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Awbury Summer Weekly Wissahickon 8/7/2020

1 message

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To: awbury@wissahickoncharter.org

Fri, Aug 7, 2020 at 1:30 PM

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Message from Dean Kristi

Dear Families,

At this point in the summer, your children are hopefully well on their way through their summer work. If this is not the case, please don't delay in getting started now. This time right before school starts is important for getting students back into learning habits.

I have a couple of important announcements to share this week:

- We are delaying the start of school until Tuesday, September 8th to allow for safe, socially-distanced, outdoor, in person conferences on September

1st-3rd. After we share who your child's homeroom teacher is, we will send out the link to sign up for a conference slot.

- Work on our remote schedule continues and will be shared with you next week. We are sharing it with staff first so we can answer their questions before it goes out more broadly. In the meantime, the school day will be much more like a regular in-person school day. It will begin at 8:30 with Zoom meetings with homeroom teachers. The day will include a minimum of three hours of live learning on Zoom (synchronous) as well as work time off of Zoom as well (asynchronous).
- Right now, we are **tentatively** planning to invite kindergarten and first grade students into the building to start a hybrid (partly in person at school and partly remote) model of education on Thursday, December 3rd. These students would likely learn from home on Monday and attend in person from Tuesday-Friday. Our plan would then be to add additional grades gradually as we show that we are safely adhering to a successful health and safety plan in school. Actually starting the hybrid model on that date will be based on what is happening with the virus locally, on the guidance we receive from PDE and the CDC, and on our ability to properly staff the model.

Thank you for your patience and trust as we continue to make and share plans for the fall.

Take care,

Kristi

Staffing Shifts and Hiring Updates

We are excited to share some internal staffing shifts and new hire news with you all! Niema Golphin, who served as the Dean of Culture at the Fernhill Campus for the past 6 years, has moved into a newly created position on the Shared Services team. She now serves as the Director of School Culture. In this role, Niema is supervising the Deans of Culture at each site, guiding the training and coaching of each site's Culture team, and helping lead culture planning for the return to school. She is also eager to bring meditation to both staff and students. We are incredibly fortunate to have Tammy Lemmon continuing as the Dean of Culture at Awbury, and William Shelton returning to the Assistant Dean of Culture position that he held for two years previously.

We are also pleased to share that we have two former WCS employees returning to the Awbury team next year! Jennifer Coppertino, who was a founding teacher at the Awbury campus and taught at WCS for 5 years, is returning as a 3rd grade teacher. Sarah Wilson,

who taught Middle School English at the Fernhill campus for 4 years and 5th Grade English at Awbury for 3 years, is also returning and will be the Middle School English Teacher.

Also new to the Middle School team are Andy Beck, who will be teaching 6th grade English and Social Studies, and Michele Engelbert, who will be teaching 6th grade Math & Science. Andy is a recent graduate of Penn GSE, where he was coached by Sarah Wilson, and Michele joins the team after 2 years of teaching middle school math in Washington, DC.

Lastly, Alyza Ngbokoli will join the team as a lead 2nd grade teacher. For this school year, Sherraine Senior will be shifting her focus and will be working to provide additional remote learning support and reading support to our youngest students from both campuses, which we know they will need and benefit from in this virtual model.

High School Application Updates

As middle school families continue to prepare for high school applications, we encourage you to continue to visit our High School Matters page on the Wissahickon Website (under Family Resources [here](#)). Application deadlines will be posted as well as any updated information. We are waiting on updates in regards to changes in application criteria for certain schools (e.g., PSSA scores) and will continue to notify you immediately as we receive that information. Please continue to reach out to Ms. Abby, a.beljean@wissahickoncharter.org (Awbury) for any questions or concerns.

Specials during virtual learning

Specialists are exploring the idea of offering optional in-person meet-ups for specials (PE, Art, Library and Discovery) to better serve students in these hands-on classes. These sessions would occur outdoors at city parks on various days. Students would rotate through stations to participate in each special. We need family feedback to plan appropriately! Please fill out our survey here, <https://forms.gle/tkwdSy86fq1Tkvd8> by 12PM on Wednesday the 12th. Thank you!

Summer Meals for Students

Urban League of Philadelphia has partnered with Aramark to provide summer meals for students this summer – See [here](#) for a list of sites.

Follow Wissahickon Charter Schools 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!

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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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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