

Jan. 15, 2021

## Wicoff Elementary School

**All WW-P Schools are closed Monday, Jan. 18 in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. In-person instruction will resume Tuesday, Jan. 19 with Hybrid Week 1 and All-In students.**

### IMPORTANT

- In-person learning will resume Tuesday, Jan. 19, with Hybrid 1 and All-In students.
  - To read the full message that was sent to all WW-P families and staff on Friday, Nov. 20, please click [here](#).
- The Technology Help Center has moved to the Penn Lyle Road entrance at HS South (346 Clarksville Road, West Windsor). The Help Center will be operating out of the entrance to the new theatre. Parents and staff should pull up to the theatre entrance and wait in their car to be greeted by a member of the technology staff. (See below for more information.)

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### PTA

Our first PTA event of the new year 2021, Coffee with the Principals, was so well attended! Thanks again to Dr. Michael Welborn, Ms. Lindsey Jablonski and Ms. Michele Kaish, BOE President, for their time and patience to answer each and every parent question.

We concluded our general meeting on the happy note that Wicoff School is the best! And we decided to wear our school pride by launching the online store for school spirit wear.

The **Wicoff School Spirit Wear Store is NOW OPEN online!** The wait is over! It will be so much fun to come together and show our unity in virtual school **Feb. 19, and Mar. 19, 2021**. The winning class accepting the spirit wear challenge will have an extra recess time as decided by the school administrators and announced on all social platforms. The school's spirit wear is a BLUE t-shirt with the school's mascot, Mr. Fox, on the front. It will be made available online for \$10.99 and will be shipped directly to individual homes for a shipping fee of \$3.99.

**Spirit Wear Online Store:** <https://wicoff21.itemorder.com/sale>

The Principal announced the **Reflections 2020** student entries that made it to the county level at the general meeting. Here are the students whose artwork made it to the next level. CONGRATULATIONS!: Shresta Gamini, Aditi Senthil, Chirag Kolla, Niveta Harish, Avighna Mohan, Anjali Prasannakumar, Harshika Santimurthy, D. Karthikeyan, Franklin Lawrence, Tanvika Ashwin, Aradhya Tungare, Johann Mekkunnel, Nikhil Nair.

Please reach out to Sanchita Sarkar or Chittal Sundaram for any question at [wicoff.ptainfo@gmail.com](mailto:wicoff.ptainfo@gmail.com)

**Upcoming event of the month:**

January 28 @ 7 p.m. – Virtual Family Game Night

**Questions?** Email us at [wicoff.ptainfo@gmail.com](mailto:wicoff.ptainfo@gmail.com).

**Useful PTA Links:** [PTA Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Wicoff's Twitter](#)

## **SEPTSA**

- **WW-P Special Education Parent Teacher Student Association (SEPTSA):** WW-P SEPTSA exists to support students and families of students with IEPs and 504 plans. Please join SEPTSA to be added to our mailing list and be sure to hear about upcoming events and speakers! Membership is open to all parents and families, older students (6th grade and above), and faculty and staff who support students with special needs. Please click [here](#) for more information.
- **Wednesday, Feb. 17, 7:00 PM: Successfully Navigating the IEP Process:** Join us in a conversation with special education attorney Norma Francullo, based in Montclair, NJ, to discuss parental and student rights under special education law and how to work with school districts to build an effective IEP. Gain a better understanding of how to use data to write meaningful IEP goals and measure progress. To RSVP and receive the Zoom link for the meeting, or if you have questions ahead of time that you'd like to submit, please email Jennifer Riccards at [jenballen@yahoo.com](mailto:jenballen@yahoo.com).
- **WW-P Special Education Parent Advisory Group (S.E.P.A.G.):** To support parents of students with an IEP or 504 plan, and to provide input to the district on special education issues, the WW-P SEPAG meets regularly throughout the school year. Additionally, SEPTSA/SEPAG hosts monthly virtual "office hours" for informal conversation and advice regarding issues around IEPs/504 plans.

- **Next "office hours" is Sunday, Jan. 24, from 4-6 PM.** Please contact Jennifer Riccards at [jenballen@yahoo.com](mailto:jenballen@yahoo.com) for more information or to receive the Zoom link. Future dates include Feb. 21, March 21, April 18, and May 23. All times are Sundays from 4-6 pm. (If you cannot make one of these times and would like support or to connect with other families dealing with similar situations, please feel free to contact Jennifer at any time.)

**Links:** [SEPTSA Facebook Page](#) | [SEPTSA Website](#) | [Membership Form](#)

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## School

**Friendly Reminder:** Monday, Jan. 18, schools are closed in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. In-person instruction will resume Tuesday, Jan. 19 with Hybrid Week 1.

## Technology Department:

- A friendly reminder to parents... [this message](#) was sent to all families regarding technology helpful tips and best practices. If you have not had the opportunity to read the letter, please take the time to familiarize yourself with these tips and practices.
- **Reminder: Effective Jan. 5, 2021, the Technology Help Center (formerly at High School North) will be located at High School South at 346 Clarksville Rd., West Windsor (please use the Penn Lyle Road entrance).** The Help Center will operate out of the entrance to the new theatre. Parents should pull up to the theatre entrance and wait in their car to be greeted by a member of the technology staff. The hours of operation will remain 12:45 - 3:15 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. WW-P students who need to request a device or with Chromebooks/iPads that are damaged or in need of repair should complete this [Google form](#) (students must log in to their Google account to access the form) prior to arriving at the Technology Help Center.

**TCRWP Instructional Support for Families:** Please see the resources listed below for supporting your child in virtual learning focusing on the areas of literacy (reading, writing, spelling and more). WW-P School District has had a long-standing partnership with Teachers College Reading and Writing Project (TCRWP). TCRWP has compiled a

variety of resources for families to support student learning in the varied environments this year. Please visit this link to consider resources you may find helpful: [TCRWP Resources for Families](#)

**Screen-Free Afternoons:** We are looking forward to continuing with Screen-Free afternoons in January. We are looking at Tuesday afternoons: Jan. 19 and Jan. 26. Grade 1, grade 2 and grade 3 classes will end at 1 p.m. AM Kindergarten will be on a regular schedule with some asynchronous learning and PM Kindergarten will go from 10:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. with some asynchronous learning. Please remember to have your child(ren) enjoy a variety of non-screen activities. Looking ahead... Screen-Free February dates are Thursday afternoons: Feb. 4, Feb. 11, Feb. 18 and Feb 25.

**Student New Supply Pick-Up:** A BIG THANK YOU to those parents who picked up their child's new supplies before winter break. If you were unable to pick up your child's new bag of supplies, please email our main office secretary, Lisa Recchia, [Lisa.Rechhia@ww-p.org](mailto:Lisa.Rechhia@ww-p.org) to make arrangements. You will need to park in the front lot of Town Center School and report to the main entrance where you will share your child's name and grade with the security officer. Making a sign with this information you can share with the security officer is helpful. The security officer will bring your child's supply bag to you. **If your child attends hybrid in-person he/she already received his/her supply bag in school.**

**Wicoff PTA:** Your help and support is needed! PTA membership is down this school year. Our school benefits from a supportive PTA. We appreciate all they do for our students, staff and parents. If you have not already joined the PTA, we urge you to join by clicking on the link below. We are hoping for 100 percent participation. [Wicoff PTA Membership](#)

**Volunteers Needed for Site-Based Council:** Wicoff's Site-Based Council is looking for new members. The Site-Based Council is a group of teachers and parents/caregivers working together to discuss issues and solve problems so that each child's experience at Wicoff is a positive and enriching experience. In the past, the Site-Based Council group members selected various issues to discuss and solve, however; this year the charge of the group will take on a different focus. The events occurring in our country have made it imperative that the Site-Based Council seeks a representative group of parents/caregivers to join with our teachers in tackling more specific issues of equity, diversity, inclusivity, and justice in our school.

Historically speaking, the Site-Based Council met approximately four times a year but, if our desires warrant more time to meet we would certainly accommodate that need. We know that your time is valuable and we want to make these meetings as beneficial as possible. ***Please note that the meetings will be virtual this school year.*** It is

our hope that you will consider joining us to find a voice in your school community and to ensure that your child is exposed to an education that values equity, diversity, inclusivity, and fairness for all. If you would be interested in serving on the Site-Based Council, please send an email to first grade teacher, Miss Sharon Refsin, who is the chairperson of the Site-Based Council, and copy principal, Dr. Michael Welborn.

**Here are the email addresses:** Sharon.Refsin@ww-p.org and Michael.Welborn@ww-p.org

**“Choose Kind” School Theme:** Wicoff’s “Choose Kind” theme will continue throughout the year. Staff and students are encouraged to wear KIND shirts or Wicoff shirts on Fridays.

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**District:** [WW-P District Website](#) | [Academic Calendars](#) | [Events Calendar](#)

## Reminders

- Please click [here](#) for the Jan./Feb./Mar. Hybrid Week Calendar as well as grade level Sample Rotations and Schedules.
- Due to the weather emergency closure day used Dec. 17, 2020, WW-P Schools will be open April 6, 2021. To view the revised **2020-21 school year calendar**, please click [here](#). Updated academic calendars may be found [here](#).
- **Screen-Free Afternoons:** January Screen-Free afternoons will be held on Tuesdays. Click [here](#) for upcoming dates as well as each school’s morning schedule on Screen-Free Afternoons
- **Contact Your School Nurse:** To ensure that the nursing staff has the most up-to-date information regarding your child’s health status, specifically related to COVID-19, please email your school nurse with any student COVID-related health updates.
- **Health Screening:** Please remember to complete the Daily Health Screening form for your child(ren) on the days they will be in-person. The form is located under the Forms tab in [Genesis](#).
- **Masks:** Please be advised that neither neck gaiters or valve masks provide appropriate protection and are not permitted for use on school or district grounds. Please use a mask with two or more layers that fits snugly over the nose and face. If a student does not have an appropriate mask, one will be provided by the district upon request.
- **Contact Information:** Is your contact information up-to-date in Genesis? If your email or phone numbers have changed, please make sure to update your information in Genesis. If you would like to opt-in to receive SMS text messages from the District, please text “Yes” to “67587” from a cell phone that is listed

with your contact information in Genesis. Text messaging rates may apply. For additional details, please click [here](#).

### **Counseling and Wellness**

- **Virtual Parent University:** Video and slides from the Jan. 12, 2021, *Coping with COVID: Under the Influence* presentation, are available [here](#).
- Save the date, the next Virtual Parent University, *Coping with COVID: Video Gaming Addiction*, is scheduled for Feb. 24, at 7 p.m.
- To view other past Parent University presentations, click [here](#).

### **Curriculum and Instruction**

- Have a question about Google Classroom? Not sure how to use Zoom? Check out these [resources for support](#) in the Families and Caregivers Tutorial Helpdesk.
- WW-P, as a member of The Teachers College Reading and Writing Project (TCRWP), benefits from the support with resources for our teachers. TCRWP has compiled a variety of resources for families to support student learning in the varied environments this year. Please visit TCRWP's [Resources for Families link](#) to consider resources you may find helpful including videos, authors reading their books, or register for FREE virtual office hours with a literacy expert.

### **Community Education**

- EDP is being offered for kindergarten through 5th grade students. Morning and afternoon care is available 5 days a week at your child's school. Care is available Monday-Friday when school is physically in session. AM care begins at 7 a.m., and afternoon care options include a 3:45 p.m. or 6 p.m. pick up time.
- Full day care is now available to students in grades K-8 during full-virtual days! Care is offered Monday-Friday at Village Elementary from 7 a.m. - 6 p.m. Register by noon the day before care is needed.
- Community Education is now offering EDP drop-in days! Need care only once in a while? Register in Community Pass under *2020-2021 EDP Drop In Days* for the type of care that is needed. Full day, before or after school options are available. Registration closes each day at 12 p.m. for the following day.
  - For more information, check out the offerings here: [EDP General Information](#).
- Registration for Virtual Winter Afterschool Enrichment - Session 2 *and* Weekend Programs are still open for registration! Community Education has added early evening and weekend classes to better suit your child's schedule. Check out the brochure here: [2021 Winter Program Guide](#).

- It's never too early to start thinking about Spring Break! Join Community Education for a virtual spring break camp experience. Students are able to engage with program staff members Monday through Thursday of break. New program vendors have been added! Not sure of which program to choose? Community Education will be hosting a Virtual Spring Break Open House on Saturday, Feb. 20. Check out the program offerings or get signed up for the open house here: [Virtual Spring Break Information](#)
- To register for Community Education programs, visit the [Community Pass Registration Link](#).

### **Food Services**

- Distribution for WW-P students who currently receive food benefits will occur on a weekly basis. Distribution will be held Mondays (unless otherwise noted due to the school calendar) at High School North from 3-6 p.m. Families who receive benefits will continue to receive emails asking for a response regarding participation for the coming week. Completing the registration form in the weekly email is required prior to pick up.
- In conjunction with the federal government and the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, a waiver has been issued that allows school-aged children access to nutritious meals. As a participant in the National School Lunch Program, all WW-P students are extended the opportunity to receive free breakfasts and lunches due to the ongoing COVID-19 health emergency. Click [here](#) for more information. Please register [here](#) by 12 p.m. Jan. 20, for the Monday, Jan. 25 distribution.
- Reminder: Registration for the TUESDAY, Jan. 19 distribution has closed. If you registered to receive the Jan. 19 meal kit pickup, it will be held from 3 -6 p.m. at High School North. For pickup, please have students' names on a piece of paper in **BOLD** letters and please wear a mask to keep volunteers safe during the check in process.
- To view this month's menus, please click [here](#).

### **Technology**

- WW-P students who need to request a device or with Chromebooks/iPads that are damaged or in need of repair should complete this [Google form](#) (students must log in to their Google account to access the form) and then come to High School South (346 Clarksville Road, West Windsor). Please enter using the Penn Lyle building entrance on Tuesday or Thursday from 12:45-3:15 p.m.

### **District Communication**

- WW-P uses SchoolMessenger as our [district communication tool](#). It is important to ensure that your contact information is up-to-date in Genesis.

### Virtual Community Events

- Click [here](#) for upcoming virtual events and activities from community groups and organizations.

### WW-P Education Foundation

- The Foundation is accepting requests through Feb. 10, for the [HEART Campaign](#). Give a Valentine's Day HEART to honor your child's teacher, guidance counselor, principal or staff member who makes a difference in their lives. Show them you love them!
- The Foundation is excited to announce the **Virtual Alumni College Panel Jan. 16 at 1:30 p.m.** The panel will include WW-P EF Youth Committee alumni. There will be an in-depth overview of popular student concerns about the college application process, as well as an interactive Q&A session. Our goal is to assist high school students in being more prepared for college and identify resources in WW-P that would help them achieve success in their future paths. A sneak peak at SOME of the topics that will be covered: What high school courses should I take for my desired major?, What exactly is in the college application process?, What do colleges generally look for in an application/applicant? Attendance is open to both Parents and Students! Register: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfSSCKIsa0jZZBRVYEKIzgsEh0YLni8SwTv-5dJ1M1ImTpZ5A/viewform>
- Sign up for the [Julia Robinson Math Festival!](#) The West Windsor-Plainsboro Education Foundation is excited to announce its 4th annual JRMF event, to be held virtually, Jan. 30, 2021, and Jan. 31, 2021. The festival is open to all K-8th grade students. If you love math or enjoy challenging yourself and would like to test your problem-solving skills. There will be a variety of fun and exciting activities for the students to explore, learn, and engage in, through collaboration and exploration. Space is limited.
  - Grades K-3 students, Jan. 30, 2-4 p.m. - <https://tinyurl.com/JRMFEvent>
  - Grades 4-8 students, Jan. 31, 1-3 p.m. - <https://tinyurl.com/JRMFEvent2>
  - For questions or more information: [email-info@wwpeducationfoundation.org](mailto:email-info@wwpeducationfoundation.org)

### WW-P Board of Education

- Check out the upcoming [Board of Education Meeting](#) dates. Agenda and materials for Board Meetings are published after 3:30 p.m. the Friday prior to the meeting.



**Follow the district on WW-P's official social media pages.**

[Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Youtube](#)