

Jan. 29, 2021

## Wicoff Elementary School

### IMPORTANT

- The week of Feb. 1 is Hybrid 1. Please click here for the [Feb./Mar. Hybrid Week Calendar](#) as well as grade level sample rotations and schedules.
  - WW-P Schools and Board Offices will be closed Friday, Feb. 12. Schools will be closed Monday, Feb. 15 for Professional Development.
  - 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.
- 

### PTA

- The **Wicoff School Spirit Wear Store is NOW OPEN online!** If you haven't ordered the school spiritwear, please order it SOON! 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 spiritwear 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. Click on the link below:
  - **Spirit Wear Online Store:** <https://wicoff21.itemorder.com/sale>
- **Wicoff Family Trivia Night:** Family Trivia Night was sold out! The enthusiasm of our students and their families was overwhelming. Thanks again to our parent volunteer, Loi Moliga for making the event interesting and fun. As always, our school administrators made the event so enjoyable.
- **Upcoming Event:** Feb. 11 - Shake a Leg with Ms. Babita Negi and teacher volunteers. Stay tuned for more information.
- **Amazon Smile:** Please take a moment to link your Amazon account to Amazon Smile. Select "33626 job wicoff elem school" as charity under Amazon Smile. Click <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/22-3447652>. This will be no cost to you! Amazon in turn donates 0.5% of your purchase to Wicoff PTA. Every dollar counts! And every good deed counts!

- **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 p.m.: 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).
- **NEW! WhatsApp group for WW-P Special Education families:** If you would like to connect with other WW-P families of special education students via WhatsApp, please complete this form and we will add you when the group is started -- [Connect with WWP special ed parents](#)
- **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, Feb. 21, from 4-6 p.m.** Please contact Jennifer Riccards at [jenballen@yahoo.com](mailto:jenballen@yahoo.com) for more information or to receive the Zoom link. Future dates include 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](#)

---

## School

**School Closed:** Feb. 12 and Feb. 15 (PD Day)

**School Photos:** Wicoff School Picture Days will be Feb. 18 and Feb. 25. Scheduling and ordering information will be sent out soon!

### 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: 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:** The next Screen-Free afternoon is Thursday, Feb 4. 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. 11, Feb. 18 and Feb 25. Here are some ideas for [screen free activities](#).

**Wicoff PTA:** Your help and support is needed! It is never too late to join. The PTA has offered some really fun and exciting events for the students already and will continue to offer more as this school year continues. 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](#)

**Still Looking - 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](mailto:Sharon.Refsin@ww-p.org)
- [Michael.Welborn@ww-p.org](mailto: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.

---

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

## Reminders

- Please click [here](#) for the Feb./Mar. Hybrid Week Calendar as well as grade level sample rotations and schedules.
- **Screen-Free Afternoons:** February Screen-Free afternoons will be held on Thursdays. Click [here](#) for upcoming dates as well as each school's morning schedule on Screen-Free Afternoons.
- **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 also 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](#).

## Health and Safety

- A [Health and Safety Update](#) from Dr. Aderhold was sent Friday, Jan. 22.

## Counseling and Wellness

- **Virtual Parent University:** Please join us for our next **Virtual Parent University on Wednesday, Feb. 24, 2021, at 7 p.m. via Zoom.** The topic will be "Coping with COVID-19: Video Gaming Addiction." For most players, playing video games is a fun activity, a way to relax, connect with friends, and enjoy a challenge, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Unfortunately, for some players, a video game hobby can escalate into an addictive disorder that takes over their lives. *Video Gaming Addiction* will examine the impact of video gaming on children and adolescents. Register in advance for this webinar: [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_nq-nMI1fQGGg6RMCUyIGxg](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_nq-nMI1fQGGg6RMCUyIGxg)
- 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

- Join Community Education for a virtual Spring Break experience!
- Virtual Spring Break registration has begun! New programs and vendors have been added. To view and register for programs, check out the brochure here: [2021 Virtual Spring Break Guide](#).
- *Take part in a virtual open house and have your questions answered! Community Education and the different program vendors will be hosting a Virtual Spring Break Open House on Saturday, February 20, 2020, beginning at 10:00 a.m. All information is listed on [page 11 of the brochure](#).*
- 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. Feb. 3, for the Monday, Feb. 8 distribution.
- Reminder: Registration for the Monday, Feb. 1 distribution has closed. If you registered to receive the Feb. 1 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

- Sign up for the [Julia Robinson Math Festival!](#) The West Windsor-Plainsboro Education Foundation is excited to announce the 4th annual JRMF event will 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)
- 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!

## 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](#)

