



Dear Parents,

Here we are again. We will be welcoming our students back to school next Wednesday morning! For our new families (and as a review for our returning families) we need to take a moment to go over the arrival and dismissal plan with everyone.

Students will again this year be entering the building as soon as they arrive at school, there will be no before school recess at the present time. All students will enter the building through the west doorway by the drop off area and proceed to their classrooms. All students will be required to wear a mask when entering the building. Sanitizer stations will be at the entryways and at the doorway of each classroom. Once again, we know that students are going to be very excited to see each other, but please reinforce with them that they must maintain social distancing as much as possible.

Parents who drop off students at school are to enter the first drive way on Washington Street and drive *slowly* up the hill to the school and stop. Parents can then exit down to the street through the teachers' lot to Washington Street. There is no parking in the school lot during the morning. At the present time we ask that parents not enter the building with their students. We know this is difficult, particularly at the start of the year. Teachers and faculty members will meet the little ones at the door to get them to class. Parents in grades Pre-K and Kindergarten will receive the plan for opening day and the first week in a separate letter.

At dismissal, parents will park in the playground area. Cars are to be lined up three deep facing away from the school building. A faculty member will begin dismissing the cars when all of the students are safely in the cars in the lot. PLEASE EXERCISE EXTREME CAUTION WHEN DRIVING IN THE SCHOOL YARD.

Families who will be utilizing the Stonington school buses have received this year's bus schedule. Bus students will be walked to the buses by a faculty member.

The first day of school is a Wednesday, that means that the uniform of the day is the regular dress uniform.

The Governor of CT has mandated that masks be worn by all students and teachers indoors in public and private schools under executive order until September 30. We will certainly try to get children outdoors as much as possible to provide opportunities for students to take a mask break. They will take off their masks while eating, and perhaps have short breaks during the day at the discretion of their teachers. This is what we did last year, and it worked very well. Please know, I am as anxious as anyone to get the students out of masks as much as possible, but I also want very much to have another successful school year. We will continue to follow the guidance and data going forward in making policy.

We are looking forward to getting back to as close to normal as we can under the circumstances. Once again this year, please remember, we have no COVID-19 in the building or in the school community at this time. If we all work together to keep our kids safe, we should continue to remain so. If your child is unwell, or has been exposed to someone with the virus, please keep him/her home until it is safe to return. New guidance from the CT State Department of Education and the Department of Public Health indicates that students exposed to Covid-19 in their classrooms do not have to quarantine if they have been three feet apart and wearing masks. We can do everything in our power to keep your children safe in the school; you have to keep them safe at home. We have a great community, I know we can do this!

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us either by phone or email. I am so looking forward to next week!

God Bless,
Doris Messina