



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

Awbury Summer Weekly Wissahickon 8/28/2020

1 message

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

Fri, Aug 28, 2020 at 2:41 PM

[View this email in your browser](#)



**NEXT WEEK'S ORIENTATION
CONFERENCES WILL NOW BE ON
ZOOM, NOT IN PERSON. MORE
INFORMATION BELOW.**

Dear Families,

It has been an incredible week for our staff as we prepare for the start of the school year. Professional development in social-emotional wellness, dismantling white supremacy culture, curriculum, new technology platforms, and more will all help make our team ready for the important work ahead.

This morning we suspended all of our professional development to discuss, reflect, and share our feelings and thoughts about the shooting of Jacob Blake. This was powerful time together as a staff. Please know that we have an incredible commitment to addressing racial injustice and holding up Black lives, stories, and joy throughout our schools.

Here are some important updates for this week:

- **Next week's conferences will NOT be in person at the schools. THIS IS A CHANGE.** Your time is still the same. Please be on time. We had intended to use the conferences to meet in person and to distribute many materials (chromebooks, math tools, etc.). Conferences will now be on Zoom and you will get a link from your child's teacher emailed to you next week.
- **Next week, there will be more news about picking up materials. We made the change because of delays in shipping for many of the items we need to distribute.**
- The city is providing some childcare support for families as school starts. You can learn more about this at the [City of Philadelphia website](#). This is being provided by students in K-6th grades who need childcare five days a week. Space is limited and registration in advance is required.

Peace,

Kristi

ZOOM Parent Meeting Monday, August 31st, @ 6:00 p.m.

Parent Meeting- Monday Night at 6

Awbury principals, Ms Kate and Ms Polite, are hosting an information session on Remote Learning for all parents on Monday, August 31st from 6-7. Please join us to get an overview of our program before your teacher conferences start on Tuesday.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84225675871?pwd=dDgydHI0eUI0Q2dTRnIBRUNKVDhVQT09>

Meeting ID: 842 2567 5871

Passcode: tree

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,84225675871#,,,,,0#,,559240# US (New York)

+13017158592,,84225675871#,,,,,0#,,559240# US (Germantown)

Meal Distribution Overview

WCS is pleased to announce that we will be providing Breakfast and Lunch for Curbside Pickup at our schools while we are in our fully remote learning phase. These meals will be available to all WCS students.

1. Director of School Operations and Food Service Vendor (Lintons) has designated (2) days for meal pickup.
 - Mondays and Thursdays
 - Due to the holiday, the first meal distribution date is Thursday, September 10th
2. The timeframe will be 11AM-2PM.
3. Using safe distancing practices – Meals will be available for pick-up outside of the school building, using a curbside pick up process.
 - Monday Pickups: Families will receive breakfast and lunch for Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
 - Thursday Pickups: Families will receive breakfast and lunch for Friday and Monday

Directions for picking up meals:

1. Upon arrival at the school, the family will call the Food Service Coordinator (FSC), and provide the first and last name of all students who will receive meals on that day.
 - Awbury families will call 215-983-0604
 - Fernhill families will call 267-273-3304
2. A staff member will then go to the cafeteria, retrieve the set amount of pre-bagged breakfasts & lunches while the parent pulls up to the Gym doors at Awbury or the MS Commons doors at Fernhill. The bags will be loaded into the car by the staff member. The parent will exit through the rear parking lot of the school. There will be signs present to help guide the parent through.
3. Students/Guardians/Parents may not exit their vehicles. This will deter the natural inclination for students who may wish to interact with any staff persons.

Special Note: Families will be allowed to drop off used library books. The library books should be placed in a bag, and given to the staff member once the food has been placed in the car.



Our Foodservice Program

- With your school's leaders has implemented the best plan for serving your students
- Will continue to provide nutritious meals for breakfast and lunch
- Has established grab-and-go meals at easily accessible pickup stations

Your School's Meal Pickup Information

Location/s: **815 Washington Ln, Philadelphia, P 19138**

Day/s: **Monday & Thursday**

Time/s: **11:00am-2:00pm**

Our Commitment to You

Lintons' top priority is the safety and the well-being of our associates and those we serve. We recognize the concerns about COVID-19 and want to keep you updated on what we are doing to provide safe foodservice environments for students, families, and staff at your school.

Training

Associates have received additional training on enhanced operation standards and the use of personal protective equipment, and additional signage reinforces new procedures.

Face Covering & Glove Use

Associates wear face coverings at all times and use disposable gloves during operating procedures, which are replaced frequently throughout the day.

Staff Wellness

We educate all of our associates on behaviors that reduce transmission and perform daily COVID checks. Associates not feeling well are instructed to stay home and obtain medical clearance before returning to work.

Hand Washing

Frequent hand washing during food preparation and serving is our standard safety measure. Additional hand washing protocols have been implemented, and hand sanitizer stations have been strategically placed.

Cleaning & Disinfecting

In addition to our extensive daily cleaning procedures, we have added anti-bacterial wipes to easily disinfect all high-touch areas for added protection.

Social Distancing

Lintons associates abide by all social distance requirements whenever possible and implement delivery staging areas to prevent clustering.

Remote Learning Schedules by Grade

Please click on the link below for each of your students to see their schedule for remote learning.

[Kindergarten and 1st Grade Remote Learning Schedule](#)

[2nd Grade Remote Learning Schedule](#)

[3rd Grade Remote Learning Schedule](#)

[4th Grade Remote Learning Schedule](#)

[5th Grade Remote Learning Schedule](#)

[6th Grade Remote Learning Schedule](#)

[7th Grade Remote Learning Schedule](#)

[8th Grade Remote Learning Schedule](#)

Community Resources

Mighty Writers Workshops on Zoom

All Wissahickon youth are welcome, and all programs are completely free to families! <https://mightywriters.org/workshops/?location=MW+at+Home&cage=none>

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!



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

Awbury Summer Weekly Wissahickon 8/21/2020

1 message

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

Fri, Aug 21, 2020 at 1:17 PM

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Message from Dean Kristi

Dear Families,

I hope this finds you all well as we near the end of summer. Our new staff started professional development this week and it's been exciting to welcome them into our school community.

This week you received an important email from us that includes your child's class list as well as the link to sign up for our orientation meetings. Please make sure you sign up!

Other things to know this week:

- We are hard at work making the orientations all outdoors. To do that we've had to scale back a bit on how much we're trying to accomplish at them. You will now only need to be there for a total of 40 minutes instead of 80 minutes as we originally planned. Your start time will be unchanged from the time you signed up for.
- Everyone at the orientation will be required to wear a mask. Bandanas will not be sufficient as masks. We will provide a mask for anyone who needs one.
- Unfortunately, our order for iPads and Chromebooks is running behind schedule and the devices will likely not arrive in time for us to configure them and distribute them at the orientation. **Please bring the device you plan to use with your child to start the year to the orientation. Also, please see the note below from Mr. Ishmell, our Director of Technology.**

Take care,
Kristi

Message from Ishmell Bradley, Director of Technology

We are expecting delays in our shipment of laptops and iPads, this is due to increased demand, shipping complications as well as manufacturing production issues. As a result, we need everyone to use the devices you currently have on hand to start off the year. If you are having any issues with a WCS device you were loaned in the spring, please email helpis@wissahickoncharter.org for support. We will make every effort to resolve any issues before the start of the year. As soon as our new devices arrive we will contact you with pick-up information.

Thanks,
Ishmell Bradley

K-8 Outdoor Conferences and Orientation to Remote Learning

- They will take place from Tuesday, September 1st - Friday, September 4th. (Remember: The first day of remote school is Tuesday, September 8th.)
- Like with report card conferences, you must sign up for one time slot for you & your child to meet with their homeroom teacher. Each conference will be 40 minutes long.

- You and your child will have 40 minutes to connect with their homeroom teacher in-person, and share your experiences and hopes for remote learning. Teachers will also walk you through your child's daily schedule and give you a few additional supplies to start the year.
- Also, in that 40 minutes your child will take a short reading assessment. Please do not worry about these assessments, and encourage your child simply to try their best. They will not be graded. We're giving them to help teachers know students' strengths & gaps, and to plan appropriately for the school year.
- After your child is finished taking their assessments, we will have stations set up for you to visit. PLEASE once your conference is completed and you have visited the stations we ask that exit the campus immediately. We are practicing social distancing and are trying to minimize the number of people on campus.

What to bring to the Outdoor Orientation conferences:

- Summer reading and math assignments (finished or as close to finished as possible)
- Any WCS library books (no fines will be charged)
- Any WCS tablet or laptop, with charger. Please make sure it is fully charged.
- If it's portable, the computer your child will use for remote learning if they want to use their own. Please make sure it is fully charged.
- Any questions you have about your child's fall schedule

How to sign up for your outdoor orientation conference:

- Go to <https://myconferencetime.com/wissahickoncharter/folder/2116>
- Click on the name of your child(ren)'s teacher
- Select the desired date/time for your conference by click on " Sign Up"
- Submit the requested information

****Please note:** We can host a Zoom conference for any family uncomfortable with meeting 1-1 with teachers outside in person. You still **MUST** sign up for a 40-minute time slot on the calendar. Please just add the word **ZOOM** to your name to make it a video conference instead. The teacher will send you a link to meet. You will still need to pick up the additional supplies we're gathering for your child.

Remote Learning Schedules by Grade

Please click on the link below for each of your students to see their schedule for remote learning.

[Kindergarten and 1st Grade Remote Learning Schedule](#)

[2nd Grade Remote Learning Schedule](#)

[3rd Grade Remote Learning Schedule](#)

[4th Grade Remote Learning Schedule](#)

[5th Grade Remote Learning Schedule](#)

[6th Grade Remote Learning Schedule](#)

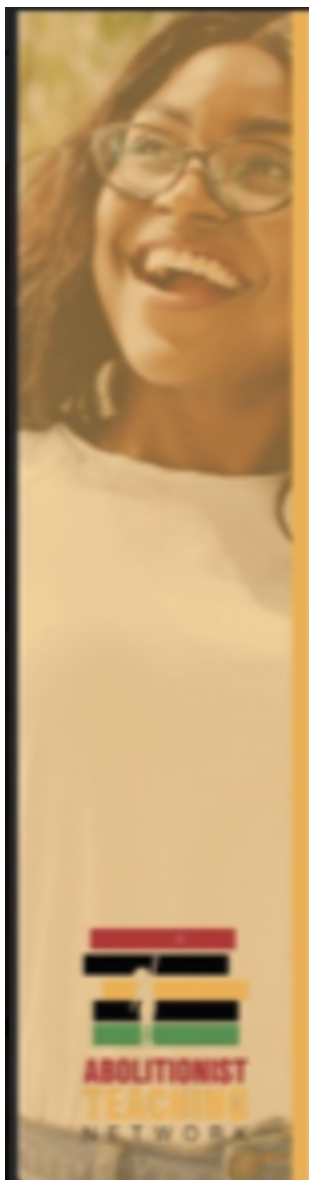
[7th Grade Remote Learning Schedule](#)

[8th Grade Remote Learning Schedule](#)

Community Resources

Mighty Writers Workshops on Zoom

All Wissahickon youth are welcome, and all programs are completely free to families! <https://mightywriters.org/workshops/?location=MW+at+Home&cage=none>



Abolitionist Teaching Network Presents

Radical Vulnerability: Girls of Color Alchemists Breathe

All girls, trans, cis, and gnc welcome



Dr. Nia Nunn

August 22 @ 2pm-3pmEST
Ages 10-14

August 22 @ 3:30pm-4:30pmEST
Ages 15-18

Sign up for free at
abolitionistteachingnetwork.org

Abolitionist Teaching is not a teaching approach: It is a way of life.

Family Field Studies series coming soon at Awbury Arboretum!

**Every Saturday for 7 weeks in the AdventureWoods Playspace
starting Sept. 5, 10am-noon**

Come learn about butterflies and moths with our family-friendly Field Studies lesson in the [AdventureWoods](#) Natural Materials Playspace. An Educator will be there with displays, information, and hands-on activities. What makes a butterfly an insect? How are butterflies connected to



caterpillars? And what is the difference between butterflies and moths? Find the answers to these questions and more at our Family Field Studies! More information and link coming soon.

Location: AdventureWoods Playspace, [6060 Ardleigh Street](#)

Cost: Free, no registration required

Parking: on Ardleigh Street, then walk in



Upcoming Field Studies explorations:

Sept. 5: Butterflies & Moths

Sept. 12: Decomposers

Sept. 19: Water Cycles

Sept. 26: Animals at Awbury

Oct. 3: A Look Back at Nature in the 1700s (*in conjunction with the Revolutionary Germantown Festival*)

Oct. 10: Seeds, Trees, & Leaves

Oct. 17: Birds

All participants must wear masks and observe social distancing guidelines. For more information on our COVID-19 guidelines, click [here](#).

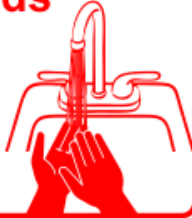
Follow Wissahickon Charter Schools on Social Media

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!

Wash Your Hands

Wet
hands



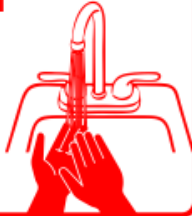
Apply
soap



Wash for 20
seconds



Rinse
well



Dry
hands



Turn off tap
with towel



CustomSigns.com



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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.

Our mailing address is:

Wissahickon Charter School

815 E. Washington Ln

Philadelphia, PA 19138



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

Awbury Summer Weekly Wissahickon 8/14/2020

1 message

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

Fri, Aug 14, 2020 at 8:35 PM

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Message from Dean Kristi

Dear Families,

Next week our new staff "arrive" in our Zoom meetings to start professional development. This is always a big moment in the summer and a turning point for us as summer starts winding down. I hope you have had some moments to relax and that the next few weeks are helpful in gearing up for the new year.

Some important new items:

- This newsletter includes attachments to each grade's schedule. Please take a look at your child's day so you know how to plan. This fall the daily

schedule will be much like a normal school day in terms of the hours. Soon it will be time to start getting kids in bed earlier so they can be up and ready when school begins.

- We now have a Board approved Health and Safety Plan that will be on our website by Monday. This covers how we will keep all stakeholders safe when they need to be in the building for any reason this fall (e.g. meal distribution) and when we launch our hybrid model of instruction.
- **Please** complete [this survey](#) related to internet access. This is important!
- Remember that we're planning for in-person, socially distanced, outdoor get-to-know-you conferences for families and teachers during the week of August 31st. Early next week, we'll send out an email to you with your child's class roster and a link to schedule your conference. Please keep an eye out for this email.
- Niema Golphin, our cross-site Director of Culture is working on a social emotional curriculum for us to launch as we start school. The theme for September is Self-Love. We are excited to inspire each member of our community to love themselves!

We're looking forward to seeing you again soon!

Warmly,
Kristi

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[8th Grade Remote Learning Schedule](#)

Summer Reading & Math

Students can complete the paper packets by hand, and if you need access to them or any of the websites online, **you can find everything** [HERE](#), including

helpful videos that walk you & students through the work.

We'll be grading summer assignments for completion, not getting everything "right". We hope to see each individual student showing effort and engagement with this work and practicing skills. This means completing the packets to the best of their ability. It could also mean talking about the reading & math assignments with family & friends (we know sometimes people learn best together!), and writing down specific questions for parts of assignments if they don't understand.

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.

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

Awbury Summer Weekly Wissahickon 8/7/2020

1 message

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

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



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

Awbury Summer Weekly Wissahickon 7/31/2020

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

Fri, Jul 31, 2020 at 1:46 PM

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Message from Dean Kristi

Dear Families,

I want to thank you for all the ways you've been in touch over the past week since we shared that we plan to offer a remote model this fall. I want to especially thank all of the parents who came to our meeting on Wednesday night. It was incredibly helpful to hear your experiences and your questions.

We know that not everybody could be at the meeting so I wanted to share a few things that we know and that we're working on:

- Every student will be loaned a device from the school. Students in K-2nd grade will get an iPad and students in 3rd-8th grade will get a Chromebook.
- We will offer a food distribution program.
- We would like to get creative about some in-person socially distanced outdoor opportunities for connecting students, possibly using the parks across our city.
- We are working to launch the year by connecting teachers with their students through conferences.
- Feel free to only purchase the school supplies that were listed for use at home at this point and hold off on the supplies needed for when we return to our building.

We are working on a wealth of details right now and will stay in touch as we have them, including sharing much more information about how instruction will look.

Take care,
Kristi

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

IMPORTANT FALL UPDATE

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

Fri, Jul 24, 2020 at 1:03 PM

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Message from Dean Kristi

Dear Families,

I hope this finds you all well. I am writing to share the important news that Wissahickon will be in a fully remote model of instruction this fall. We will use the time we have remaining in the summer to plan for a stronger model than we were able to offer last spring.

While we believe in-person instruction is ultimately best for children, we cannot reopen our schools if it means compromising the safety of our community members. We also know that the hybrid model we have been developing was not actually a return to the typical in-school experience.

Over the past two weeks, we have seen many things that have led us to this decision including:

- [rising case numbers in our city and state](#)
- the absolute lack of clear public health metrics that would need to be met and maintained for schools to reopen safely (e.g. fewer than 50 cases for every 100,000 residents)
- [new research](#) showing that children ages ten and older spread the virus at the same rate as adults
- little definitively known of the [long term impacts](#) of the virus
- just as we feel the need to protect children, we also need to keep our staff safe and many have expressed concern over in-person models in this moment
- making this decision now leaves us with time to improve on the model we offered in the spring

I'm sure you have all seen the [plan that the district shared](#) last week at this point and many of you likely followed their Board meeting yesterday. After a long meeting where over a hundred parents, teachers, students, and administrators called for a fully remote model, the School Board of Philadelphia decided to delay their vote on a plan for a week. **We will be in a remote model regardless of their decision.**

A natural next question is when will we go back to some form of in-person instruction. We will look first to the health of our city to determine when we can return to school. Once our city's infection rate has gone down (to a point that will hopefully be defined by public health experts), then we can look internally again at Wissahickon to measure our own ability to implement best safety practices and staffing. Because things are in flux with the district's decision making which is closely tied to what is possible with transportation, we do not know what kind of flexibility we will have around possible in-person start dates. It could be as early as sometime this fall. It could be January or later.

While we feel this is the right course of action for safety, it is not a decision that was made lightly. We know that this will present hardship for families, especially around the question of childcare and your need to get back to work. Unfortunately, this is not a moment where there is one solution that addresses all of the needs of our stakeholders concurrently. In moments such as these, safety comes first.

All Awbury families are invited to come together for a meeting on Wednesday, July 29th from 5:30-6:30 where we will again talk through our rationale for this decision and invite you to share your questions and input. Zoom information is below.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89744193436?pwd=VGZJQWdTdnh0K2lpSEFPaHZjZHVkZz09>

Meeting ID: 897 4419 3436

Passcode: tree

Peace,
Kristi

Change of address during remote learning

If you changed your address during remote learning you will have to provide the school with supporting documents for the address change. We require two proof of residency documents (ie: government issued id, current utility bill, lease or mortgage statement etc.). We will not be able to update any bus information without the updated documentation.

Ms. Tonya will begin calling families the week of July 27th to start scheduling parents to come with their documents. Appointments will begin the week of August 3rd.

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Fri, Jul 17, 2020 at 11:30 AM

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Message from Dean Kristi

Dear Families,

Hope everyone is doing well. As you know, we've been working hard to develop our plan for re-opening for the 2020-21 school year. Two weeks ago I shared that to allow for social distancing in schools, our buildings are not large enough to have all students in-person every day. Because of this we have been working on a hybrid model (some students in person, some remote) that can be scaled up or down quickly to shift as the situation with COVID-19 changes.

This week, the [Philadelphia School District announced their plan for the fall](#). Their plan is a hybrid model that aims to have children in school buildings two

days a week with a remote program for the other three days. We are now in the process of reviewing their plan in depth to see how it can inform our own thinking. There may be questions or approaches that they have considered and tackled that we can now learn from.

Our goal is to be able to share Wissahickon's plan by the end of the month. We will send it out via email first, with family meetings scheduled right afterwards to talk through the plan and answer questions. Once we've shared the plan, it is still possible that it may need to change based on what is happening with the virus itself and local infection rates. Thank you for staying in touch this summer by reading our newsletter each week and taking surveys like the one we sent out last week. We appreciate your partnership in this tough time.

Stay safe,

Kristi

Change of address during remote learning

If you changed your address during remote learning you will have to provide the school with supporting documents for the address change. We require two proof of residency documents (ie: government issued id, current utility bill, lease or mortgage statement etc.). We will not be able to update any bus information without the updated documentation.

Ms. Tonya will begin calling families the week of July 27th to start scheduling parents to come with their documents. Appointments will begin the week of August 3rd.

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!



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

RESPONSE REQUIRED Awbury Summer Weekly Wissahickon 7/10/2020

1 message

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

Fri, Jul 10, 2020 at 12:44 PM

[View this email in your browser](#)



Quick Survey for All Families: RESPONSE REQUIRED ASAP

We are making progress on our fall plans, and need **ALL FAMILIES** to let us know if they plan to send their child to school in the fall or not. **Complete [this 2 minute survey](#) by Wednesday, July 15 to help us make our planning meet as many needs as possible.**

Message from Dean Kristi

Dear Families,

We are about one month into summer vacation. I hope everyone is getting to safely enjoy some aspects of summer, finding some ways to relax and have fun. We know it can be

tough to hold kids to homework during the summer, but we've created assignments that are hopefully engaging and will set them up to be ready for the next grade. It's essential they complete them - and start now, if they haven't already.

It's also a good time to practice some health-related skills that students will need as we head back to school, in whatever form that takes. We know that wearing a mask will be needed in school and on buses. Please practice this with your child now. Get them a mask they like and have them practice wearing it so they get used to it. One way to get your child invested in proper mask wearing is to give them the job of making sure the whole family is wearing masks responsibly.

Another important skill students need to practice now is hand washing and using hand sanitizer. Please make sure your child knows to wash their whole hands (back and front, between fingers, even the wrists) for 20 seconds with vigorous scrubbing. There are tons of how-to videos online.

These two skills are paramount to safety during the pandemic and as we head back to school. Just like any new activity, they need to be practiced for them to become habits and for students to become independent in doing them correctly.

Take care,

Kristi

Change of address during remote learning

If you changed your address during remote learning you will have to provide the school with supporting documents for the address change. We require two proof of residency documents (ie: government issued id, current utility bill, lease or mortgage statement etc.). We will not be able to update any bus information without the updated documentation.

Ms. Tonya will begin calling families the week of July 27th to start scheduling parents to come with their documents. Appointments will begin the week of August 3rd.

Service in the Community

Hats off (or should we say Masks Off!?) to Awbury Middle School students Chris, Josiah, Santino and 5th grader, Mailikai who serve as [Philly Goat Project](#) Ambassadors up the street at the Awbury Farm.



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

Awbury Summer Weekly Wissahickon 7/2

1 message

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

Thu, Jul 2, 2020 at 2:45 PM

[View this email in your browser](#)



Dear Families,

I hope this finds you all safe and well and able to enjoy some aspects of summer. As you know, Wissahickon will follow guidance on reopening schools that is provided by the Centers for Disease Control, Pennsylvania Department of Education and the School District of Philadelphia. At this point, we have some general guidance from the CDC and PDE. We are pursuing & expecting more detailed information, especially from the city, at some point in July. In the meantime, I'm writing to share some of the key principles on which we are basing our fall program.

While it is impossible to eliminate all risk related to the spread of COVID-19, we believe the following guiding principles can help us in minimizing risk for our students, families, and employees.

Physical Safety & Cleaning/Disinfecting

- As long as it is being recommended, we will maintain social distancing of 6ft between individuals at school.
- Classes will be broken into smaller cohorts that will be housed in separate classrooms. Each group will only interact with the students in its own group to limit the number of people students are exposed to.
- With this guidance for spacing, our buildings are not large enough to have everyone in person every day for learning. We will work to provide some combination of in-person and remote learning for all students, with a priority on serving our youngest and most vulnerable students in person the most.
- Students and staff will wear reusable masks. Masks will likely be kept on campus to be laundered.
- Portable hand washing and sanitizer stations will be distributed throughout the buildings. Handwashing schedules will be developed to ensure increased hand hygiene.
- Cleaning and disinfecting practices will be increased and aligned to all recommendations for schools. This will include cleaning spaces between different cohorts' use of them as well as regular wiping down of high-touch surfaces.
- Visitor, as well as drop-off and pick up protocols are being developed.
- Some form of health screening (e.g. symptom reporting, fever scans, etc.) will happen daily for students and staff.

Curriculum & Programming

- Breakfast and Lunch will be in the classrooms. Plans & spaces for specials are being discussed.
- Students will stay in their own classroom throughout the day with the exception of trips outside, to the restroom and to receive special education services.
- A fully remote learning option will exist for all K-8 students whose families are not comfortable with sending their child(ren) to school.
- The social-emotional health of students is a high priority. We will work on ways to actively continue to build community and relationships between students and staff, whether they are working remotely or in person.
- Large events will not be held in person until there is guidance that confirms that it is safe to do so.

We will show flexibility and adapt our model as the conditions and guidance for our area evolve. We will share a model later this summer, once we have seen the School District of Philadelphia's plans. We strive to have plans that align with the different colored phases (e.g. *If the city moves to the "red" phase again, WCS will move to a fully remote model and there will be a plan for exactly how that model looks.*) so all members of our community know what to expect.

Thank you for reading this and for your patience. I know it's hard to not know what things will look like exactly, but I hope this also gives you something to hold on to in the meantime. We will continue to use the Weekly Wissahickon for updates so please be sure to check it each week.

Take care,
Kristi

Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer FAQ for Families:

Please click [here](#) for FAQ regarding the P-EBT card. If you have not received your card yet they are mailing them out throughout the month of July. Once you receive your P-EBT card, if you are having problems activating the card because of the child birthday please contact [Ms. Tonya](#). Families with questions outside of the date of birth should go to the [DHS website](#) with any questions.

Summer packets were mailed out June 22nd. It's full of reading & math, a letter from Principals Kate and Polite and the forms we all love.

If you have not received the packet by July 6th, please email [Ms.Tonya](#)

This year's summer reading and math are more important than ever before to keep students' skills sharp. The assignments have been created to be highly engaging. A nationally respected curriculum writer who saw our summer math packets called them a "great, helpful resource", one of the best she's seen.

Students can complete the paper packets by hand, and if you need access to them or any of the websites online, **you can find everything** [HERE](#), including

helpful videos that walk you & students through the work.

Additionally, here are two useful resources related to racial justice & healing. The first is a [17 minute talk](#) by local professor Howard Stevenson, about how to handle racially stressful situations. The second is a [one-pager](#) with language to use when faced with offensive comments. Please share helpful resources you find with us, too.

Hope summer is treating you well so far, and you & your kids are staying safe, healthy and cool,

Principals,
Kate and Polite

Summer iPad & Chromebook information and guidelines

LINKED [HERE](#) <very important if you borrowed a WCS device>

If any issues come up with your device, please email helpis@wissahickoncharter.org **ASAP**. Don't wait till the end of summer.

Personal Information

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

Awbury Summer Weekly Wissahickon 6/26

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

Fri, Jun 26, 2020 at 2:33 PM

[View this email in your browser](#)



Dear Families,

With summer just kicking off, there isn't much new to report this week in our newsletter. Keep an eye out for the mailing coming your way soon that will include summer work for students.

In other news, this is a great time to get registered to vote for the November election if you aren't already. Click [here](#) to learn more.

Please continue to read your Weekly Wissahickon all summer long as we will be reaching out to you to share information and ask for input as we continue to plan our fall. In the meantime, I urge our community to stay cautious as our local restrictions ease. We do not have to look far off to see that as restrictions ease, the number of cases can surge.

Stay safe and take care,
Kristi

Dear Awbury Families,

Summer packets were mailed out June 22nd. It's full of reading & math, a letter from Principals Kate and Polite and the forms we all love.

If you don't received the packet by July 2nd, please email [Ms. Tonya](#)

This year's summer reading and math are more important than ever before to keep students' skills sharp. The assignments have been created to be highly engaging. A nationally respected curriculum writer who saw our summer math packets called them a "great, helpful resource", one of the best she's seen.

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Hope summer is treating you well so far, and you & your kids are staying safe, healthy and cool,

Principals,
Kate and Polite

Virtual Freedom Schools Literacy Academy Registration Deadline Is Monday June 29th!

[CENTER FOR BLACK EDUCATOR DEVELOPMENT](#)

Sharif El-Mekki, Founder and CEO of the Center for



**CENTER FOR
BLACK EDUCATOR
DEVELOPMENT**

Black Educator Development, talks about some of his favorite revolution—past, present and future. watch entire series . THE STATE OF TEACHER DIVERSITY . Nationwide, more than 15% of all students are Black, while only 7% of all teachers are.

www.thecenterblacked.org

Summer iPad & Chromebook information and guidelines

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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

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

Awbury Weekly Wissahickon 6/18

1 message

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

Thu, Jun 18, 2020 at 12:16 PM

[View this email in your browser](#)



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

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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.

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3-8: FirstBook, Dreambox

6-8: Khan Academy

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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!