



WINTHROP SCHOOL

FAMILY UPDATE #23 2020-2021

MARCH 28- APRIL 2

August in April:

As we prepare for the final change to our school model for the 2020-2021 school year, when we welcome 300+ students back to the building full time on Monday, April 5th, we appreciate your patience and grace as we work through the logistics. We are treating the first few days of the week as the start of a new school year. Classrooms PreK to Grade 5 will bring together both cohorts, as well as welcome back students from the APL program and some home school and private school students. The emphasis on those first few days will be on community building, reviewing routines and expectations, and connecting with each other, just like we do in August. While we are excited to finally make this shift, we anticipate that there may be some feelings of anxiety and fear about all the changes. Please remember that children feed off the energy of the adults around them. Have a positive attitude, and reassure your children that we will continue to follow all of our mitigation strategies to help keep us all safe and healthy. Remind them too that there are many adults at school who are here to help.

Return to Full In-Person Learning Information:

Thank you to the 30+ families who joined us for the Parent Webinar last week, to hear about the details for returning to full in-person learning beginning Monday, April 5th. For those who missed it, here is a [link](#) to the recording. If you would rather not watch the webinar recording, here is a link to an updated version of the [presentation slides](#) which includes many important details. Please reach out to Principal Carolyn Shediak if you have any lingering questions.

HW Loaner Device Return:

If your hybrid student has a school loaned Chromebook or iPad, please plan to return it to the Winthrop School main entrance on **Wednesday, March 31st 1-3pm**. Please return the following items:

- Chromebook or iPad
- The power cord
- The power block
- Any other borrowed accessory

We recognize that this is a change from our earlier plans of returning devices on April 5th, but that plan did not allow enough time to clean and reset the computers for classroom use.

Gr 1-5 Report Cards:

Report cards for students in Grades 1-5 were posted to ASPEN on Friday, March 25th.

IMPORTANT DATES

Monday, March 28

Pool Testing - Cohort A and 4 day students

Tuesday, March 29

Gr 4/5 Parent Puberty Information Sessions - 7:00pm

Thursday, April 1

No School - Teacher Work Day

Friday, April 2

No School - Good Friday

Monday, April 5

Return to Full In-Person Learning

Monday, April 12

No School

Mon. Apr 19 - Fri. Apr 23

Vacation Week

Monday, May 31

No School

Wednesday, June 16th

Last Day of School

Kindergarten Registration Open

[2021-2022 On-Line Kindergarten Registration information and link.](#)

Important COVID links and travel information:

[UPDATED Massachusetts Travel Advisory](#)

[Stop the Spread Testing Sites](#)

Gr 4/5 Puberty, Human Growth and Development Information Sessions:

Grade 4 and 5 parents/guardians received an email from Winthrop School Counselor Debi Lanigan on Friday, March 25th regarding introductory puberty and human growth and development lessons. There will be separate Zoom parent information sessions for Grade 4 and Grade 5 parents/guardians on Tuesday evening @ 7:00pm. Check your email for Zoom Links. Contact Debi Lanigan @ d.lanigan@hwschools.net if you need the link resent or if you have any questions.

Volunteers Thank You:

Thank you to FOW Co-Chair Melissa Sachsel for organizing the 15+ Winthrop parents/guardians who helped to unload and assemble 100+ new desks for our full reopening next week. Thank you to Natalie Hildreth and the FOW Grounds Committee for beginning the spring clean up at Winthrop this weekend. Many hands make light(er) work!

Winthrop Pooled Testing Program:

Pooled Testing is an important mitigation strategy that will be most effective with **full participation** of our students and staff. Approximately sixty Cohort B students and staff participated in pool testing last Thursday. All eight pools, of 5-10 participants each, came back negative on Friday morning. Today, 116 cohort A students and students currently attending 4 days, along with additional staff, were placed into sixteen pools on Monday. We should have results of those tests on Tuesday morning. After watching their classmates, many students who were not signed up asked Nurse Baker when they could get tested! It is quick and easy. If you have not yet consented for your child to participate in the pool testing program and would like to, please fill out a consent form by 4pm on Thursday for testing on the following Monday. If at any time you wish to withdraw consent, please reach out to Jess Baker j.baker@hwschools.net. Consent forms and additional information can be found on our [HWRSD COVID-19 Pooled Surveillance Testing Program website](#).

Bus Transportation:

As we plan to bring all students back on Monday, April 5th, we anticipate additional traffic congestion at arrival and dismissal. Bus capacity has been increased to allow 2 students per seat. Please note that answering "Bus" on the Return to School Commitment form sent in early March does not register your child for the bus. If you are interested in having your child ride the bus, please fill out the [HW Transportation Registration](#) form.

Other Arrival/Dismissal Options:

- Come later in the drop-off/pick-up period - usually no wait
- Park on neighboring side streets and walk to Winthrop
- Form a neighborhood walking school bus
- Ride a bike to school - helmets are required by law
 - Students in Gr 4/5 may ride independently
 - Students K-3 must ride with an adult

Community House After School Care:

The Community House is now open for after school care, as well as full day care options for your child's at home learning days.

See the [Community House](#) website for details.

Daily Symptoms Checker:

Reminder to complete the [Daily Symptoms Checker](#) before sending your child to school.

Out of State Travel Advisory:

Gov. Baker has revised the Out of State Travel Orders to a [Travel Advisory](#). If you have any questions about out of state travel with your children, please contact Nurse Jess Baker.

Kindergarten Registration:

Kindergarten Registration for 2021-2022 School year is now open. Current HW Integrated Preschool Students heading to kindergarten next year do not need to re-register, but must submit updated health and immunization records. Registration instruction and Information can be found on the [district website](#).

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.