over 60 regional social service agencies and refers people to those programs when appropriate.

Call (978)233-1816 and leave a message and someone will return your call or email Jill Evers at jillevers@me.com.

WISSH (Wenham residents)

WISSH assists Wenham residents in need of temporary financial or social service assistance. The mission of WISSH is to identify the social service needs of Wenham residents and to coordinate and implement appropriate immediate unmet financial assistance to those in need.

Call WISSH at a confidentially maintained phone number – (978) 468-5520 Ext. 9 or email Traceyhutchinson@churchillprop.com.

Beverly Bootstraps – 135 Park Street (98 Rantoul St) Beverly MA
Beverly Bootstraps provides critical resources to families and individuals so that they may achieve self-sufficiency. They offer emergency and long-term assistance including access to food, housing stability, adult and youth education, counseling and advocacy. Office (978)927-1561 Thrift Shop (978)921-4710 Mon-Fri 10a-4p, Sat. 10a-2p

ACORD Food Pantry - 69 Willow Street, Hamilton

ACORD distributes food weekly to the residents of Essex, Hamilton, Ipswich, Manchester, Topsfield, and Wenham. (978)468-7424

Wellspring House - 302 Essex Ave, Gloucester (978)281-5588

Wellspring assists over 1,000 families each year. Through active case management, advocacy, referrals and one-time cash grants, families are assisted in homelessness prevention, emergency shelter placement, and securing long-term housing.

Updating Aspen and reviewing Handbook:

Many families still need to review their child's medical and contact information in Aspen. This is done in the Tasks section under *Initiate*. We also ask all families to review the [Winthrop Handbook](#) containing COVID additions for this school year.

Safe Arrival Line/Dismissal Changes In person days, please call the safe arrival line 978-468-5344 to report your child absent or tardy.

Please call the front office @ 978-468-5340 for dismissal changes.