



Wyckoff School District

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Memo To: Wyckoff Families

From: Jeffrey Feifer, Ed.D., Interim Superintendent
Grace White, Assistant Superintendent

Return to Wyckoff Schools Committee

Even though it is mid-May, the question of if and how we will return to school in September is on everyone's mind. While we do not have definite answers yet, we have established a *Return to School* committee to create plans for our fall return. Because of the fluid nature of the pandemic and its unpredictable challenges, our plan will need to consist of multiple options for multiple scenarios. We will follow New Jersey Department of Education guidelines and will prioritize the health and safety of our students and staff. The committee will work to formulate appropriate protocols, practices, and processes. The core committee has representatives from all five schools. As its work progresses, subgroups will be called upon to contribute to specific areas of the plan. We will continue to update you on the progress of the committee's work.

2019-2020 School Calendar

Since we did not use two snow days that were built into this year's calendar, we have amended the end-of-year schedule as follows:

The last day for students will be Thursday, June 18, and there will be minimum days for students on June 16, 17, and 18. A copy of the revised calendar will be posted on our website.

2020 Retirees

We thank and congratulate the following teachers and wish them the best of health and contentment during their retirement years. Together they represent 141 years of devoted service to the students and families of Wyckoff!

Loris Chen – Science Teacher at Eisenhower, 18 years of service

Maryann Phillpott – Science Teacher at Eisenhower, 30 years of service

Marta McKenna - Resource Room Teacher at Eisenhower, 30 years of service

Pamela Spada – Grade 5 Teacher at Washington, 19 years of service

Karen Pulgrano – Reading Teacher/Specialist at Lincoln, 21+ years of service

Nancy Perry – Grade 5 Teacher at Lincoln; Math Specialist at Coolidge, Grade 2 Teacher at Sicomac, 23 years of service

Special Education Week

May 10-16 was Special Education Week in New Jersey. It was commemorated by a Proclamation of the New Jersey State Legislature as a chance for students, families, school administrators and decision-makers to celebrate special education services, special education programs, and most importantly, the special education teachers who make it possible for children with disabilities to learn effectively and to reach their full potential in their families and communities. Thank you to all those in Wyckoff for creating such positive outcomes for students with disabilities and their families.

Kindergarten Orientation

Parents/guardians of incoming Kindergarten students are invited to a virtual Kindergarten Orientation on Thursday, May 28. Please look for an email that will provide a link to this event.

Standards-Based Report Cards

The Wyckoff School District has focused its collective efforts during these unprecedented times upon one essential goal - to provide students with meaningful online instruction each day. We are encouraged by the overwhelmingly positive parent survey feedback about our work. Nevertheless, distance learning presents significant challenges for assessment. Even while our instruction is strong, there are limits to what can be assessed, as well as how. We ask you to understand that teachers will consider evidence of student performance more broadly than before. We will also follow the New Jersey Department of Education guidelines by not assigning “failing” grades to students who have struggled to find success with distance learning.

End of Year Return and Pick-Up of Materials

Building principals will communicate plans for returning school library books as well as Chromebooks of grade 8 students and of those students who will not be returning to the District in the fall. Principals will also send provisions for picking up personal items that students may have left in school in March.

Summer Academies

In the event schools remain closed until September, plans are underway to hold a virtual Summer Academies. Our new brochure, which will contain many of the same offerings along with new Math and Language Arts offerings, will be posted soon. More details to follow. [Click here for more information about Summer Academies.](#)

Refunds

Information concerning refunds for canceled activities will be included in a future memo to families.

GoGuardian Web Filtering

GoGuardian is a web filtering and history tracking software that is tied to student accounts in the District and on school devices. Previously, it was linked only to the Chromebooks of Eisenhower students because their devices were used at home. Now, GoGuardian has been provided for students of all grade levels offering an extra measure of prevention and security since their devices are also used at home.

End of Year Acknowledgements

After reviewing State guidelines and discussion with staff and parent groups, we will be celebrating and acknowledging the transitions from Grade 5 to Middle School and from Grade 8 to High School, as follows:

Grade 5

- Yearbook/Memory Book
- Google Form or Doc for teachers and students to “sign” the yearbook digitally
- Virtual Clap-Out streamed to students
- Goodbye video made by staff
- Beach towel that is traditionally presented during the Spring Lake trip
- T-shirt for each student
- Additional items as provided by each school PTO

Grade 8

- Promotion Package including a blue robe with 2020 white stole, custom 2020 T-Shirt, Yearbook (if purchased), and Eisenhower Middle School diploma
- A special snack will be delivered to all 8th graders to coincide with the airing of the 8th-grade baby picture video
- “Promotion Day” streaming of previously planned student messages and messages from Wyckoff administrators wishing our Class of 2020 the best of luck on their journey through high school
- Promotion lawn signs
- 8th grade families who indicated they would like a photo taken to capture this milestone will have their pictures taken with their lawn sign at their homes. Scheduled times will be communicated by our PTO.

Thank you for your continued understanding, patience, and support as we work in an ever-evolving educational and social environment. We will continue to share information as it emerges.