



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

Awbury Weekly Wissahickon 10/16/2020

1 message

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!!

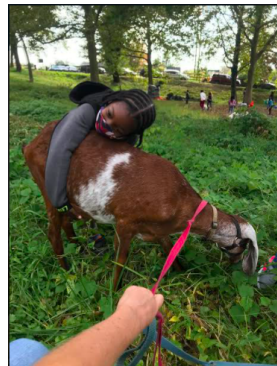
Voting Corner

- 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

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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Wissahickon Charter School
815 E. Washington Ln
Philadelphia, PA 19138

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

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Dear Families,

I hope this finds you all well as we move further into the fall. I am joining Morning Meetings most days and can't tell you how much I enjoy seeing your children! They are doing such a great job! I also have to send huge kudos to our teachers and staff. They are bringing their best every day. If you could take a moment to reach out to thank them for their work, it would mean the world!

This week, I have a special opportunity to share with you all. OurVillage Tutoring is providing FREE VIRTUAL tutoring to elementary and middle school students. If you would like more information, please email info@ourvillagetutoring.org or call/text Michele Kreisler, co-founder, at 215-990-7608. You can also look at the website www.ourvillagetutoring.org. If you decide to pursue this, let your teacher know so they are aware that your

child will be getting some extra support!

Finally, I have a couple of important to-do items for our whole community. Please check out the Voting Corner again this week and take the steps you need to take to make sure you can vote. Wissahickon's values prioritize social justice, the environment, and education and these are just three of the issues that I personally weigh as I look at the candidates. Secondly, it's the time of year to get flu shots and they are more important this year than ever before.

Take care,

Kristi

Important dates:

October 12th - Columbus Day- School is [OPEN](#)

October 13th - Wissahickon Parent Partnership (WPP) Info & Interest Meeting

October 16th - Spirit Day

October 23rd - Remote Picture Day

Back to School Night Family Survey.

Back to School Night was a success! Thank you to everyone who took the time out to join us last night. In an effort to ensure we are hearing from as many families as possible, we are extending The Back to School Night Family Survey. The survey will now remain open until **Friday October 16th**. It can be found [here](#). We look forward to hearing from you!

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!!

P.S. If you didn't get a chance to see any, check out [this one](#) from Ms. Polite...lol

Save the Date: Tuesday October 13th @ 6:30!

Wissahickon Parent Partnership (WPP) Info & Interest Meeting!!

You are cordially invited to the first meeting of the Wissahickon Parent Partnership (WPP) on Tuesday, October 13th at 6:30 p.m. This virtual meeting will offer you the opportunity to ask questions, offer ideas and suggestions....and hopefully join the WPP leadership team!

Many of you are on triple duty--working, parenting and teaching from home--while striving to keep your household mentally and physically healthy. However, we believe that involvement in the WPP can be an awesome means by which parents can implement activities to support our Awbury family during these challenging times.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81224762857?pwd=OTdkSDN1YnFmMmFEdUYxZHRYK0dtZz09>

Meeting ID: 812 2476 2857

Passcode: Awbury

Suicide Prevention Awareness

We've ended September but we did not want to move into October without acknowledging that September was Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. Ms. Abby has met with some classes and will continue to do so with grades 4-8. Our hope is to talk about suicide and ways to seek help or to be a helper to friends/family who you think might need it. You can find a list of numbers [HERE](#) to call if you or your child(ren) have a crisis or just need to talk. As always, you can always reach out to Ms. Abby, Counselor if you'd like to talk further about any concerns.

The Philly HOPE Line



**Philly
HopeLine**
Hope Is Only A Call Away

**Call or Text 1-833-PHL-HOPE
(1-833-745-4673)**

Do you or your loved ones feel lonely, stressed, sad, angry, or confused? Do you miss your friends and routines?

Philly HopeLine is a free helpline sponsored by Uplift Center for Grieving Children and the [School District of Philadelphia](#). It is staffed by Masters's level clinicians from Uplift, and is open to all School District of Philadelphia students & families. Service is available in both English and Spanish.

Hours of Operation:

Monday – Friday: 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Holidays: 12 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Grief Groups for Students and Families



THEMES ADDRESSED

- What is grief?
- What feelings are normal?
- How do we learn to deal with the loss?
- What are ways to remember the person?
- How can we heal our grief?

HOW IT WORKS

- All services are **free** and require caregivers to enroll the family for services
- Virtual groups take place online via Zoom – families can use smartphone or other electronic devices with internet/WiFi
- Children, teens and adults meet separately in the afternoons and evenings
- Sessions meet for 1 hour each week for 5 weeks
- Uplift also offers virtual services for Spanish-speaking caregivers with bilingual clinicians
- A new *Come Together!* group for children in Kindergarten to 2nd grade and their caregivers

**GROUP START DATES ARE IN
OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, JANUARY, FEBRUARY, AND MARCH**

To enroll or refer a family, call Kevin Carter at 267-271-5998 or email kevin@upliftphilly.org
Visit us online at

WWW.UPLIFTPHILLY.ORG

Voting Corner

- As of Friday, the voter registration deadline for Pennsylvania is 10 days away (October 19). Remember, If you have not already applied to vote by mail (or if you have not registered to vote), remember that you can register, apply for a mail-in ballot (through October 27), and submit your

ballot (through Election Day, November 3) in one stop at one of the city's satellite locations. You can also use these sites to drop off a completed ballot if you already received yours in the mail or to request a replacement ballot if yours has not arrived as of October 6. [Here](#) is a list of currently open locations, as well as those that will open in the coming days. Find a [location](#) near you and make a plan!

- If you previously applied for a mail-in ballot, you can confirm that the request was received [here](#). Note that if you provided an email address when applying, the most up to date information will be whatever in emails you have received directly from the city, if you have not received your ballot or any email updates, you can go directly to a voting center for a replacement ballot.
- When filling out your ballot, make sure you follow all directions to submit your ballot. Your ballot will come with two envelopes, a secrecy envelope and an outer envelope. You need to use both to ensure your vote will be counted. Completed ballots need to be placed inside the secrecy envelope first and then the secrecy envelope inside the outer envelope, which needs to be signed and dated. This [video on mail-in ballots](#) from the PA Department of State is a useful resource and outlines all the steps you need to take to for your vote to count.
- While the uncertainty of COVID-19 and the current rise in cases locally is certainly a reason to consider early voting at the city's satellite offices, you can find a current list of proposed locations for in-person voting on Election Day [here](#). Your polling place may be different from where you have voted in previous years, so be sure to check!
- If you already have a plan to vote, don't forget to make sure your friends and family do, too! If you are looking to volunteer, there are lots of great organizations to look into, including [When We All Vote](#).

Specials in the Park

**Specials in the Park Registration is live for
October 14, 15 & 16!**



Registration for Specials in the Park is now live on Eventbrite as of 12pm today!
[Click here to register.](#)

Important Updates for this Week - PLEASE READ!

- We have changed a few session times to make Specials in the Park more accessible. Thursday sessions will now be from 2:30-3:30 and 4:00-5:00.
- Middle school students who miss their core classes by coming to Specials in the Park are required to make up assignments. If possible, choose times that students will not miss their core academic classes (usually after 2:00).

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.

Spirit Day!

We've got spirit, yes we do!
We've got spirit, how about you?

On Friday, **October 16th**, we will be having Hat Day!! Come to zoom wearing your favorite hat to every class!!

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!!

Meal Distribution

Reminder, any student in Philadelphia (18 years of age or under) will be able to get meals from our schools.

Also, your raffle ticket will be with your Meal Distribution. See the flyer below for more details.



OPEN ENROLLMENT @ WCS for 2021-2022 School Year


Starting on September 25, 2020, anyone interested in applying to our school for the 2021-22 school year can easily apply by going to applyphillycharter.org on their phone, tablet or computer, and following these simple steps:

- If you don't already have an account on applyphillycharter.org, create an account using your email address

- Fill out your family profile
- Click Apply for September 2021
- Select the box next to Wissahickon Charter School
- Submit the application

If you already have a child in our school and are interested in applying for a sibling, you will need to apply using Apply Philly Charter. At the end of the application, you will be asked if your child has a sibling already attending Wissahickon Charter School. Just provide the current student's name and birthdate. **The application window closes on January 25, 2022.**

 [One-pager for families 2021-22 - ENGLISH.pdf](#)

 [Timeline 2021-22 Graphic.pdf](#)

Community Resources

Childcare, Activities, and Meal Resource List

Please check out [this list](#) of support and resources for families in Philadelphia. For questions email WCS AfterSchool Program Director, Melissa Pendleton at m.pendleton@wissahickoncharter.org.

Philadelphia Rental Assistance

COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance Program is currently accepting applications for Phase 2. This is for families who need rental assistance because of loss of income due to COVID-19. Funds are awarded on a first-come, first serve basis. Check out their website at <https://phlrentassist.org>

Free City Childcare

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 child care five days a week. Space is limited and registration in advance is required.

Lower School News

Student Materials in Fox Backpacks

We are starting to use the materials in student bags regularly. Please make sure wherever your student is working for the day (daycare, grandmas.etc), they have their backpacks with all their materials with them. Without them, it's hard to fully participate in what the class is doing, whether they're reading a novel from the bag, putting their answers on the whiteboard, or using a Math tool. Helpful tip: old socks make great erasers for the boards! Thanks!

Reading Small Groups

All grades have now started their small group Reading time. Some students have 1-2 small group sessions a day and some students have a few each week. These sessions are **really** where students will **learn to read**. Some students have been confused about the schedule or haven't been attending these afternoon sessions. Please make sure your children know when they should come to small groups. K-3 families can check the students SeeSaw for information. 4th grade small group times are on Google Classroom. This is one of their MOST important times of day.

Headphones

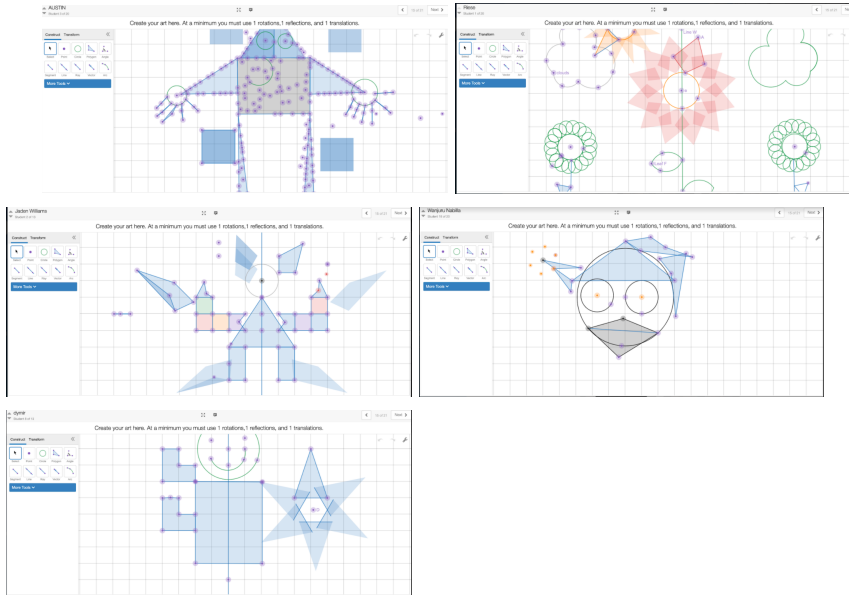
Headphones are a great way to make sure that your children can hear class clearly and that when they come off mute to answer a question that we can really hear them. Any headset with a mic works well. [Here](#) is a great one for \$15 on Amazon.

Middle School News

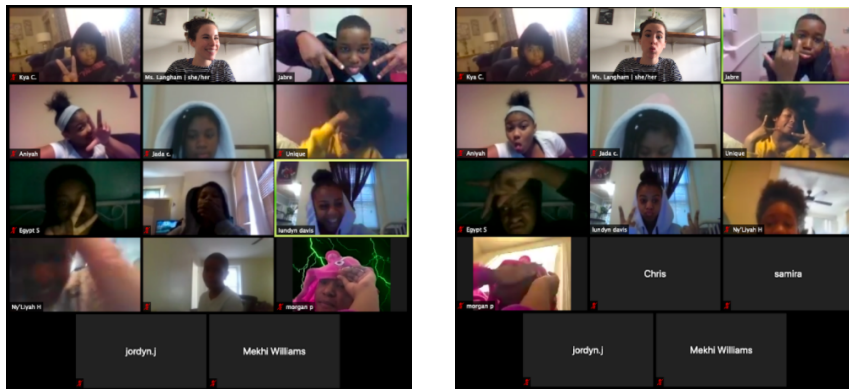
Hey Middle School Families!! Can you believe it? We have almost been in school for 6 weeks and thus interim reports are almost here!! If you haven't already, please be sure to log on to PowerSchool to check in on how your student is doing across the board! This is also a reminder that for remote learning, specials are on a 6 week cycle. For the first 6 weeks of trimester 1, students will have 2 specials. At the end of those 6 weeks, students will have earned a grade for those specials for the trimester. The same is true for the second 6 weeks of the trimester. Please be sure to check on your students final specials grade for the first 6 weeks of school. This is applicable to all specials except for Guidance (a full 12 week trimester special).

Ms. Langham's Classes

8th grade created some cool art with geometric transformations this week with Ms. Langham!! Check them out!!



711 and Ms. Langham having a little fun after a conversation about self-care and setting digital boundaries!!



Art

In art this week, students used found objects to create various types of textured paper designed. They they used this paper to create fish collages.



8th Grade Families

Attention 8th Grade Families from Your School Counselor:

High school applications will open on September 18, 2020 - November 6, 2020.

The High School Advising meetings are beginning October 12th -

30th. You should have received a message in ClassTag with the conference schedule. Please sign up for a time that works for you. Students and parents are expected to attend the meeting together. We will not be able to complete any applications without the parent(s). Please do not complete this application alone. We will meet via Zoom and do it together. We do this to make sure that all of the required information and extra documents are ready and in the right place before submitting. Parents, please make sure that you and your child have at least 5 district schools picked prior to your scheduled conference in order to complete the application. This does not include Charter Schools or Private Schools. Please see [THIS](#) document for some examples of the types of High Schools or visit www.greatphillyschools.org to research different high schools in Philadelphia. [This list](#) (first 2 tabs) gives a quick view of all citywide and special admission schools in the District. Also, be on the lookout for more information from us regarding this year's High School Virtual Fair. We will share dates and times once we know. Please feel free to email Mrs. Abby (Awbury) at a.beljean@wissahickoncharter.org with any questions or concerns.

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

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Dear Families,

I hope this email finds you well! I am so proud of our community. Each day we are seeing strong attendance from students and our employees are all working so hard to make everything run smoothly. I don't have many messages for you this week. I want you to take note of a new feature on Voting that will be in this newsletter weekly through the election. I also want to remind you to reach out with any struggles, questions, or good news you may have. We're here to hear all of it!

Warmly,

Kristi

Important dates:

Friday October 2nd - School closed for professional development

Weekly Reports This Week

Because of our short school week, teachers will not be sending weekly reports this Friday. They will start back next Friday, October 9th.

Update on Meal Distribution

WCS is pleased to announce that starting Monday, October 5th, any student in Philadelphia (18 years of age or under) will be able to get meals from our schools.

Also beginning, Monday October 5th we will begin to have raffle prizes with Meal Distribution. See the flyer below for more details.



SAVE THE DATE:

Zoom Back to School Night will be **Thursday, October 8th at 6:00.**

Come hear more about our Remote Learning Program, how to best support your children, and let us know how things are going.

6:00 Session 1

6:45 Session 2 (repeat of first session for people with multiple children)

7:30 Stations: Mindfulness and Stress Reduction for Parents, Special Education, Specialists, Google Classroom, SeeSaw, Tech help

More details will be sent out next week including all links.

Voting Corner

- If you previously applied for a mail-in ballot, you can check the status [here](#). The City of Philadelphia began sending ballots to applicants this week.
- If you have not already applied to vote by mail (or if you have not registered to vote), remember that you can register, apply for a mail-in ballot, and submit your ballot in one stop at one of the city's satellite locations. You can also use these sites to drop off a completed ballot if you already received yours in the mail or to request a replacement ballot if yours never arrived. [Here](#) is a list of currently open locations, as well as those that will open in the coming weeks. Find a location near you and make a plan!
- When filling out your ballot, make sure you follow all directions to submit your ballot. Your ballot will come with two envelopes, a secrecy envelope and an outer envelope. You need to use both to ensure your vote will be counted. Completed ballots need to be placed inside the secrecy envelope first and then the secrecy envelope inside the outer envelope, which needs to be signed and dated. This [video on mail-in ballots](#) from the PA Department of State is a useful resource and outlines all the steps you need to take to for your vote to count.
- While the uncertainty of COVID-19 and the possibility of rising cases in colder weather is certainly a reason to consider taking advantage of early voting at the city's satellite offices, you can find a current list of proposed locations for in-person voting on Election Day [here](#). Your polling place may be different from where you have voted in previous years, so be sure to check!
- If you already have a plan to vote, don't forget to make sure your friends and family do, too! If you are looking to volunteer, there are lots of great organizations to look into, including [When We All Vote](#).

OPEN ENROLLMENT @ WCS for 2021-2022 School Year

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- If you don't already have an account on applyphillycharter.org, create an account using your email address
- Fill out your family profile
- Click Apply for September 2021
- Select the box next to Wissahickon Charter School
- Submit the application

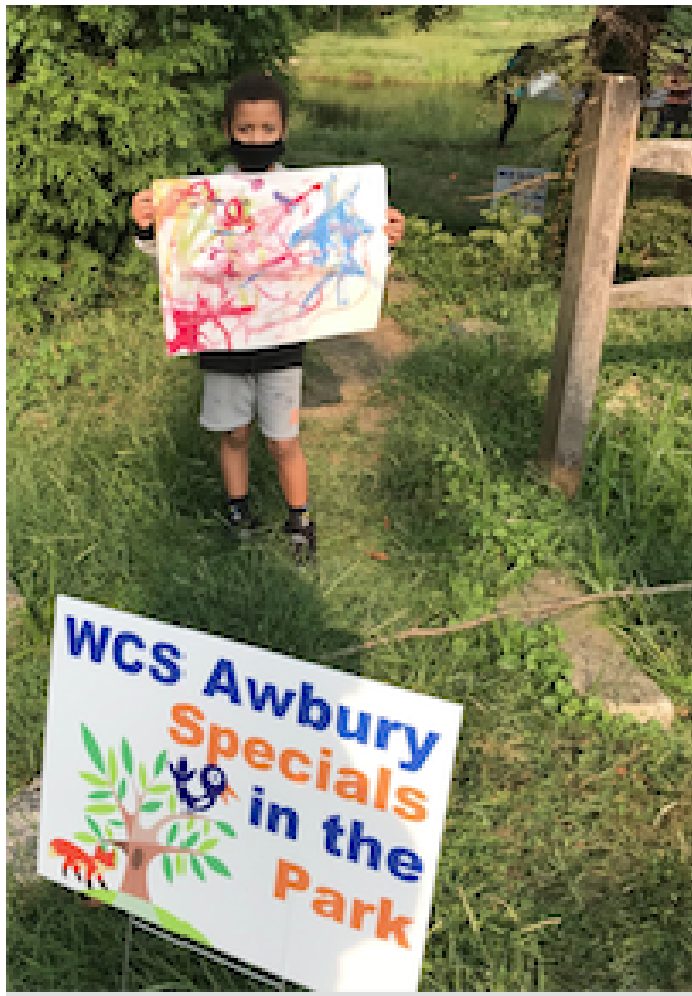
If you already have a child in our school and are interested in applying for a sibling, you will need to apply using Apply Philly Charter. At the end of the application, you will be asked if your child has a sibling already attending Wissahickon Charter School. Just provide the current student's name and birthdate. **The application window closes on January 25, 2022.**

 [One-pager for families 2021-22 - ENGLISH.pdf](#)

 [Timeline 2021-22 Graphic.pdf](#)

Specials in the Park

**Specials in the Park Registration is live for
October 7, 8 & 9!**



Registration for Specials in the Park is now live on Eventbrite as of 12pm today!
[Click here to register.](#)

THIS WEEK ONLY! Our Wednesday 10/7 3:30 - 4:30 session will feature

special guests from the [Philly Goat Project!](#)



Students who sign up for this session will see the world premiere of a play by Wissahickon students and their goat friends, as well as take the goats for a walk in the arboretum. Please make sure you are aware of this change when signing up for this session.

Other important Updates - PLEASE READ!

- We have changed a few session times to make Specials in the Park more accessible. Thursday sessions will now be from 2:30-3:30 and 4:00-5:00.
- Middle school students who miss their core classes by coming to Specials in the Park are required to make up assignments. If possible, choose times that students will not miss their core academic classes (usually after 2:00).

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.

Community Resources

Childcare, Activities, and Meal Resource List

Please check out [this list](#) of support and resources for families in Philadelphia. For questions email WCS AfterSchool Program Director, Melissa Pendleton at m.pendleton@wissahickoncharter.org.

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Free City Childcare

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 child care five days a week. Space is limited and registration in advance is required.

Lower School News

Student Materials in Fox Backpacks

We are starting to use the materials in student bags regularly. Please make sure wherever your student is working for the day (daycare, grandmas.etc), they have their backpacks with all their materials with them. Without them, it's hard to fully participate in what the class is doing, whether they're reading a novel from the bag, putting their answers on the whiteboard, or using a Math tool. Helpful tip: old socks make great erasers for the boards! Thanks!

Reading Small Groups

All grades have now started their small group Reading time. Some students have 1-2 small group sessions a day and some students have a few each week. These sessions are really where students will learn to read. Some students have been confused about the schedule or haven't been attending these afternoon sessions. Please make sure your children know when they should come to small groups. K-3 families can check the students SeeSaw for information. 4th grade small group times are on Google Classroom. This is one of their MOST important times of day.

Headphones

Headphones are a great way to make sure that your children can hear class clearly and that when they come off mute to answer a question that we can really hear them. Any headset with a mic works well. [Here](#) is a great one for \$15 on Amazon.

Middle School News

8th Grade Families

Attention 8th Grade Families from Your School Counselors:

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The High School Advising meetings are beginning October 12th -

30th. You should have received a message in ClassTag with the conference schedule. Please sign up for a time that works for you. Students and parents are expected to attend the meeting together. We will not be able to complete any applications without the parent(s). Please do not complete this application alone. We will meet via Zoom and do it together. We do this to make sure that all of the required information and extra documents are ready and in the right place before submitting. Parents, please make sure that you and your child have at least 5 district schools picked prior to your scheduled conference in order to complete the application. This does not include Charter Schools or Private Schools. Please see [THIS](#) document for some examples of the types of High Schools or visit www.greatphillyschools.org to research different high schools in Philadelphia. [This list](#) (first 2 tabs) gives a quick view of all citywide and special admission schools in the District. Also, be on the lookout for more information from us regarding this year's High School Virtual Fair. We will share dates and times once we know. Please feel free to email Mrs. Abby (Awbury) at a.beljean@wissahickoncharter.org with any questions or concerns.

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.

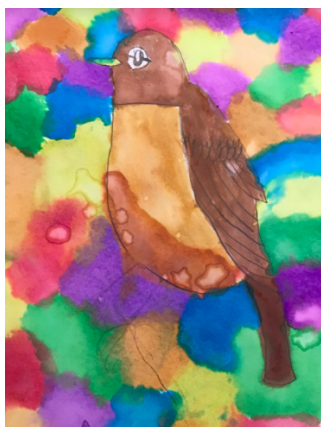
The National Junior Honor Society (NJHS)

Calling all students with vision and ambition! The National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) is finally here at Wissahickon. Parents and students are welcome to join Ms. Langham **Thursday, October 1st at 6:00 pm** for an interest meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84815250105?pwd=WkRMNzd2WDErVE1veEJXamlZejlXQT09> Meeting ID: 848 1525 0105
Passcode: tree

Watercolor birds: students practiced drawing different types of birds and applied our watercolor skills to paint them. Check out the paintings by our 6th grade students.

Anyae Stevens



Chloe Lewis





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

Awbury Weekly Wissahickon 9/25/2020

1 message

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

Fri, Sep 25, 2020 at 10:43 AM

[View this email in your browser](#)



Dear Families,

Due to recent changes in Pennsylvania election law, early mail-in ballot voting begins this year on September 29th and will continue until Election Day on November 3rd. No matter what your political beliefs are, it is important to vote to make sure your vote is counted.

If you are not registered, go to [this website](#) to register. Don't wait, register now. If you have any questions, you can call 1.877.VOTESPA (1.877.868.3772).

Due to the uncertainty around COVID-19, many people plan to vote using mail-in ballots. This option is new in Pennsylvania, but is a secure method that has been used successfully in other states. Mail-in ballots can be submitted by mail, at a mail-in ballot dropbox (locations in Philly TBD), or at an early voting location. You can track your mail-in ballot [here](#) to make sure it has been received.

Philadelphia will open seventeen early voting locations around the city on a rolling basis. Voters can request, receive, fill out, and submit a mail-in ballot in one stop. You can

also visit the offices to register to vote, request a mail-in ballot to take home and submit later, or to drop off a completed mail-in ballot. [This article provides more information about the locations opening next week.](#) We will send updates on new locations as they open in the coming weeks.

If you have already applied for a mail-in ballot, make sure you follow all directions to submit your ballot. Your ballot will come with two envelopes, a secrecy envelope and an outer envelope. You need to use both to ensure your vote will be counted. Completed ballots need to be placed inside the secrecy envelope first and then the secrecy envelope inside the outer envelope, which needs to be signed and dated. This [video on mail-in ballots](#) from the PA Department of State is a useful resource and outlines all the steps you need to take to for your vote to count.

If you choose to vote in person, remember to check your polling place location. Updated locations have not been announced yet, but many Philadelphia polling places will change this year.

Finally, as you think about the election, make a plan for how you will vote and then encourage at least three people in your life to also make a plan. It's too important to miss this election.

Warmly,

Kristi

Important dates:

Monday September 28th - Yom Kippur- Administrative Offices and School Closed

Friday October 2nd - School closed for professional development

Meal Distribution for Week of September 28th

On Monday, September 28th, WCS will be closed for Yom Kippur, and there will be **NO** meal distributions that day. For the week of September 28th, WCS families can pick up meals on Tuesday, September 29th and Thursday, October 1st from 11AM-2PM.

SAVE THE DATE:

Zoom Back to School Night will be **Thursday, October 8th at 6:00.**

Come hear more about our Remote Learning Program, how to best support your children, and let us know how things are going.

6:00 Session 1

6:45 Session 2 (repeat of first session for people with multiple children)

7:30 Stations: Mindfulness and Stress Reduction for Parents, Special Education, Specialists, Google Classroom, SeeSaw, Tech help

More details will be sent out next week including all links.

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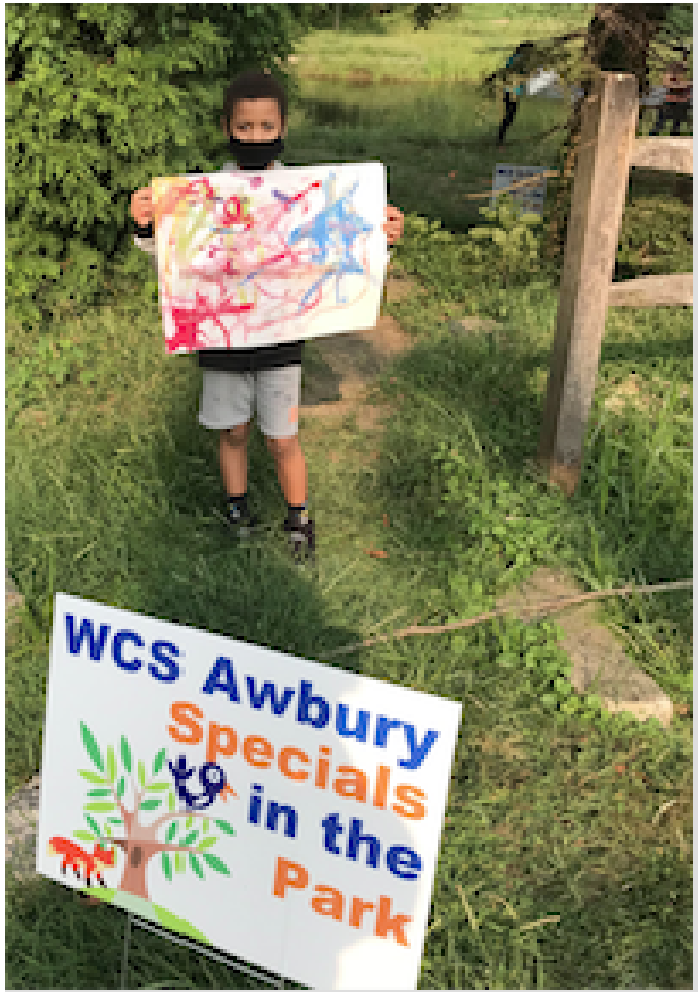
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Specials in the Park

Specials in the Park Registration for September 30th & October 1st!



Registration for Specials in the Park is now live on Eventbrite as of 12pm today! [Click here to register.](#)

Important Updates for this Week - PLEASE READ!

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For more information (and a map of where to meet us), [check out our FAQ!](#) Or reach out to us on ClassTag.

Awbury Clubs

If you are looking for virtual fun, sign up for one of the Awbury clubs. [Here](#) is the link to sign up, let's have some fun!

Congratulations to our School Chant Winners!

Thank you to everyone who participated and sent in a chant. Congrats to our winners: Safiyyah in 211, Kaiden in 212, Rylee in 212, Ava V in 312, Devon in 711, and Gabe in 812!

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Earned Celebration

For the month of September, students that have attended at least 80% of their Zoom classes will earn a digital coupon to The Pretzel Factory that can be used at any time.

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have 1-2 small group sessions a day and some students have a few each week. These sessions are **really** where students will learn to read. Some students have been confused about the schedule or haven't been attending these afternoon sessions. Please make sure your children know when they should come to small groups. K-3 families can check the students SeeSaw for information. 4th grade small group times are on Google Classroom. This is one of their MOST important times of day.

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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

[Add us to your address book](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?

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



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

Awbury Weekly Wissahickon 9/18/2020

1 message

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

Fri, Sep 18, 2020 at 1:05 PM

[View this email in your browser](#)



Dear Families,

I hope you are well and settling into new routines. On our end, we are learning every day how to use our tools more effectively. This takes time and humor and a lot of patience. Thank you for working with us.

The biggest challenge continues to be with technology. We are still expecting our large shipment of iPads and Chromebooks in the coming weeks and we're eager to get them out in your hands. In the meantime, I'm so glad that you have been reaching out to our helpdesk with all technology questions. You can do that by emailing helpis@wissahickoncharter.org. I ask for your patience as you submit items for help. Please know that our IT professionals are addressing all items in the order that they come in and each one takes time.

I also want to share that we are planning a Back to School Night but just like everything this year, it won't be the typical format. This will be structured more as an online evening for you to get support in any areas that are proving difficult. Stay tuned for more information!

Finally, last week we shared Zoom norms for students. Today, I'm sharing Zoom Norms for you as families and caregivers. Please see below for these.

Zoom Norms for Grown-ups

While teachers are online with students, we ask that you treat that time the same way you would as if they were teaching in the classroom. Please address any concerns or questions to teachers as follows:

- Send the teacher a message on ClassTag to set up a time to talk when it's convenient. This would apply to anything you'd like to discuss with them, like calling on students equitably or questions about the curriculum.
- For in the moment tech help, please reach out to Ms. Kate, Lower School Principal (oshea@wissahickoncharter.org) or Ms. Polite, Middle School Principal (lpolite@wissahickoncharter.org) so that the rest of the class isn't interrupted.
- Tech support hours are also available daily from 3-4 with Mr. Ish and Mr. Mike: <https://zoom.us/j/273141506?pwd=Q010SUdlVDF0eXJOcnE0RDdreGtHdz09> (password: tech)

Also, please be mindful of background noise because students are often muting and unmuting to participate. It's very helpful for all students to wear headphones and/or be in a quiet spot in the house.

Warmly,
Kristi

Important dates:

Friday September 25th - School Spirit Day and Virtual Self-Love Dance Party!

Wear your WCS gear to Zoom School! Kindergarteners wear blue or orange! Show your school pride.

Monday September 28th - Yom Kippur- Administrative Offices and School Closed

Meals

WCS 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. Meal Pickup days are Mondays and Thursdays, 11AM-2PM. For families who are not able to pick up meals on our days and times, please know you can pick up meals at a School District of Philadelphia site closer to your home on Fridays 9AM-2PM. The list of participating sites can be found [here](#).

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
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. 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.

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Family Update on Specials

Our outdoor program Specials in the Park officially kicked off this week! That means online specials will look a little different going forward.

Students are expected to attend the full 45 minute synchronous online specials on Monday and Tuesday. If you attend an in person Specials in the Park you are given attendance credit for Specials that day. You will also not be penalized for missing class sessions during that block. This is when content-area teaching occurs, as well as when work is assigned for the week for grades 4 and up.

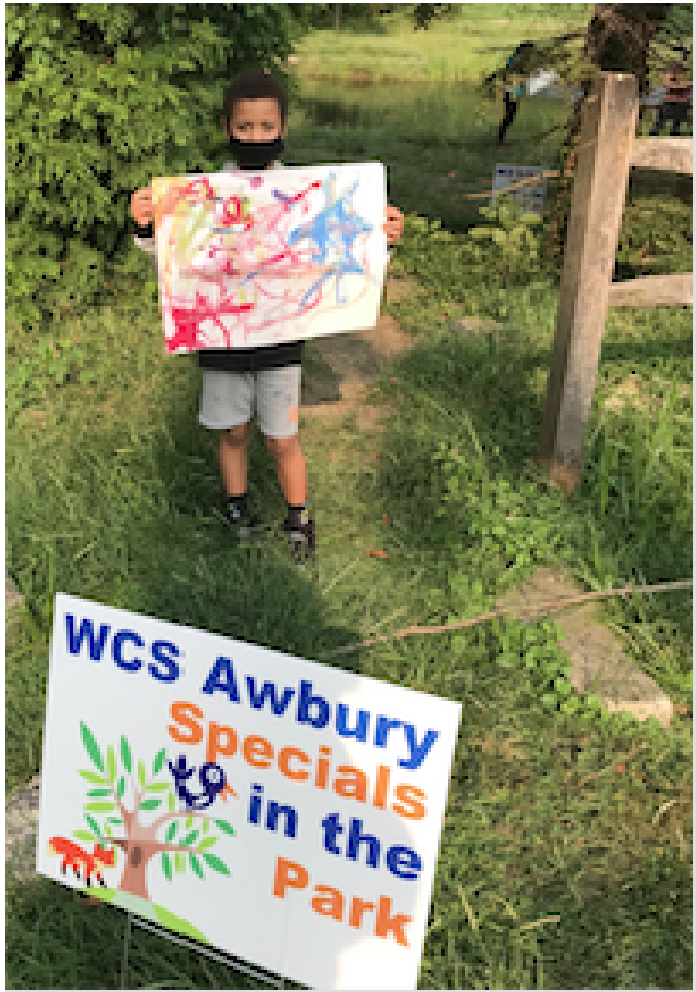
Students are expected to attend for the first 25 minutes of synchronous online specials on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. These specials are held by support staff due to the regular special teachers hosting in-person events at the arboretum. During these special blocks, students can work on the week's assignment OR use the specials bingo card that the support staff will support them in completing.

If you would like more information about our Specials in the Park program (a safe, outdoor learning opportunity for students of all ages), [click here](#)! We would love to see you in the arboretum.

Here's a sneak peak at our first Art sessions in the park!



Specials in the Park Registration is live for September 23 - 25!



You must [register on Eventbrite](#) and fill out a [digital permission slip](#) for your child to attend. Please make sure to do both prior to the event!

Specials in the Park is a free, outdoor program open to Wissahickon students of all ages. Students may attend one session per week. Specials in the Park was designed with both safety and social-emotional health in mind. Students split up into small groups during each hour-long session and rotate through Art, P.E., Discovery & Library stations. For more info (and a map of where to meet us), check out our [Frequently Asked Questions document](#).

Questions? Reach out to a specialist on ClassTag or email us at specialists-aw@wissahickoncharter.org.

School wide celebration

WCS will be celebrating our students this month by having a Virtual Self-Love Dance Party Friday, September 25th 3:00-4:00 PM. Stay tuned for the zoom link.

Lower School

For the month of September, students that have attended at least 80% of their Zoom

classes will earn a digital coupon to The Pretzel Factory that can be used at any time.

Middle School

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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>





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

Awbury Weekly Wissahickon 9/11/2020

1 message

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

Fri, Sep 11, 2020 at 1:12 PM

[View this email in your browser](#)



Dear Families,

What a week! Thank you to everyone who came out for Materials Pick Up and to all of the students. It was exciting to see you again and to see your enthusiasm for being back together. Thanks also to everyone for their patience as we deal with the inevitable technical glitches that come with a fully remote model.

Here's some important information for this week:

- If you did not go to school for the Materials Pick Up, make a plan now to drop by next week on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday between 9:00am-3:00pm. The front office can hand out the materials that were given out this week.

- We are hopeful that we will have all new technology for everyone in about a month but this situation is very much outside of our control. **In the meantime, if you do NOT have any kind of device other than a phone on which to access our program, you must reach out to us immediately so we can troubleshoot with you. Please contact Ishmell Bradley at helpis@wissahickoncharter.org and cc: Ms. Kate at oshea@wissahickoncharter.org on this email as well so we are all in the loop.** Again, while a phone will allow your child to get on Zoom, it is not appropriate for the kinds of platforms we are using now.
- See below for a description of our Zoom norms.
- See below for more information about Meal Distribution.

School-Wide Norms Established by the Culture Think Tank

You need to be able to Listen, See & Speak

Zoom Norms

- Video on and eyes on screen (Permission to be off camera can be messaged privately or use of a virtual screen to allow privacy)
- Muted when not speaking
- Face is fully visible in the screen
- Focused conversation (to content) in the chat box, or chat box may get turned off
- Raise hand to be called on before unmuting
- Do not draw/annotate on the screen during academic time or share without permission
- Bathroom use: turn off camera and leave your laptop or tablet. Write a note in the chat to the teacher

Work Space

- Try to find a quiet space to be or use headphones
- Materials on hand
- Appropriate school dress
- Location that supports working/writing/typing (a table or desk where you can write/type easily is best; lying down in your bed is not appropriate)

Meals

WCS 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. Meal Pickup days are Mondays and Thursdays, 11AM-2PM. For families who are not able to pick up meals on our days and times, please know you can pick up meals at a School District of Philadelphia site closer to your home on Fridays 9AM-2PM. The list of participating sites can be found [here](#).

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
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. 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.

Warmly,
Kristi

8th Grade Families

This is the final year and we're already preparing to help your students reach the next milestone. 8th Grade Classtag Classrooms have been created and if you haven't received an invite, you should soon. This will be where your counselor will share information related to updates on high school applications. Also, our High School Matters webpage has a few updates so please check it out [here](#)!

Specials in the Park starts September 16th

Please see [here](#) for more info. [Registration is now open](#) for our first week, as of 12pm on Friday, September 11. Please make sure you fill out a [digital permission slip](#) before registering. Your child cannot attend without a permission slip.

Specials in the Park is a free, outdoor program begins SEPTEMBER 16 and is open to Wissahickon students of all ages. Students may attend one session per week. Specials in the Park was designed with both safety and social-emotional health in mind. Students will split up into small groups during each hour-long session and rotate through Art, P.E., Discovery & Library stations. For more info, check out our [informational flyer](#) and [Frequently Asked Questions document](#).

Questions? Reach out to a specialist on ClassTag or email us at specialists-aw@wissahickoncharter.org

Love,

Ms. Tamara (Art), Mr. Jim (P.E.), Ms. Liz (Discovery), and Ms. Kate (Library)

Community Resources

Childcare, Activities, and Meal Resource List

Please check out [this list](#) of support and resources for families in Philadelphia. For questions email WCS AfterSchool Program Director, Melissa Pendleton at m.pendleton@wissahickoncharter.org.

Free City Childcare

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 child care five days a week. Space is limited and registration in advance is required.

Pandemic Learning Center

The Organization JNH GROUP ENTERPRISE LLC in partnership with the Jones Temple Church of God In Christ is now offering a Pandemic Learning Center for grades K-5 offering students a fun and safe environment to complete their school work. At the center there will be full time tutors to help ensure that all students are completing their work. JNH is offering 50 % off to all Wissahickon students. Please contact Mr. Hill @ 484-649-3198 for more information.

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>



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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

[Add us to your address book](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?

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





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

Back To School Weekly Wissahickon 9/4/2020

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

Fri, Sep 4, 2020 at 7:59 AM

[View this email in your browser](#)



TUESDAY is the FIRST Day of School!
Everyone should log on at 8:30 AM. Can't wait to see you!
MATERIALS PICK UP IS SEPTEMBER 8TH-10TH FROM 9:00AM - 5:00PM.
KINDERGARTEN FAMILIES ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO COME TUESDAY MORNING. ALL OTHER GRADES, PLEASE AVOID TUESDAY MORNING. SEE NOTE BELOW.

Dear Families,

Thank you SO much for all of your engagement this week as we started the year with conferences. I hope the conversations were helpful to you in learning more about our virtual

model. Just as importantly, I hope it was a good chance for you, your child, and the teacher to start to build a relationship.

Here are some important reminders to make sure we all have a strong start:

- School starts next week, Tuesday September 8th! Everyone should be in class starting at 8:30. If you have any questions about how to log on, please reach out to your child's teacher.
- **Plan** to go to school anytime between 9:00-5:00 on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday of next week to pick up **important materials** for your child to start the year. **Kindergarten families are strongly encouraged to pick up all materials & devices Tuesday morning. Kindergarten programming will begin Tuesday afternoon. All other grades - 1st-8th - please avoid coming Tuesday morning if at all possible.** This will allow all Kindergarten families to pick up required supplies to start school Tuesday afternoon.
- For more information on the Materials Pick Up, see the email that was sent out last week on Tuesday, September 1st. That email is also at the very bottom of this message. A reminder that EVERY WCS student will get a device but we are still waiting on the shipment. You will be notified once you can pick those up.
- Please make sure you have signed up with your phone number for CLASS TAG. This will be how WCS and your child's teacher communicate with you.
- If you have a device from WCS that is having a problem, please contact our helpdesk: helpis@wissahickoncharter.org.

Reach out with any questions. We're here to help and want to make sure you have everything you need!

Warmly,
Kristi



A Message from Ms Kate and Ms Polite

We miss you all! We are excited to see you in the Zoom Room on Tuesday and look forward to an amazing year. While the year may be tough, we know, we all are TOUGHER! We got this! We appreciate all of the families for your flexibility and dedication.

What to do to prepare for school on Tuesday

K- 3rd Grade

- Please make sure your child has logged on to SeeSaw (K-3) and has started getting comfortable with the programs. To access SeeSaw, you need the students' new class code found in their password letter that was emailed to you.
- Teach your children how to log on to zoom using the links in their SeeSaw page.
- Make sure their device has the following apps: SeeSaw, Zoom, reading Horizons, Dreambox and Raz Kids (Epic in 3rd). See their password email for more info.
- Make sure your child has a quiet space to work, with room to write and complete work. Ideally, a desk or a table is best. Headphones really help as well. They should have their at home supplies ready to go and organized. Send in pictures of your child's remote learning area so we can share them!

4th-8th Grade

- Please make sure your child has logged on to Google Classroom and has started getting comfortable with the programs. To access Google Classroom, the students need to log in through their WCS email. The password for all WCS emails were reset to *wc123abc*.
- Make sure your child has a quiet space to work, with room to write and complete work. ideally a desk or a table is best. Headphones really help as well. They should have their at home supplies ready to go and organized. Send in pictures of your child's remote learning area so we can share them!

8th Grade Families

Welcome back! This is the final year and we're already preparing to help your students reach the next milestone. 8th Grade Classtag Classrooms have been created and if you haven't received an invite, you should soon. This will be where your counselor will share information related to updates on high school applications. Also, our High School Matters webpage has a few updates so please check it out [here](#)!

Specials in the Park starts September 16th

Please see [here](#) for more info. Next week's Weekly Wissahickon will include a link for signing up for the week!

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](#)

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[8th Grade Remote Learning Schedule](#)

Community Resources

Childcare, Activities, and Meal Resource List

Please check out [this list](#) of support and resources for families in Philadelphia. For questions email WCS AfterSchool Program Director, Melissa Pendleton at m.pendleton@wissahickoncharter.org.

Free City Childcare

From our Counselors: The City of Philadelphia's Access Centers are offering a safe place for children to learn digitally for parents/guardians who work outside the home and have no childcare support. Registration is required.

The staff at these centers:

- Supervise students during digital learning time.
- Provide meals.
- Run activities.

Please follow the website here: <https://www.phila.gov/programs/access-centers/> to find out more information and registration. Let your counselor know if you have any questions or need further support. To reach the Awbury Counselor, Ms. Abby a.beljean@wissahickoncharter.org

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>

LAST WEEK'S EMAIL ABOUT MATERIAL PICK UP

September 1, 2020

Dear families,

We are asking that you come by school any time between the hours of 9:00AM- 5:00PM on September 8th through 10th to pick up materials that your child will need for this school year.

You do **NOT** need to arrive early to get supplies-- there is plenty for everyone. As you approach the entrance to the school, please use the line markers that show where you should stand to ensure social distancing. Please only send one person into the building for every two students you have at WCS.

Please bring with you:

- Your child's summer work to turn in
- Any WCS library books to return
- Any outstanding paperwork for the Front Office
- Any loaner devices from WCS that are having issues (**SEE NOTE ON TECHNOLOGY BELOW**)

Materials you will receive vary by grade but may include:

- Hands on tools for Math
- Math workbooks
- Books (novels for whole classes to read)
- Art materials
- Phonics workbooks
- Composition books
- Chromebook (Kindergarten only)
- And MORE!

Keeping our community safe:

- You and we are required to wear masks (covering nose and mouth)
- We will screen for COVID symptoms
- Required use of hand sanitizer at entrance
- Social distancing will be mandated
- There will be one way traffic in the building. Please take note of the direction to move in, through, and out of the building.
- We will limit the number of people in the building at any given time.

Warmly,
Kristi



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

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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

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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

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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.

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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

[View this email in your browser](#)



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.

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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](#).

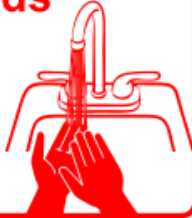
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Follow WCS on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) for important school updates and to see student learning and fun in action! And don't be shy, we love it when you like, comment, and share our posts!

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



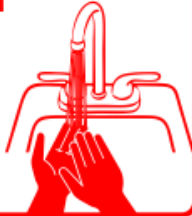
Apply
soap



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

[View this email in your browser](#)



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

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](#)

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.

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 8/7/2020

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

[View this email in your browser](#)



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

[View this email in your browser](#)



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

[View this email in your browser](#)



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

Awbury Summer Weekly Wissahickon 7/17/2020

1 message

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

Fri, Jul 17, 2020 at 11:30 AM

[View this email in your browser](#)



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.

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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

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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

Parents if any of your information has changed...phone number, mailing address, email, etc., please email all updated information to 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.

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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

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

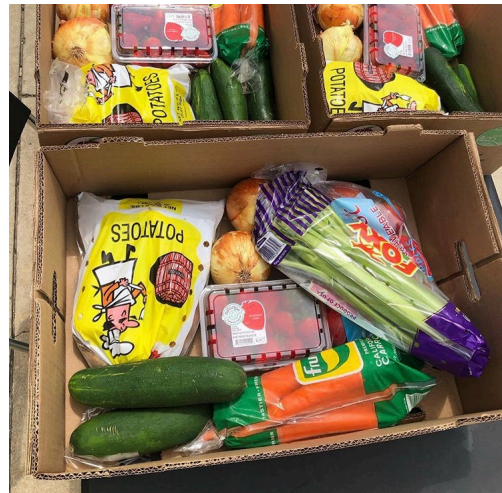
6-8: Khan Academy

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!