



WILMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Virtual Community Forum

Glenn Brand, Ed.D. , Superintendent of Schools

April 27, 2021

Overview of the Forum

❖ Community Q & A

❖ Updates

- Health Guidance
- Social & emotional Support
- Special Education
- MCAS & AP Testing

❖ Looking Ahead to the Spring & Summer

- Summer Academic Programming
- Class Placement Information
- Upcoming school events
- C.A.R.E.S.
- Food Services
- Athletics

Questions from the Community:



- Has WPS given thought to offering a virtual/remote learning option for the 2021-22 school year?
- Please share information about where each grade is at this year as pre-COVID years academically? Can you share any steps/actions that are being taken to close learning gaps and are there additional budgets/funding in place for these efforts
- How are we now teaching during quarantine and how will we later handle educating during quarantine at each grade/school level?
- What does the 2021-22 school year look like for you at this point in time with respect to social distancing/masks etc.
- Why does school start for late in the year for the 2021-22 school year?
- Is Wilmington planning on applying for the Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) funds and what kinds of things are being requested?
- Will alternatives to kids sitting on the gym floor be considered? Could additional desks be purchased or tables spaced out for lunch?
- Is there an update on MCAS testing?
- Please share the implementation of the lunch time and health and safety protocols that have been instituted for utilizing the middle school gymnasium floor as a lunchroom surface. Please also share why other options such as tents, or bringing in tables and chairs to the gymnasium or use of the auditorium were deemed to not be viable options?
- Upon return to normalized in person learning in the fall, it is expected that student evaluations, therefore possible support and special ed. action services, may increase.
 - How is the district planning to address this, from coverage of mainstream classrooms for teachers to attend meetings, to additional staff required to meet the needs of those students that will qualify for 504's and Ed plans?
 - How is the district planning to meet children identified as risk or diagnosed w dyslexia?

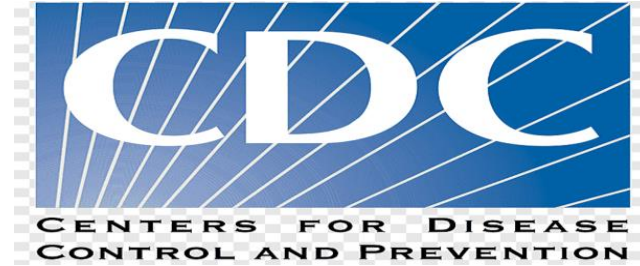
Updates on Health Guidance Around Close Contacts & Our Response

The following update to the quarantine guidance for close contacts was posted by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and MA Department of Public Health (DPH) . This updated guidance went into effect the week of April 20, 2021.

- Close contacts who were exposed to a COVID-19 positive individual **in the classroom or on the bus while both individuals were masked** do not have to quarantine unless they were within 3 feet of distance of the COVID-19 positive individual for a total of 15 minutes during a 24-hour period.
- This **does not** apply if someone was identified as a close contact outside of the classroom or bus (e.g. in sports, extra-curriculars, lunch, etc.) or if masks are not worn by both persons at the time of the exposure.
- All other close contacts must follow the standard protocol for when a close contact may return to school.

What this means in practice is that anyone who is within 3 - 6 feet distance of an individual who tested positive in the classroom or on the bus, no longer needs to quarantine. They do however, need to get tested and must send the results to the school nurse. They may attend school and should actively monitor for symptoms.

CDC Guidelines



As a reminder, the CDC defines a close contact as:

- Being within 6 feet of a COVID-19 case (someone who has tested positive) for a total of 15 minutes during a 24-hour period. Multiple brief or transitory interactions (less than a minute) throughout the day are unlikely to result in 15 minutes of cumulative contact and do not meet the definition of close contact. Being in the same room as an individual if you are consistently separated by 6 feet of distance does not meet the definition of a close contact.
- Close contact can occur while being with, caring for, living with, visiting, or sharing a healthcare waiting area or room with a COVID-19 case, OR
- Having direct physical contact with the person (e.g. hugging or kissing), OR
- Sharing eating or drinking utensils, OR
- Having direct contact with infectious secretions of a COVID-19 case (e.g., being coughed on) while not wearing recommended personal protective equipment

For more information, please visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>

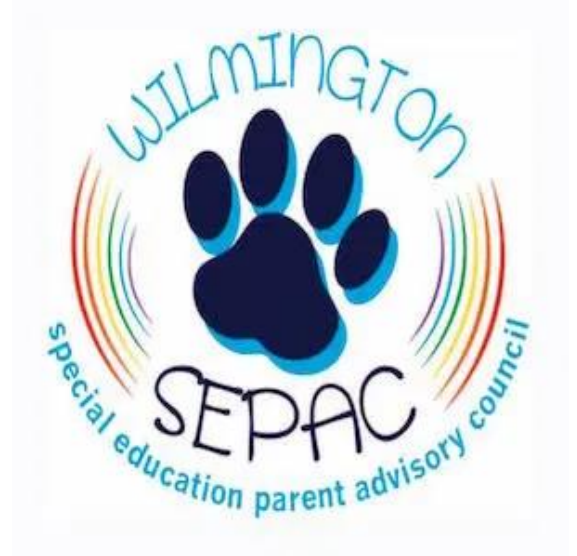
Social Emotional Support

- Wilmington Public Schools, in Collaboration with McLean Hospital Anxiety Mastery Program, Present for parents/guardians a “**Lunch and Learn**”: A Deeper Dive into Effective Coping for Children and Adolescents this **Friday, April 30th 12:00PM-1:00PM** Please register on the district’s website under the Student Support Services page. A virtual link will be emailed to you prior to the presentation.
- **Panorama Education:** The district will be assessing students’ social emotional learning through a survey developed by Panorama. Data obtained by the results will guide programming for students, schools and the district in the coming year.
- **Additional resources** for social, emotional, behavioral and mental health needs are available on the district’s website under the Student Support Services page.

Special Education Updates

- **SEPAC:** The next SEPAC meeting will be held virtually on May 13, 2021 @ 6:30 PM. A link will be shared on the district's website, twitter and email.
- **Summer Services:** For those students that have IEP related summer services:
 - **Programs** will be provided 6/28/21-8/5/21
 - **Tutoring** services will be provided 6/29/21-7/22/21

Student specific information will be coming from the Office of Student Support Services and your child's liaison.



MCAS Updates: Grades 3-5



WILMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Spring 2021 MCAS Schedule: Grades 3-5

All MCAS assessments will be administered in-person on the dates indicated below.

School	English Language Arts		Mathematics		Science and Technology/Engineering	
Shawsheen Elementary School	Grade 3 In-Person Students	May 20 and 21	Grade 3 In-Person Students	June 3 and 4	NA	
	Grade 3 Remote Students	May 19	Grade 3 Remote Students	June 2		
School	English Language Arts		Mathematics		Science and Technology/Engineering	
Woburn St. Elementary School	Grade 3 In-Person Students	May 20 and 21	Grade 3 In-Person Students	June 3 and 4	NA	
	Grade 3 Remote Students	May 19	Grade 3 Remote Students	June 2		
School	English Language Arts		Mathematics		Science and Technology/Engineering	
North Intermediate School	Grade 4 In-Person Students	May 13	Grade 4 In-Person Students	May 24	NA	
	Grade 5 In-Person Students	May 14	Grade 5 In-Person Students	May 25	Grade 5 In-Person Students	June 8
	Grade 4 and 5 Remote	May 12	Grade 4 and 5 Remote	May 26	Grade 5 Only Remote Students	June 9
School	English Language Arts		Mathematics		Science and Technology/Engineering	
West Intermediate School	Grade 4 In-Person Students	May 13	Grade 4 In-Person Students	May 24	NA	
	Grade 5 In-Person Students	May 14	Grade 5 In-Person Students	May 25	Grade 5 In-Person Students	June 8
	Grade 4 and 5 Remote Students	May 12	Grade 4 and 5 Remote Students	May 26	Grade 5 Only Remote Students	June 9

- MCAS administration in grades 3-5 will be administered according to this schedule.
- We have recently learned that there may be an opportunity for remote students to participate in the assessments remotely.
- We are awaiting further guidance expected later this week and will update families with remote students as soon as we know more.

MCAS Updates: Grades 6-8

- 6th Grade ELA- May 19
- 6th Grade Math- June 2

- 7th and 8th Grade ELA- May 20
- 7th and 8th Grade Math- June 3

- 8th Grade STE- June 8

- We have recently learned that there may be an opportunity for remote students to participate in the assessments remotely.
 - We are awaiting further guidance expected later this week and will update families with remote students as soon as we know more.

MCAS and AP Exam Updates 9-12

- Grade 10 ELA testing sessions will be held on May 17 and May 18
- Grade 10 Math sessions and the Grade 9 Science sessions on June 2 and June 3
 - We are not allowed to offer remote testing for grade 10 students. They will have the option of testing this spring or they can test when the retest is offered in the fall.
- AP exams are scheduled from May 18 - May 28 and some of that testing involves grade 10 students, so there will be no MCAS testing during that window.
- Juniors will be invited to test with the sophomores if they are interested in the scholarships associated with MCAS scores. They also have the option of either spring or fall testing.

LOOKING AHEAD TO THE SUMMER & BEYOND



Summer Academic Programming

- School districts throughout the Commonwealth are being encouraged to offer some type of summer academic program for students.
- DESE has not established any requirements or expectations around the structure of such programs, including such things as decisions around the age/grade of students targeted the duration of a program or what exactly the focus of any such programs should be.
- It will be the case that summer programming will vary greatly from one school district to another.

Two things to note:

1. What we will ultimately be able to offer is entirely contingent upon staff interest as the total number of staff available will determine the total number of sections/grades we can offer.
2. WPS will continue to offer the traditional extended year program as required to meet the needs of students as called for on their individual education plan

Summer Academic Programming Continued

- At the present time, tentative planning for the summer academic program includes:
 - An option for K-5 students identified by their teachers as potentially at-risk or those who would benefit most from academic support over the summer.
 - Students in grades 6-12 will have an opportunity to pursue remediation and credit recovery.
 - Students will participate in the program for the grade level they just completed.
 - Priority will be given to teacher recommendations and, if additional seats are available, spots will be opened up for other interested students through a lottery system.
 - Anticipated dates of the program will be during the month of July, running Monday through Thursday from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.
 - These programs will be free of charge for students and supported through the various financial grant opportunities that the District has received.
 - The goal of the program will be to reinforce and practice grade-level skills in ELA and Mathematics with the primary intention of minimizing summer regression.

Class Placement Information For SY 2021-22

- Last year we decided to delay the release of class placement information until the early part of August for a number of reasons:
 - Considerable changes can occur in terms of both staffing and student enrollment over the summer,
 - We find it beneficial to share information about a child's class or teacher placement when it is less likely to change.
- As a result and similar to last year, all student class placement information will be released at the beginning of August



WHS Upcoming Events

May 11 - WHS Concert Band Concert

May 13 - Senior Prom at Castleton in NH

May 25 - Jazz Band Concert

June 4 - Class of 2021 Scholarship Night

June 6 - Class of 2021 Graduation (June 7 - Rain date)

Stay tuned for more information on:

- Underclass Awards Night
- National Honor Society Induction Ceremony



Early Childhood Centers

The Boutwell Early Childhood Center Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) is holding a "virtual" Scholastic Book fair from May 3rd to May 16th. Parents/Guardians will be getting a flyer and notice sent home within the next week.

For any **new kindergarten families** moving to Wilmington, registration occurs at the student's local school building.

Details on how to enroll in Kindergarten are available on the WPS website under the Families & Community tab.



WMS Drama Club

The Middle School Drama Club will host a performance of the “Help Desk” (A Stay-At-Home Play) **on May 14th and May 15th**

Play description:

When you call the help desk, you're looking for a solution - but your problems might just be beginning. Whether you're getting shamed about your inability to log in, giving your credit card information to a scammer, or having serious conversations with a clown, customer service calls spiral into absurdity for the customers and employees alike in this hilarious comedy.



Children's Art, Recreation & Enrichment Services (C.A.R.E.S.)

Spring:

- Returned to full coverage Grades 1-5 with 5 day in-person schedule.
- Re-opened afternoon coverage for Kindergarten (*space still available*).

Summer:

- Registration is currently open for Summer CARES. (registration closes May 24).
- Program runs June 28-August 12 @ North Intermediate School 8:00am-5:00pm.
- All Wilmington residents *entering* grades 1- 6 are eligible to attend.

All CARES program details are available on the WPS website under the Families & Community tab or at

<https://cares.wpsk12.com/>



WPS Food Services

- All breakfasts and lunches are free for the remainder of the school year.
- Also for the remainder of the school year, curbside meals will continue to be distributed on Tuesdays from 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm at WHS.
- For most of the summer, WPS will continue to distribute seven (7) breakfasts and seven (7) lunches (also free) with fresh produce and low fat milk. These will be distributed on Wednesdays from 9:30 am to 12:00 pm at WHS.
- WPS Food Service will also be providing free snacks (breakfast) and/or lunches to summer programs (more information to come soon).



WHS Athletic Department Spring & Summer Offerings

Spring Season Updates

The following sports will take place during the 2021 Spring Season:

Boys and Girls Lacrosse, Boys and Girls Tennis, Boys and Girls Outdoor Track, Baseball, Softball, Wrestling, and Cheer

Spring Season Dates: April 26th-July 3rd

Summer Wildcat Sports Clinic

The Wilmington High School Athletic Department sponsors a series of sports clinics for children in Grades 1-8. All clinics will be held at the Wilmington High School unless otherwise specified. All clinics will be run by WHS Coaches, Alumni, and Student-Athletes. The cost of most clinics is \$200 per child per clinic. Additional clinic enrollment is discounted.

- All clinics will run 9AM-2PM, Monday through Thursday, and 9AM-12PM on Friday.
- Exception, the first two clinics (Field Hockey and Boys Basketball) will be 4 full days, Tuesday through Friday, due to the Holiday.

The focus of each clinic is the development of skills through activity based drills and scrimmages. The ultimate goal of the clinics is to develop children who enjoy participating in athletics.

More information can be found on the WHS Athletic Website.

WHS Athletic Department Continued

Summer Wildcat Strength & Conditioning

About: A large part of an athlete's success during the season is a direct result of off-season training. Whether athletes participate in individual or team sports, off-season can help to improve athletic performance. This clinic will focus on three areas: strength, conditioning, and agility.

Details:

- Dates: July 5th-August 13th
- Grades: Incoming 8th grade - 12th grade
- Days: Monday/Wednesday/Friday
- Focus: Strength Training and Conditioning, Footwork, Agility
- Time: 7AM-830AM
- Location: Wilmington High School
- Cost: \$50/week or \$250 for all 6 weeks

More information can be found on the WHS Athletic Website.



Thank You Officer **Brian Moon**

.....for 26 years of service with the WPD and for helping keep our students and staff safe!

