

Winchester High School Parent Faculty Association Newsletter January 10, 2022

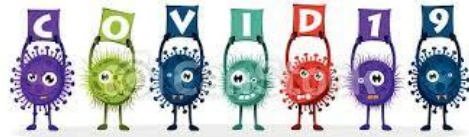
To ensure continued delivery of the WHSPFA Communications, please set-up our [email address](#) as a contact/safe sender.



PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Dear WHS Families,

We're in this together. It's with kindness and patience that our supportive WHS community will get through these uncertain times with flying colors.



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Here are some important messages and links sent to our WPS community regarding COVID-19:

Keeping WPS Schools Safe & Open: A Collective Responsibility

Our goal is to keep our students and staff safe and keep our schools open, and we are collectively responsible for making that happen. The motto of "personal responsibility" only works for our schools if taking personal responsibility means protecting those around us.

Reminder, it is masks on, over the nose and mouth, at all times unless you are actively eating. There is no flexibility on this expectation.

ALL positive COVID-19 test results should now be submitted via [this form](#) (regardless of whether the test was taken at home or through a clinic). This is required to determine your student's clearance date for returning to school.

- You do not need to contact our school nurse.
- Please remember to report your student absent as you normally would (whsabsentline@winchesterps.org)

While CDC isolation guidance for COVID-19 has been shortened to 5 days if you never had symptoms or if symptoms have resolved, it is your responsibility to monitor your students and keep them home longer to recover, if needed. Please do not send your child to school if they have any symptoms of being sick.

Please take advantage of the free and convenient weekly safety check testing available to ALL students and staff. These are PCR tests. This process is different from standard pooled testing because retesting happens immediately if needed without the collection of another sample. Parents/Caregivers must enroll their student(s). More details [here](#)

Test and Stay: If your child is not vaccinated, and you have not already done so, you can find more information about and sign your student up for test and stay [here](#).

Please note that DESE (Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education) is not allowing structured remote learning programs: if we are faced with staffing shortages and/or extraordinarily high case counts, our only option will be to cancel school in the same way we do for snow days - any days canceled will be added to the end of the school year to meet the state-required 180 student days.

Quick Links:

- IF YOUR STUDENT IS SICK AND NEEDS A TEST, PLEASE DO NOT SEND THEM TO SCHOOL. CALL YOUR DOCTOR OR GO TO winchester.us/testing
- [WPS COVID-19 Protocols](#)
- [WPS Testing Program](#)
- [WPS COVID Dashboard](#)
- Email Winhomezoom@winchesterps.org for resources for students in isolation or quarantine
- [Town of Winchester COVID Page](#) (includes guidance on what to do if test positive or if have been exposed to someone with COVID-19)

The first WHS PFA meeting of 2022 is on Monday, January 24th at 7pm at WHS. Mr. Mahoney will give school updates and answer questions.

Stay well and as always, please reach out with any ideas or questions!
(whspfa@gmail.com)

Abbie DiMatteo & Brenda Mandile, *Co-Chairs*

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.” – Margaret Mead

THE MASKED WHS STAFFER Week #18!



1. What high school did you go to? **Bishop Connolly High School in Fall River, MA.**
2. What was your favorite subject in high school? **Science, of course. AP Bio, specifically.**
3. What sport and/or extracurricular were you involved in high school? **I played baseball and track.**
4. What is one of your hidden talents? **I play guitar.**
5. Favorite Movie/Book/Band/Food?
Movie: so tough to choose! Normally I would say *Jaws*, but right now I'll pick any *Star Wars* movie since I am having so much fun watching (and re-watching) them with my son. Book: *The Eight* by Katherine Neville. It was the first book I ever read that blended history with fiction and I found myself looking things up constantly (in an actual encyclopedia, of course, as this was before the Internet!) to see if they were true, or could have been true. Band: Dave Matthews Band. Food: My mother's clam boil (full of steamers, hot dogs, Portuguese sausage...mmm).
6. Is there a quote or saying that you live your life by? ***Never waste an experience by not learning from it.* I don't know where I heard it or who may have said it, but I think it's a great motto.**

*Don't forget to scroll all the way down to

find out who this is!

WHS IMPORTANT DATES - MARK YOUR CALENDAR

[Click here for District School Calendar](#)

TUE 1/11 - School Committee Meeting at 6 PM via [Wincam](#)

MON 1/17 - No School

MON 1/24 - Quarter 3 begins, PFA Meeting - 7PM @ WHS

TUE 1/25 - Early Release

IMPORTANT COVID INFORMATION!

Any families can click [here](#) to get information on the WPS COVID Protocols.

- If your student has tested positive for COVID-19 with a home antigen self test, please fill out [this form](#). In that way, you will receive guidance on isolation and return to school protocols. This will notify our Nurse's Office, so they can begin their process. You do not need to send a separate email to the nurses; filling out the form will suffice. [This link](#) will take you through what to do next.
 - We also ask that you/your student notify your student's teachers, guidance counselor and coaches/activity advisors that they will be out, so they can keep up with school work (as they feel up to it). Students should see [this link](#) for their responsibilities while absent
- Weekly COVID Testing: This is still happening at WHS and we strongly encourage participation. Weekly safety checks are meant to identify those asymptomatic but positive individuals. The goal is to remove them from the school and community population so that they do not spread COVID to others. Students who are enrolled can pick up take-home tests on Monday by 3:00pm at the Nurse's Office and return them on Tuesday by 11:00am to the green bin right outside the Main

Office. This testing is different from the pool testing we did last year. This year's model of weekly safety checks is reflexive, meaning that the sample is immediately retested when part of a positive pool. You can get more detailed information about it [here](#). Students can still sign up to participate [here](#).

- Test and Stay: If you are not vaccinated, and have not already done so, you can find more information about and sign your student up for test and stay [here](#).
- Please remember to monitor your student(s) for symptoms and keep your student(s) home if they show any symptoms or are not feeling well

(Daily Symptom Checker).

There is NO shame in being COVID positive but we must follow the guidelines and expectations to make sure that all of us are safe to be in school and safe to be around others. We appreciate your support and understanding as we navigate through this current situation. We thank you for all your efforts to keep yourself and others safe and healthy (mask up!).

Stay safe.

Mr. Mahoney, Ms. Conis, Mr. Dupuis and Ms. Paradis



Feeling sick?
Gathering with others?
Visiting anyone at high risk?



TEST FOR COVID-19!
If positive: notify your close contacts and stay home!

*Take personal responsibility.
Protect our community.*



Keep informed: www.winchester.us/covid

Important tools to limit the spread of COVID, and especially important to protect vulnerable members of our community:

- GET A BOOSTER SHOT IF QUALIFY!
- WEAR A MASK: effective way to stop the spread of COVID.
 - It is strongly advised that everyone wear masks indoors in public settings.
- STAY HOME IF SICK: Stay away from others and if test positive, notify your close contacts.
- TEST: Before gathering with friends and family, traveling, or if you have symptoms. Go to an official testing site or take a home test. (Note: Home tests have limitations. For school attendance purposes, official testing site results are required when students/staff are showing symptoms of COVID-19).

We all need to remain vigilant. Take personal responsibility.
Protect our community.

www.winchester.us/COVID

NEWS FROM WHS GUIDANCE

The Winter issue of the WHS Guidance newsletter is available for download on the [WHS Guidance website](#).

Please see your student's counselor directly with any questions.

**Standardized Testing Information Night Wednesday
January 12th Virtual - 6:30-7:30 PM**

This **virtual workshop** offered in conjunction with Revolution Prep will help students and families to interpret scores and identify next steps for standardized test planning including differences between the ACT and SAT format and concludes with a Q&A session.

Students and parents/guardians are encouraged to attend.
The presentation will be recorded and posted on the Guidance website for those who are unable to attend.

ENKA FAIR THEME & DIGITAL POSTER CONTEST



Be a part of our Enka Fair Theme and Digital Poster Contest
This contest is open to ALL WHS Students

Design a Digital Poster and include a Theme/Hash Tag for the 2022
Enka Fair

Contest date: January 7th, 2022 - midnight of January 28th, 2022

Please send submissions to ALL three emails:

pmichienzi1@winchesterps.org

kgrace@winchesterps.org

jlevatino@winchesterps.org

The winning poster/theme will be used in advertisements, on buttons
and in Social Media

Poster Requirements:

Size 14" W x 21" H

Add dates: Friday 5/20 5pm-11pm

Saturday 5/21 10am-10pm

Add: New Enka Logo (details below)

Add location: Downtown Winchester Center

Include: Rockwell Amusements

To view other posters/new logo visit www.enkasociety.org click on
Enka Fair and scroll to bottom: Enka Fair Posters over the Years

The winner will be announced in February.

WHSPFA | 80 Skillings Road, Winchester, MA 01890

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