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## Awbury Weekly Wissahickon 10/16/2020

1 message

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**Tonya Bailey** <t.bailey@wissahickoncharter.org>  
Reply-To: Tonya Bailey <t.bailey@wissahickoncharter.org>  
To: awbury@wissahickoncharter.org

Fri, Oct 16, 2020 at 12:05 PM

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Dear Families,

I hope you are all doing well. This past week, the admin team and I have been revisiting our plans to start a hybrid model for K & 1st grade on December 3rd. We have unanimously decided that this is not the right date to launch such a program. A week and a half ago, our city had 43 cases per 100,000 people as the 7 day average. On Thursday of this week that number had risen to 90. When/if that number hits 100, all schools are supposed to be fully remote based on the metrics for opening that have been defined in Pennsylvania.

We've also been reflecting more on the idea that this start date was right after Thanksgiving when we imagine that many people will be gathering to celebrate, exposing themselves and our community to increased risk. We are now looking to mid January to potentially start K & 1 with some in person

days, with other grades following. We would set this date at least 14 days post-winter break so that holiday exposures don't interfere with our launch. The last thing we want is inconsistency- starting, then closing, back and forth. A January start is still dependent on a low rate of community spread of the virus.

As many of you likely saw, the officials of the Philadelphia School District announced this week that they hope to bring back K-2 on November 30th for two days a week of in person learning. They also emphasized that their ability to actually do this is dependent on low rates of infection in the area and their ability to ensure safety in their facilities. As a charter school, we are able to make our own decisions about this, independent of the Philadelphia School District, and because of the reasons outlined above, we are not adopting their timeline.

Please know that we are very aware that remote learning brings real challenges for many students, especially our youngest. As soon as we feel we can safely return, we will.

Take care,

Kristi

### **Interims are Coming!!**

Can you believe it? We are already 1/2 way through the first trimester! As a result, on Monday October 19th, we will be mailing out your students interim reports. Here is what you can expect:

- K-2nd: WILL NOT receive an interim report. Instead, your student will get the usual weekly reports.
- 3rd-8th: Trimester 1 interims will come from PowerSchool grades & citizenship #s (1-4 for effort/behavior; 1= excellent , 4=poor).

### **Update to 4th-8th Friday Schedule**

Thank you for filling out our survey last week! The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, which warms our hearts. We also really want to be intentional about moving forward in the areas needed for sustainability and growth that we received as feedback. We are making a slight change to our weekly schedule for 4th-8th grades. We heard from families that students need

more off-screen and that they need more time to complete work. Beginning next week, students will only be meeting on Zoom with their core teacher for half the day on Fridays. This will provide our students with a little less time on screen, give them time to get caught up on their work and also give teachers a little more planning time. **Please check your Google Classroom for a copy of the updated schedule.**

### **Change to Specials Schedule**

Starting next week (the week of October 19th), there are two major changes to all specials!!!

1. All classes are starting new specials
2. **THERE WILL NO LONGER** be any Zoom sessions for specials Wednesday-Friday. All specials' work will be based off the projects of the week given to students on Monday or Tuesday and should be completed in SeeSaw or Google Classroom. **THIS APPLIES TO ALL WEDNESDAY - FRIDAY SPECIALS EXCEPT GUIDANCE!** Middle school Guidance sessions scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday will continue. Please join the Special in the Park, if you're able.

New schedules were posted to your students Google Classroom/SeeSaw accounts to reflect these changes.

### **Teletherapy Update**

From Rebecca Chase, Director of Learning Support:

As fall classes begin, we will continue to provide related services, including occupational or physical therapy, speech and language therapy, hearing, vision and counseling to students who have these services as part of their Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) or Service Agreement Plan (504). These services will be delivered via teletherapy. Teletherapy is a way that we can reach your child and help him/her continue to make progress toward his/her IEP goals.

The following is some important information:

1. Your assigned therapist will have their own, FERPA compliant Zoom.
2. Your assigned therapist will schedule your child for therapy services and will reach out to you via a phone call and/or email to confirm the day and time.
3. Your assigned therapist will email you a link, inviting you to their Zoom meeting.

4. Your child (along with you, when possible) will participate in their therapy session.
5. Sessions may be in a small group, meaning other children may be participating in the same sessions at the same time with your child, just as he/she does at school.
6. You and your child should maintain an area free from distraction while groups are in session to the greatest extent possible.
7. Recording of any part of the session is strictly prohibited for all parties involved. It is also
8. Therapists will wait for late students approximately ten minutes before marking the student absent. Directors will be monitoring absentee reports and will call to discuss frequently missed sessions.

### **Morning Announcements Video Chant Requests!!**

You've now gotten a chance to see the rap skills of your administrators! We now want to hear from individuals, groups, cohorts, families etc. dropping the [Wissahickon Chant](#) over its [beat](#)!! After you have created your video, please share it with Ms. Polite or Ms. Kate so that it can be played on the morning announcements!!

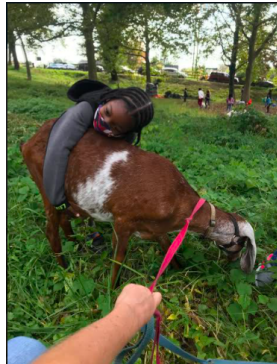
### **Voting Corner**

- This Monday, October 19, is the voter registration deadline in PA. If you haven't yet, you can register [online](#) (if you have a valid PA driver's license or PennDOT ID) or in person at one of the [satellite election offices](#), where you can register to vote, request a mail-in ballot (through , and submit it in one stop. If you have questions about voting, consider signing up to watch the Inquirer's [Don't Panic, Vote!](#) discussion and Q&A with Lt. Gov. John Fetterman, Phila. City Commissioner Al Schmidt, and Inquirer data and democracy reporter Jonathan Lai on Monday 10/19 at 12:15pm.
- If you previously requested a mail-in ballot but now want to vote in-person, make sure that you bring your mail-in ballot and both envelopes to surrender at the polling place (see all locations [here](#) and find yours using your address [here](#)). Otherwise, you will have to submit a provisional ballot, which might take even longer to process than a mail-in ballot. You will also need to fill out an affidavit surrendering your ballot, so it might take longer than a typical trip to the polls. Keep in mind that many polling places will be staffed by first-time workers, so consider voting during off-peak hours if you are surrendering a mail-in ballot.

- How you vote has to be a personal decision based on your own circumstances. Voting in person [is generally safe](#) when the proper precautions are in place, but if you are in a high-risk population, have regular contacts in your work or personal life that might make you more likely to be exposed to COVID-19 and have to self-quarantine on Election Day, or are otherwise uncomfortable voting in person, mailing or [dropping off](#) a ballot are great options. Decide what works best for you, make a plan, and help your friends and family do the same.

## **Specials in the Park Registration is live for October 21, 22 & 23!**

Registration for Specials in the Park is now live on Eventbrite as of 12pm today! [Click here to register](#). Last week Specials in the Park partnered with The Goat Walking Project for loads of cuteness!!



If your student has not yet attended Specials in the Park, please be sure to fill out a [permission slip](#) for them. (If your student has attended before, we have their slip on file and don't need another one!) For more information (and a map of where to meet us), [check out our FAQ!](#) Or reach out to us on ClassTag.

### **Picture Day Remote Style!!**

A little remote learning won't stop the show...On **Friday, October 23rd**, during Morning Meeting, come in your best!!! We will be having Zoom class pictures taken that day by homeroom teachers!! Copies of these zoom class pictures will be posted on Google Classroom/SeeSaw, so that families can print them off as keepsakes!! We can't wait to see all of the smiling faces!!

## **Lower School News**

### **Weekly Family Updates**

Students in K-5 will only get weekly updates moving forward. If we have a concern about a student or we see a dramatic change in their engagement or performance. You should check their SeeSaw (K-3) and Google Classroom (4-5) work completion regularly. If you have any questions, please message your child's teacher.

## Middle School News

### [A Note from Ms. Polite](#)

Hey MS Families! Moving forward, we will no longer be sending home weekly progress reports via ClassTag to all families. BUT...do not fret! You have access to the exact same information via your students PowerSchool account. All you will need to do is follow the steps outlined below to access this information on your own.

1. Go to the schools website....<http://wissahickoncharter.org/>
2. Click on "Family Resources" (at the top of the page)
3. Scroll down to "Middle School" & click on "PowerSchool Login"  
\*There is login information for your student and for you in the student password letter that you received at your orientation. If you need this information again, please reach out to your students' homeroom teacher.
4. Once you enter your credentials, you can click on your students classes to see their grades as well as individual assignments and teacher comments.

Please note that we will still be sending reports home for students who we have concerns about in more than two areas ((attendance, behavior, engagement, grades etc.)



Congrats to the 2021 Student Council Members: Egypt Scott, Devon Hester, Saed Sullivan, Nevaeh Dunn, Jaden Williams, Krisslynn Nellons, Sair Berry & Ray'id Turner. Elections are slated to begin next week. Stay tuned!!

## **A Message From Breakthrough Philadelphia!!-For 6th Grade Families only!!**

My name is Debra Stevens and I am the Student Recruitment Coordinator at Breakthrough of Greater Philadelphia! Breakthrough is an Academic Enrichment Program that is located on the campuses of Germantown Friends School and Drexel University. Our program is year-round, with separate schedules for the school year and the summer. During the school year, our program is held every other Saturday from 10 am -2 pm. During the summer, we hold an intensive six-week program with four days of academics and electives and one day of special events and field trips. We are recruiting current 6th-grade students who have A's and B's in core subjects, a Basic or better on the PSSA exam, and highly motivated. Breakthrough students participated in a six-week virtual summer program this past summer, but our school year program is in person at Germantown Friends School this fall. I would love to schedule a call or virtual meeting to tell you more about nominating a Breakthrough Scholar. Please visit the website to learn more:  
[www.breakthroughphilly.org](http://www.breakthroughphilly.org)

### **Quick summary on Breakthrough:**

- Students and families apply during the sixth-grade year for entrance in the summer before seventh grade.
- Once selected, students participate in six-week summer programs for the next three years taking classes in math, science, writing, and literature. Additionally, students take teaching fellow designed elective classes such as dance, foreign language, photography, debate, etc.
- During the school year, all students between 7th and 8th grade, participate in Saturday classes twice per month with a focus on enrichment academics. The classes include Financial Awareness, Social Justice, Writing and Public Speaking, and STEM Enrichment.
- Additionally, Breakthrough provides education and case management services to support students and families in applying to high schools, (Public, Charter, Parochial, and Independent Schools).
- 94% of Breakthrough 8th graders are admitted to college prep high schools, 100% of Breakthrough students graduate high school.

Debra Stevens, 267.423.3847  
Student Recruitment Director

**The Virtual Philly High School fair has launched!!** <https://www.phillyhighschoolfair.com>

Please go visit and check out some virtual tours of high schools around the city!! Also, under “Upcoming Events” you can search for Virtual/In-Person open houses as well as other activities to speak directly with school representatives. Mr. Will and I will also be reviewing it with students next week in Guidance class.



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You are receiving this email because you have a child at the WCS Awbury Campus and/or you are a Awbury staff member.

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