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Awbury Weekly Wissahickon 6/18

1 message

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Dear Families,

I want to thank all of you again for your partnership this spring and moving forward. I am especially grateful to families who joined us earlier this week for our Zoom meetings to discuss fall planning. For those of you who couldn't attend, I am attaching our slide show today for your review. I'm also including some of the questions that families raised along with our responses below.

Please be sure you stay up to date with news and updates by reading your Weekly Wissahickon every Friday this summer and by staying in touch.

Stay safe this summer!

Warmly,

Questions from Family Zoom Meeting:

1. Will any part of school be remote in the fall?

We are working hard on making plans for fall. With the guidance we have right now about social distancing at school, it would be impossible to have all students in the building every day so it is likely that there will need to be some aspect of remote learning. We also know that some families have expressed that their children or family members have health conditions that lead them to want and need a remote option. We will follow all guidance from the state around full closures if they are needed again at any point in the year and in that situation, we would offer a remote program. We are working to make our remote program more robust than the program we offered this past spring. Learning may also take on a hybrid model where students are remote on some days and in person at school some days but details are still being planned.

2. How will bussing work?

This question is on all of our minds as well as the agendas of public officials. The Pennsylvania Department of Education has said it will provide updates on bussing. Our goal would be to ensure that busses have fewer students on them to allow for distancing and ensure students have fair and equitable access to in-person instruction.

3. Will the school still offer an after school program?

The best research we've read says that students should be in small groups and stay in those groups for the whole day. In this way, students will be exposed to fewer people and thus less risk of exposure to COVID-19. We know some parents will need an after school option and will work to offer one that aligns to guidance around safety. Just as the school day will likely look very different, the after school program will too.

4. Will students and staff wear masks? What if a child has asthma?

As long as the CDC is recommending masks, WCS will wear them and provide them. We are looking into providing cloth masks and getting a washer and dryer so that laundry can be done onsite. As the CDC recommends, anyone who has trouble breathing should not wear a mask and will not be required to

wear one at school.

5. Will students with IEPs and 504 plans still get services? What about pull-out programs?

Wissahickon will continue to meet the needs of students in accordance with their IEPs and 504 plans. We will work individually with families to address student needs. We are thinking about pull-out programs given that this could expose students to more peers outside of their small class group. All pull out programs would adhere to all health and safety guidance.

6. Will the school let us know if someone contracts COVID-19? If so, will the school close for 14 days?

We will work with local health officials and follow CDC guidance around what is recommended with regards to notifications and closures. Because students will likely be in small groups that do not interact with other students, we are hopeful that whole school closures due to illness will be rare.

7. If there is a vaccine developed, will students have to get it before they return to school?

Wissahickon would recommend that students receive vaccines when they become available. Decisions to vaccinate for COVID-19 will ultimately be the decision of families.

8. Will there be more technology resources next year?

If possible, we hope to use a portion of our federal funding to purchase Chromebooks for all students in fourth through eighth grades.

9. When will I know who my child's teacher is and have a supply list?

Because it is uncertain how classes will look next year, we are sending home information about the teachers in each grade but not a set classlist and teacher assignment at this point. You will be getting a supply list in the summer mailing that is going out soon. This year we will work for students to not have any shared supplies as a way to minimize the spread of germs.

10. What will lunch and recess be like?

Lunch will happen in the same classroom that students are already in. Lunch will be brought from the cafeteria to the classroom. Recess will still be a part of the day but it is highly unlikely that large groups of students will play and interact in the same space at the same time. Recess will be outdoors as much as possible.

11. Will there be more synchronous learning if school is remote for some or all students?

We are thinking about a variety of ways to make learning more robust for students who are learning remotely, including more synchronous learning. One option may be that while lessons are being taught to students in classrooms at school, they are also live streamed to students at home. Another could be that we have specific instructors assigned to plan and lead remote learning and others designated to teach in the building.

12. Will there be grading?

We are waiting on guidance from the Pennsylvania Department of Education to learn what is recommended.

Please click [here](#) for the Wissahickon Charter School Family Meeting slide presentation.

Personal Information

Parents if any of your information has changed...phone number, mailing address, email, etc., please email Ms. Tonya @t.bailey@wissahickoncharter.org. The Weekly Wissahickon, phone calls and mailings will be going out throughout the summer. We want to make sure everyone is in the know so please keep us updated on any changes.

Summer Mailing

Next week, the summer mailing will come out with summer work for Reading and Math, the school calendar, supply lists and introductions to classroom teachers. This year we are not placing students into classes until closer to the start of the year as we wait to determine logistics in response to COVID. There will NOT be a new report card since there were no grades in Trimester 3 during Remote Learning (except 7th grade).

Summer Apps Availability

Students will continue to have access this summer to the apps listed below by grade band. You will also receive a packet detailing summer enrichment work in your end-of-year mailing.

K-2: RazKids, Reading Horizons, Dreambox

3-8: FirstBook, Dreambox

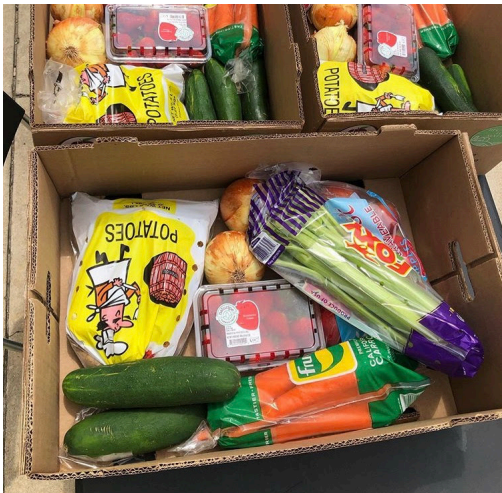
6-8: Khan Academy

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!

Also, I wanted to pass along that Share will be handing out free food and produce boxes at Pleasant Playground (located at Chew and Pleasant).

I know the flyer is dated Friday June 12th, but the food giveaways will actually be happening every Friday in June at Pleasant Playground. The boxes have a lot of produce and folks can just come and get a box. No questions asked, they just ask that people wear masks.



Let's continue to be safe, practice social distancing, keep your hands away from your face and please, please, please Wash Your Hands!



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