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Governor Wentworth Regional School District

Brookfield, Effingham, New Durham, Ossipee, Tuftonboro, Wolfeboro

Post Office Box 190, Wolfeboro Falls, New Hampshire 03896-0190

Helping Each Child Create the Future

August 24, 2022

Dear Governor Wentworth Regional School District & Middleton Families,

I am honored to be writing to you for the first time as your superintendent of schools. I have already met many members of our community including parents, students, teachers, administrators, first responders, town representatives, and many staff members. From these meetings, it is clear that providing a high quality education and a safe and secure learning environment is a priority among our peers and neighbors. I want to thank everyone for a very warm welcome to my new role at GWRSD.

As a new member of the District, I know that my learning has just begun. I presented an 'entry-plan' to the GWRSD School Board at the August 15th, 2022 Board Meeting which is now linked to our website: www.gwrdsd.org. It includes a roadmap detailing how I will learn about Governor Wentworth schools & Middleton, how I will involve stakeholders, and the outcomes I aim to achieve through this plan. I hope you will consider participating in opportunities for the community to share input at various times this school year.

Whether you are new to the community, entering a new school, or a returning student and family, faculty and staff are preparing to welcome you to the 2022-2023 school year. Information about meet & greets, open houses, and various start-of-school activities will be available on the school website as well as in back-to-school letters sent home. We are eager to welcome our students in just a couple of weeks!

Finally, thank you for your continuous support and participation in public education. We are an amazing educational community. We couldn't do it without you. I have included some important updates for your review.

Sincerely,



Caroline Arakelian, PhD
Superintendent of Schools
carakelian@SAU49.org

School Meals: Application Required for Free/ Reduced Lunch

The federal government allowed schools to offer free meals to all students during the pandemic, however Congress did not extend this benefit for next school year. Families that are eligible for free or reduced price meals must apply to receive them, and all other students must pay full price for their meals. The application process for free and reduced price meals opens on July 1, families can go online at www.myschoolapps.com or fill out an application at any school within the district. Visit our Food Service web page for more information: www.gwrsdfoodservice.org.

GWRSD Adopts CDC & NH DHHS Close Contact Quarantine Rule Change

Close contacts of those who test positive for COVID-19 will no longer be required to quarantine per the GWRSD Stay-Open change effective August 15th, 2022. On August 12th, NH DHHS announced that they will adopt the CDC updated guidelines that relaxes the requirement for close contacts to quarantine if there is a positive test result in the home regardless of vaccination status. Click the link to read the complete advisory from NH DHHS: [COVID-19 Pandemic, Update # 64: Updated CDC COVID-19 Prevention and Quarantine Guidance](#).

Both the NH DHHS and CDC continue to recommend individuals stay home when feeling sick and await test results prior to returning to school or the workplace. Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 will be required to quarantine for five days and return on day six provided symptoms are improving. Please reach out to the health office at your school if you have any questions regarding quarantine and safe practices to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Bus Route Changes: 2022-2023

GWRSD routes are posted [here](#) (Middleton routes are shared on Facebook and will be posted [here](#) as of 8/30). Please take note of your students' bus route and stop as there have been some changes made for this school year. It may be the case that the bus stop is farther away from your home than in years past due to driver shortages. As a result of the shortages, we have had to reduce the number of stops, combine select routes, and shift to a larger vehicle in some instances. We are striving to accommodate families as much as possible given the current situation with staffing, vehicles, and transportation resources. Thank you for your patience as we continue to be as strategic and accommodating while following the New Hampshire bus stop distance rules for students.

We're Hiring!

Please help us spread the word about our open positions! We are looking for caring individuals to work with our incredible students and staff. Prospective candidates can reach out to principals if they have questions about flexible hours. GWRSD and Middleton are hiring for the following open positions: paraprofessional, substitute, long-term substitute, lunch/recess proctor, reading assistant (Title 1), food service, office assistant, hall monitor, high school coach, bus driver and more.

Click the "[Employment](#)" link at the top of the district website for all GWRSD & Middleton employment information including locations & the application process.

NH Education Department Information

Families encouraged to sign up for free or discounted high-speed internet. To ensure that families in NH are connected to reliable broadband services, NHED and ExcelinED are sharing important information about the Affordable Connectivity Program, which lowers internet costs for eligible families, including students approved to receive benefits under the National Free and Reduced-Price Lunch Program and school breakfast program. For families to enroll, they must complete the application at [ACPBenefit.org](https://www.acpbenefit.org), and contact their preferred participating internet provider to select a plan and have the discount applied to their bill. The Affordable Connectivity Program is a Federal Communications Commission Benefit Program.

New Hampshire expands access to free online tutoring for students. Continuing with its efforts to close gaps and recover from missed learning, the New Hampshire Department of Education has selected Tutor.com to provide 24/7 online tutoring for every middle and high school student in the state. Through this partnership, more than 100,000 middle and high school students will gain unlimited access to Tutor.com – anytime, anywhere, from any internet-connected device. Please stay tuned for more information regarding how KRMS & KRHS students can take advantage of this service.

Upcoming Events

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
9/1	KRHS Jump Start 7:25am-12:00pm KRMS Gr. 7 Jump Start 7:25am-12:00pm KRMS Gr. 8 Meet & Greet 2:00pm-3:00pm GWRSD K-6 Meet & Greet 3:00-4:00 Middleton Meet & Greet 4:00-5:00
9/6	First Day of School for Students
9/12	New Teacher Reception 4:00pm @ LRTC School Board Meeting 7:00pm @ LRTC
9/14	KRMS Open House
9/15	KRHS Open House
9/21	Crescent Lake Open House
9/22	Carpenter School Open House Effingham Elementary School Open House Tuftonboro Central School Open House
9/28	New Durham School Open House Ossipee Central School Open House

