



Walsh, Jane <j.walsh@wissahickoncharter.org>

Weekly Wissahickon 1-29-2021

1 message

WCS-Fernhill <fh.frontoffice@wissahickoncharter.org>
Reply-To: WCS-Fernhill <fh.frontoffice@wissahickoncharter.org>
To: Jane Walsh <j.walsh@wissahickoncharter.org>

Fri, Jan 29, 2021 at 8:55 AM

[View this email in your browser](#)



Message from CEO

Dear Families,

As you know, like most other schools in Philadelphia, we are thinking deeply about the possibility of offering a hybrid model to some students before year's end. With Dr. Hite's announcement this week that K-2 will be launching a hybrid model in district schools, I'm sure you are wondering about Wissahickon. Note that the PFT (union) has issued a statement that they believe all staff should be vaccinated before offering any in-person learning, so we'll have to wait and see what actually happens with district schools.

As our own Local Education Agency (LEA), we do not have to follow the district's plan. I want us to make a thoughtful plan that takes all kinds of safety into account. The admin team is spending an abundance of time thinking and talking about this as a group and also with local experts, including other heads of schools, epidemiologists, and CHOP.

Some of the questions we are looking at include:

- our actual ability to staff a model that includes some students in the building while some learn remotely
- the logistics of bussing and transportation
- when vaccines will be widely available to staff, making it safer to be in person
- if we could offer onsite rapid COVID-19 testing
- the benefits of a consistent, robust remote program for all students
- the benefits of offering something in person to our students who are struggling the most
- what does equity look like for our students right now in this complex setting

Some things we do know:

- Any subgroups of students that could be offered in-person learning will still have the option to stay remote. We've heard from several families that were concerned that their children would have to come in and we want to assure you this is not the case. You would make the decision that feels best for your student(s) and family.
- We will not start back with everyone in a hybrid model all at once- in any hybrid program students would be staggered as they return so that we can start by learning on a small scale.

- Staff with existing medical conditions that make them high risk as defined by the Philadelphia Department of Public Health would have the option to continue to work remotely.
- If we do offer any kind of hybrid model, the very earliest we would offer it would be the start of Trimester 3 which is March 8th.
- If we offer a hybrid model, it will include a multi-layered approach to virus mitigation as recommended by the Health Department and CDC. Mitigations would include pre-arrival health screening, masking, distancing, small cohorts with no mixing, etc. These would be strictly adhered to.

I'm sorry it is taking some time for us to land on an answer about what the rest of the year will look like. We want to make an informed and good decision.

I wanted to give a wider view of the work that's happening right now and assure you that we will keep communicating, even when there isn't that much more to share. Thank you for your patience and trust.

Warmly,

Kristi

Friday & Monday Special Event Links

FRIDAY, January 29th

11:30-12 (TALENT SHOW LINK)

1-2:30: (MOVIE LINK) for Spider-man: Into the Spider-verse

Monday, February 1st, 8:30-9

BLACK HISTORY MONTH KICK-OFF ASSEMBLY LINK

Attendance will be taken in students' regular classes at 9am.

ALL are invited & encouraged to join!

Password = fox



Essential:

[Black History Month Assembly](#)

Our upcoming Black History Month Assembly will take place **Monday, February 1st** from **8:30am - 9:00am**. We have some exciting and very interactive activities that we will introduce to celebrate Black History Month along with some good music, also with a special premier of our **WCS MLK Day of Service**. Looking forward to seeing you all soon!!!

[Vaccine Zoom Info Session on Tuesday, February 2nd](#)

Please come out to hear from Dr. Kisha Martin about the COVID vaccine, to understand the Science of it, and to ask any questions. Dr. Martin is the Head of the Emergency Room at Holy Redeemer Hospital with over 20 years of experience. It is important that every family can make an informed choice!

Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/3359879471>

Meeting ID: 335 987 9471

[Health Screenings for K, 1st and 6th Graders](#)

Please remember to sign up [here](#) for your child's health screening any Friday (from January 11th - March 19th). As a reminder, even if you have submitted your child's physical, they still must be screened by the school nurse. For more information, please refer to the Classtag message forwarded on Tuesday, January 5, 2021.

[On Radar:](#)

[Summer Camp Opportunity](#)

The Morris Arboretum at the University of Pennsylvania, located in nearby Chestnut Hill, works with Wissahickon each summer to offer some of our students the opportunity to attend their camp. The Morris Arboretum will select one student per week (for a total of six weeks) to receive a scholarship to their Summer Adventure Camp. If you are interested in applying, please use the link [here](#) to access the application and submit it to jgrubin@upenn.edu

[Black is Beautiful Initiative](#)

This week's Black is Beautiful fact is from our **K-1st** grades.

Fact: Dr. Mae Jemison became the first African-American woman to go to space, boarding the space shuttle Endeavour.

Important Date: 9/12/1992

[Reminders:](#)

[Front Office \(Closed\)](#)

The Front Office and our buildings will be closed to the public (except for meals) **until further notice**. Please email the Front Office staff if you need anything.

FH- t.sumner@wissahickoncharter.org

[Meals Distribution Mondays](#)

Meals will continue to be distributed on **Mondays only from 8am-6pm**. Families will receive a meal kit for the week that includes hot entrees that can be reheated. Please continue to follow the Meal Pick up procedures as outlined outside the school.

[Absences Due to Tech Issues](#)

Families, if you are experiencing tech issues (i.e. trouble logging in, lost internet connection, etc.) please be sure to communicate that tech issue **in the moment** to helpis@wissahickoncharter.org to receive assistance and/or to have your child's attendance excused if needed. Copies of the emails sent to helpis@wissahickoncharter.org will serve as proof of your child's attempted attendance on that day.

[Follow Wissahickon Charter on Social Media](#)

Follow WCS on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) for important school updates and to see student learning and fun in action! And don't be shy- we love it when you like, comment, and share our posts!

Important Dates

Tuesday, 2/2 6-6:45pm Vaccine Information Session for Families & Staff

Wednesday 2/3 6:30-8:30 WCS Board Meeting

Friday, 2/5 School Closed for Professional Development



Copyright © 2021 Wissahickon Charter School, All rights reserved.

You are receiving this email because you opted to receive newsletters and notifications from Wissahickon Charter School - Fernhill Campus.

Our mailing address is:

Wissahickon Charter School

[4700G Wissahickon Ave](#)

Wissahickon Charter School

Philadelphia, PA 19144-4235

[Add us to your address book](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

