

**ALICE A. MACOMBER SCHOOL**  
**FAMILY/STUDENT HANDBOOK**

2020-2021



**Alice A. Macomber School**  
**154 Gifford Road**  
**Westport, MA 02790**  
**508-678-8671**  
**Fax 508-673-4284**

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## TRANSLATIONS

For a translation of this or any other school notice, please contact the Superintendent of Schools at 508-636-1140.

### **Portuguese**

Contate por favor o superintendente das escolas pelo telephone (508) 636-1137 para qualquer tradução relacionada com esta ou outras notícias da escola.

### **Spanish**

Contacta por favor al superintendente de escuelas en(508) 636 1137 para una traducción de este o de cualquier otro ávido de la escuela.

### **French**

Veillez contacter le surveillant des écoles a (508) 636-1137 pour une traduction de ceci ou de n'importe quelle autre notification d'école.

### **German**

Treten Sie bitte mit dem Betriebsleiter der Schulen bei (508) 636-1137 für eine Übersetzung von diesem oder von jedem möglichem anderen Schulbegriff in Verbindung.

## **NONDISCRIMINATION AGREEMENT**

### **Nondiscrimination**

It is the policy of the Westport Community Schools to maintain a learning and working environment that is free from harassment, violence or discrimination based on actual or perceived race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex/gender, marital status, homelessness, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, family care leave status, pregnancy or any condition related to pregnancy, or military/veteran status.

### **Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Physical Challenge**

The School Committee has designated the Student Services Supervisor as the responsible employee to coordinate school district compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and its administrative regulations. The Student Services Supervisor, as the district's Section 504 compliance officer, shall be responsible for continuing compliance with Section 504 and its administrative regulations. Any student has a ready means of resolving any claim of discrimination on the basis of physical challenge in the educational programs or activities of the district. In the event a student believes that there has been a violation of Section 504, s/he shall deliver to the Student Services Supervisor a written statement setting out the alleged violations, describing the incident or activity involved, the individuals involved and the dates, times and locations involved. The Student Services Supervisor shall provide the individual filing the written statement an opportunity to discuss the matter personally, if requested. The Student Services Supervisor shall make such investigation as is necessary to determine the complete facts involved. The Superintendent shall then take action as appropriate to bring the district in compliance with all federal and state regulations or refer the matter to the School Committee for action as appropriate. If the student submitting the written statement of an alleged violation is not satisfied with the handling of the matter by the district, s/he may present the matter directly to the School Committee by contacting the Committee Chairperson.

## **PRECEDENT AGREEMENT**

In the event of conflict between the contents of this guidebook and those of the Student Policy Manual of the Westport Community Schools, the contents of the Student Policy Manual shall govern. The Policy Manual is available at the Principal's office during school hours. It is also available online.

Students and families are requested to read this booklet and the student policy manual carefully. Families should refer to this booklet throughout the school year.

# Alice A. Macomber School

154 Gifford Road

Westport, Massachusetts 02790

508-678-8671 508-673-4284 fax

Dear Macomber Families:

Welcome to the Macomber School. Some of you come to us for the first time, while others are continuing your journey at the MAC. For all of us, this is an exciting, but different new start to the 2020-21 school year. After the extended school closure of last year, I am looking forward to seeing what this year brings and to welcome our students back to school.

The *Family/Student Handbook* provides you with information to help you to get to know the school and as a reference for answering critical questions. The guidebook is a complement to the *Student Policy Handbook* put out by the Westport Community Schools. All policies and practices of the Westport Community Schools will evidence the core values, belief statement, and mission statement as stated in the *Westport Community Schools (WCS) Education Policy Codes: AD, ADA, & ADAA*. Please note, at the end of the MAC Student/Family Handbook, there are four new policies approved by the School Committee. Several of these policies will be referred to in this document, but they are important for families to be familiar with during this unique school year. The *Family/Student Handbook* is reviewed on a yearly basis by the School Council and amended as needed.

Do not hesitate to contact us at (508) 678-8671 with any concerns or questions. In a typical year, we would welcome families in for school activities and to volunteer in different capacities. At this time, we are not able to welcome you in, in person, but we will continue to find ways for families to connect with the school! We want you to be true partners in the joyful and exciting educational journey of your children!

All of us at Macomber are looking forward to working with you and your child (ren) this school year! Here at the MAC we are all PAWS in!

Respectfully,

Cheryl M. Greeson, Ed.D.  
Principal

## 2020-2021 School Year Calendar

August 28	New Teacher Orientation/AFSCME Training
August 31	Staff Convocation / Kindergarten Screening
September 1-15	Staff Training Days
September 2	Kindergarten Screening
September 4	No School for Staff
September 7	Labor Day - No School
September 14-15	Kindergarten and Pre-K Orientation
September 16	First Day of School Grades Pre-K through 12
October 12	Columbus Day
November 3	Staff Training Day / Election Day
November 18	First Term Ends - Marks Close
November 11	Veterans' Day
November 25	Half Day-Thanksgiving Break
November 26-27	Thanksgiving Break
December 10	First Trimester Ends (MAC/WES)
December 23	Early Release Students & Staff
December 24-January 1	Winter Break
January 14	Early Release / Staff Training
January 18	Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day
February 1	Second Term Ends - Marks Close
February 15-19	President's Day/Winter Vacation
March 3	Early Release / Staff Training
March 18	Second Trimester Ends (MAC/WES)
April 2	Good Friday
April 9	Third Term Ends – Marks Close
April 13	Early Release / Staff Training
April 19-23	Patriot's Day/Spring Vacation
May 31	Memorial Day
TBA	Last Day of School for Seniors
June 8	Early Release / Staff Training
June TBA	High School Graduation
June 15	Last Day for Grades K-11/ Early Release for Students
	Fourth Term Ends - Marks Close
	Third Trimester Ends

The School Committee has approved a 170-day school year calendar with an additional 5 days for emergencies, in accordance with the advisory from DESE on July 27, 2020. The actual last day of school for grades K-11 will be no earlier than June 15th. and no later than June 30th. Early release for seniors may be no sooner than 12 school days before the close of the school year.

**School cancellations and delays due to emergencies** will be aired on the following television stations: WCVB (Channel 5), WLNE (Channel 6), WHDH (Channel 7), WJAR (Channel 10), WPRI (Channel 12) WFXT (Channel 25), WNAC (Channel 64), NECN (New England Cable News) and the following radio stations: WSAR-AM 1480, WHJJ-AM 920, WPRO-AM 630, WBSM-AM 1420, WWBB-FM 101, WHJY-FM 94.1, WSNE-FM 93.3.

**“SCHOOL BRAINS”** will also notify you by phone or e-mail regarding delays or cancellations. (If you would like to be contacted directly by “SCHOOL BRAINS” – please be sure the schools have your correct phone number and e-mail).

## **SCHOOL INFORMATION**

### **Macomber School Motto**

Alice A. Macomber School -- “Where small children take big steps in learning!”

### **Macomber Mission**

Alice A. Macomber School’s Mission is to provide a child centered learning environment and a developmentally appropriate school experience for the young learners in our care.

### **Macomber Core Values**

- All students have the capacity to learn.
- Everyone has high performance expectations.
- We have healthy self-esteem.
- We model collaboration and conflict resolution to solve problems.
- Learning is supported by a respectful, caring environment and compassion for others.
- We use best practices and most current research to make informed decisions.

### **Macomber Expectations for Student Learning**

- All students should acquire, integrate and apply appropriately developmental levels of knowledge and skills with accommodations for the full range of abilities of young learners.
- Language acquisition and development are experience based.
- All students should integrate developmentally appropriate logical thinking skills to support problem solving.
- All students should have opportunities to acquire technological skills.
- All students will have access to developmentally appropriate curriculum and learning materials specifically geared to their age group to support achievement.
- All students should demonstrate personal and social responsibility.



## **Philosophy**

It is our philosophy to provide a child-centered learning environment which is both age-appropriate and individually appropriate. In this setting, our aim is to nurture the children's development in the physical, social, emotional, and cognitive domains. The primary vehicles for children's learning, play, and language development are both child-initiated and adult supported through active interaction with adults and peers, as well as through exploration of materials.

In the integrated preschool setting, the environment is planned to address a wide range of developmental interests and abilities across a limited chronological age span. Accordingly, a variety of furnishings, equipment, and teaching strategies are explored to address the needs of children who show interest and skills outside the normal developmental range.

The philosophy at the kindergarten, first and second grade level is an expansion of the preschool philosophy. Classrooms are adaptable, flexible, livable, and welcoming. The children are provided an optimal environment for learning. An integrated approach to curriculum recognizes that content areas in instruction are naturally interrelated, as they are in real life experiences. In our resulting integrated curriculum, learning is regarded as a process rather than a collection of facts. The planning and implementation of the integrated curriculum are made possible through the flexible scheduling of instructional specialists, the consultative staff, and classroom teachers. The schedule takes into consideration the developmental needs of young children, allowing them time to explore, to converse, and to move about. Individual differences among staff, children, and their families are respected and celebrated equally as members of the school community.

The early childhood setting is not just a smaller version of elementary education. Children at the Macomber School are allowed to be successful with classroom experiences geared to their natural level of development. Macomber is a school that specifically accommodates the full range of abilities of young children. The use of developmentally appropriate curriculum and learning materials specifically geared to this age group allows for their greatest potential in a manner that is consistent with what we know about how young children learn and develop. This knowledge is consistent with the fundamentals of child development and emphasizes the belief that all children can learn.

**WESTPORT COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**  
**SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

Antonio Viveiros, Chairperson  
Nancy Tavares, Vice Chairperson  
Melissa Pacheco  
Michelle Orlando  
Nancy Stanton-Cross

**WESTPORT COMMUNITY SCHOOLS DIRECTORY**

Dr. Gary Reese, Superintendent  
Thomas Aubin, Interim Superintendent  
Elaine Santos, Director of Special Education  
Darren Elwell, Director of Curriculum & Instruction  
Michelle Rapoza, Business Manager (Transportation, Food Services)  
Anthony Tomah, Director of Technology

## MACOMBER STAFF DIRECTORY

### **PRINCIPAL**

Dr. Cheryl Greeson

### **OFFICE STAFF:**

#### **Executive Secretary**

Mrs. Judith Oliveira

#### **Student Services Clerk**

Mrs. Paula Raposa

#### **Receptionist**

Ms. Suzanne Lemar

### ***TEACHING STAFF:***

#### **Preschool/Pre-Kindergarten**

Mrs. Karen Sigman

Mrs. Melissa Parker

Mrs. Kristen Shott

#### **Grade 1**

Mrs. Tammy Gluchacki

Mrs. Donna Edwards

Mrs. Robin Morin

Mrs. Karen Salva

Mrs. Andrea Willard

#### **Special Education**

Mrs. Stacy Rivera

Mrs. Korie Oliver

Mrs. Amy Sousa

Mrs. Lindsey Cabral

TBD

#### **Art**

TBD

#### **Music**

Mrs. Marlo Dennis

#### **Kindergarten**

Mrs. Rachel Lambauer

Ms. Karen Lavenda

Mrs. Jennifer Medeiros

Mrs. Allison Correia

Ms. Michelle Thomas

#### **Grade 2**

Ms. Faith Roberts

Mrs. Jennifer Fitton

Mrs. Aimee Rapoza

Mrs. Rebecca Boyle

Mrs. Jennifer Merchant

Ms. Lindsay Velozo

#### **Teacher of At Home Learners**

Dr. Carolyn Lavalley

TBD

#### **STEM**

Ms. Ellen Costa

**Physical Education**

Ms. Teresa Pacheco

**Computer**

Ms. Kristy Almeida

***SUPPORT STAFF*****School Adjustment Counselor**

Mrs. Elisabeth Harrington

**Speech/Language Therapists**

Mrs. Lynn Volk

Mrs. Rachel Flynn

**Nurse**

Ms. Tracy Pereira, RN

**Physical Therapist**

Mrs. Jessica Randall

**Occupational Therapist**

Mrs. Cristine Morrissette

***TEACHING ASSISTANTS***

Mrs. Christine Dias

Mrs. Heather Branco

Ms. Susan Harding

Mrs. Jennifer Lavoie

Mrs. Lindsey DeAndrade

Ms. Crystal Carreiro

Mrs. Kimberly Legendre

Mrs. Lucy Cordeiro

Ms. Nicole Anderson

Mrs. Barbara Gesner

Mrs. Rachel Fortier

Mrs. Tammy Pimentel

Mrs. Jeanine Deveau

Mrs. Maryanne Vincelette

Mrs. Stacey Farias

Ms. Kathryn Flanagan

Mrs. Kelly Dean

Mrs. Juline Duyon

Ms. Tricia Dias

**CUSTODIAL STAFF**

Mr. Maurice Steiblin

Mr. Mark Thibodeau

Mr. Jeffrey Lopez

**CAFETERIA STAFF**

Ms. Sherrie Giovannini

Ms. Susan Hadala

Ms. Fatima Silva

## ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

### School Hours

Preschool/Pre-Kindergarten 8:50am-2:20pm

Kindergarten, Grade 1 and Grade 2 8:45am-3:00pm

Kindergarten Drop-off 8:30

Grade 1 and 2 Drop-off 8:45

**There is no early arrival.**

### Arrival Procedures

Kindergarten drop-off will be at 8:30 at the Cafeteria door using the Osborn Street loop

Grade 1 drop-off will be at 8:45 at the Cafeteria door using the Osborn Street loop

Grade 2 drop-off will be at 8:45 at the Pods. Families will use the Gifford Road bus loop. Families must wait until all buses leave before pulling into the bus loop.

Families will NOT park and walk their students to the door. ALL families are to go through the loops and students will get out of the car on the passenger side and walk single file to the door. Families must turn off the ignition during drop-offs.

- If you have a student in Grade 2 and a student in grade K or 1, you must drop off the students at the two separate entrances.
- If you have a Kindergarten student and a grade 1 student, both students should be dropped off at 8:45.
- All students must have their masks on upon entering the school building.

Preschool/PreK students who are in Mrs. Sigman's class and Mrs. Shott's class will enter the building by the door nearest to the PODs. Families will park in the area in front of the PODS and walk the students to the door. Families are to maintain social distance and all adults must have masks on.

Preschool/PreK students who are in Mrs. Parker's class and Mrs. Rivera's class will enter from the front entrance in the Gifford Road bus loop. Families will park in the main parking lot and walk the students to the door. Families are to maintain social distance and all adults must have masks on.

*Arrival procedures for all students may take additional time, especially at the beginning of the school year as we adjust to new routines.*

### **Dismissal procedures for Parent Pick-up**

Grade K students will be picked up at 3:00 at the Cafeteria door using the Osborn Street loop.

Grade 1 students will be picked up at 3:10 at the Cafeteria door using the Osborn Street loop.

Grade 2 students will be picked up at 3:10 through the Gifford Road bus loop.

Families of K-2 students will NOT park in the parking lot. ALL families are to pull up to the loops. Families will need to put their car in park and turn off the ignition as they ensure their child(ren) are safely in car seats or boosters. Staff will not be able to help put children into their safety seats.

- Please note, if you have a student in Grade 2 and a student in grade K or 1, students must be picked up at the two separate entrances.
- If you have students in grades K and 1, students will be picked up at 3:10.
- All students will have their masks on until safely in their families' car.

Preschool/PreK students who are in Mrs. Sigman's class and Mrs. Shott's class will be dismissed by the door nearest to the PODs. Families will park in the area in front of the PODs and meet the students at the door. Families are to maintain social distance and all adults must have masks on.

Preschool/PreK students who are in Mrs. Parker's class and Mrs. Rivera's class will be dismissed from the doors in the Gifford Road bus loop. Families will park in the main parking lot and meet the students at the door. Families are to maintain social distance and all adults must have masks on.

*Dismissal procedures for all students may take additional time, especially at the beginning of the school year as we all adjust to new routines.*

## ATTENDANCE

### Absences

Regular and punctual school attendance is essential for success in school. A child may be excused for legitimate reasons with approval of the school administrator on a case-by-case basis. A student's understanding of the importance of day-to-day schoolwork is an important factor in the shaping of his/her character. Parents can help their children by developing good school attendance habits. Accordingly, parents will provide a written explanation for the absence and tardiness of a child. This will be required in advance for types of absences where advance notice is possible. In instances of chronic or regular absence reportedly due to illness, the school administration may request a physician's statement certifying such absences as justifiable.

Parents/guardians are asked to notify the school as early as possible if their son/daughter will not be attending school that day. Please call the school at (508) 678-8671 and leave a message. Please provide a note of excuse for your child's absence. Absences for independent family vacations taken during school time may not be approved by the school principal and will be considered as unexcused absences for the purpose of the state law. **Please note: family vacation taken during school time will be considered an unexcused absence.**

#### **Excused absences may include:**

- an illness or injury that prevents the student from attending school. The illness or injury must be verified by a physician (parents/guardians have up to 5 days to send in a physician's note)
- a death in the immediate family (parent, sibling, grandparent, aunt, uncle, cousin) or other significant personal or family crisis
- suspension from school
- court appearances
- school sponsored field trips
- medical or psychological tests during the school day. The parent must show evidence (such as a note from the health center) that the tests could not be scheduled after school
- religious holidays

**What Is an Unexcused Absence?** Some parents think that any absence will be excused as long as the parent sends a note. *This is not true.* Here are a few examples of unexcused absences—even if the parent sends a note:

- repetitive and chronic absence due to illness or injury. In these cases, for the absence to be excused, the parent must submit a letter from a physician – within five (5) school days of the absence – verifying that the student was too sick or injured to go to school.
- family vacation
- extension of a religious or cultural holiday beyond the designated day or days on the school calendar

*For additional information regarding WCS attendance policy, including that of “Excessive Absences” reference WCS Student Policy Handbook (pp. 43-46).*

### **Tardiness**

Students in Kindergarten, first or second grade arriving to school after 8:50 a.m. are considered tardy and must be signed in at the office before proceeding to class. Preschool students are considered tardy if they arrive to school after 9:00 a.m. Please remember that late students will interrupt instruction as they enter the classroom and likely will have missed important directions or an introduction to a concept or skill. Constant tardiness could have an adverse effect on your child’s education.

### **Early Dismissal**

Parents/guardians wishing to dismiss their child before the close of school must inform the office in writing the morning of the early dismissal. If your child is being picked up by someone other than his or her parent/guardian, authorization must be included in the note. When picking up your child from school, you will be required to come to the office to sign him/her out in our dismissal log. Any person attempting to dismiss a child who is unknown to the school office personnel will be asked to provide a valid photo proof of identification. The person should be on the emergency contact list. Otherwise, a parent will be called. Please be advised that early dismissals are very disruptive to the classroom and should be limited to emergency situations. Dismissals are also recorded on student report cards and attendance records.

### **Covid Related Absences and Dismissals**

*For complete information on Westport Community School’s policy on Covid-related absences, turn to page 52 and/or 60 of the handbook.* Parents are asked to assess their child (ren) prior to sending them to school for the following symptoms: Fever greater than 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit, chills or shaking; cough (not due to other know cause such as chronic cough); difficulty breathing or shortness of breath; new loss of taste or smell; sore throat; headache when in combination with other symptoms; muscle aches or body aches; nausea,



vomiting or diarrhea; fatigue, when in combination with other symptoms; nasal congestion or runny nose (not due to other known causes, such as allergies) when in combination with other symptoms.

Students should not be sent to school with any combination of those symptoms. Documentation from the pediatrician should be provided to have the student return to school. Students who are dismissed from school with Covid-related symptoms will not be allowed to return to school until they have completed a 14 day quarantine, had a negative Covid test or if they have a note from a pediatrician indicating the symptoms are related to a non-Covid illness/condition such as seasonal allergies. (see *Westport Community Schools* document, p. 58)

### **Remoter Learners Attendance**

Students who are participating in remote learning are still accountable for daily attendance. The teacher of remote learners will take attendance daily. Students who need to be tardy or dismissed early from the remote school day schedule, must inform the teacher of remote learners.

### **Homework Policy for Unexcused Absences**

Student absences for family vacations scheduled at times other than the weeks or days identified in the school calendar are strongly discouraged. Due to the challenging content of the required curriculum, these absences create significant teaching and learning problems. Effective instruction in standards-based education requires discussion, group activities, and in-school practice. Many classroom activities are designed to address the readiness, interests, and learning styles of students through grouping and differentiation of instruction. These learning opportunities cannot be replicated for students who have been absent.

Parents/guardians who insist on taking students out of school for vacations at times other than those designated on school calendars should understand that teachers cannot provide school work in advance per school committee policy. Students returning to school after such an absence will be expected to participate fully in all class activities, including scheduled examinations. Upon request, graded assignments and/or tests will be provided to students when they return to school. Assignments and/or tests that are not completed within one calendar week of a student's return, or learning expectations that have not been mastered, will adversely affect academic progress and report card performance levels.

## **School Cancellations and Delays**

School cancellations and delays due to emergencies will be aired on the following television stations: WCVB (Channel 5), WLNE (Channel 6), WHDH (Channel 7), WJAR (Channel 10), WPRI (Channel 12), WFXT (Channel 25), WNAC (Channel 64), and the following radio stations: WSAR-AM 1480, WHJJ-AM 920, WPRO-AM 630, WBSM-AM 1420, WWBB-FM 101, WHJY-FM 94.1, WSNE-FM 93.3. **ONE CALL NOW** will also notify you by phone or email regarding delays or cancellations. ***Please be sure the school has your correct phone number and email.***

In addition to our current “cancel” or “school on” options, we have instituted a third option when appropriate: A 90-minute delay. In the event of a 90-minute delay, simply move forward by 90 minutes the regular time when your child either meets the bus or when you deliver your child to school. **Please be aware that school personnel will not be available on the regular school schedule, as they will also be operating on the same 90-minute delay. *The Macomber School building will open at 10:00 a.m. and school will begin at 10:15 a.m.***

At rare times, unfolding weather conditions may warrant an early release from school. These early releases are **always** announced on local radio stations and may also appear on area television stations. Early dismissal announcements also appear on channel 16. Our **ONE CALL NOW** system will be activated to notify you of any changes in the schedule. Please be sure to sign up for **ONE CALL NOW** at [www.westportschools.org](http://www.westportschools.org) by clicking on the **ONE CALL NOW** link.

## DISCIPLINE

### **Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS)**

Macomber School began school-wide implementation of Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) in 2016-2017. Throughout the years, a positive behavioral approach to student behavior has continued to be emphasized at the MAC. Behavioral supports focus on creating and sustaining school-wide, classroom and individual systems that improve the educational environment for all children. Our aim is to explicitly teach behavioral expectations and then recognize the positive behaviors shown by our students.

By implementing strategies associated with PBIS, we can reduce school and classroom behavior disruptions and educate all students about acceptable school behaviors. The implementation plan includes clearly defined outcomes, research-validated practices, supportive administrative systems and information for problem solving behaviors. Expected behaviors for all areas of the school environment will focus on four areas: *Practice Kindness, Accept Responsibility, Work Hard, Stay Safe (PAWS)*.

All staff members at Macomber Primary School will establish regular, predictable, positive learning and teaching environments. The staff members will serve as positive role models to students as they teach expected school behaviors. As a school, we will continue to recognize expected behaviors in a variety of ways. By improving the school environment, we hope to increase learning time and promote academic and social success for every student.

With these general goals in mind, please review the guidelines with your child at home as they will be reinforced at school. We believe that fostering responsible student behavior enhances the environment for learning. Our young children will require our encouragement and positive reinforcement in developing their life skills. Young children learn best in an environment in which there is an expected routine and familiar, reasonable guidelines. Their confidence will be best supported when home and school work together.

### Practice Kindness:

- Be respectful with words and actions.
- Share materials.
- Help clean up classroom/cafeteria.
- Be patient when waiting for your turn.

### Accepts Responsibility:

- Complete work in a timely way.
- Ask for help when needed.
- Keep work area clean and organized.
- Admit when you have made a mistake.
- Use classroom/playground materials as intended.

### Works Hard:

- Continue to do your work even when it is hard.
- Ask for help when needed.
- Look over work to make sure it is correct.
- Look for adult directions.

### Stays Safe:

- Use materials properly.
- Keep hands and feet to yourself.
- Know where the fire and safety exits are located.
- Use appropriate noise levels

### **Discipline Procedures**

Macomber School will use a consistent procedure for handling discipline. Teachers will address all minor infractions in the classroom. Teachers will refer all major infractions to the office by completing an *Office Referral Form*. Please note that three minor incidents **may** result in an office referral. If a student receives an office referral, parents will be notified by administration. Parents must sign and return the *Office Referral Form*.

As a preschool to grade 2 school, it is imperative to ensure that any consequence is developmentally appropriate. As consequences, we typically use lunch detention, abbreviated time out of class to discuss the infraction (this could be with the assistance of the School Adjustment Counselor), parent contact/conference, or the loss of some/all of recess time. In more serious instances or if repeated behaviors occur, a student might be assigned an afternoon detention, in-school suspension for part or all of the day, or an out of school suspension.

Below is a chart that defines Minor/Major infractions that would be typical in this age group:

### MINOR AND MAJOR INFRACTIONS BEHAVIOR

Behavior Types	Definition	Examples (not limited to) *This can be at the discretion of administration.	Major/ Minor
Aggressive Behavior	Student engages in non-serious, but inappropriate physical contact.	Pushing, pulling, spitting, accidental hitting, horse-play, etc.	Minor
Aggressive Behavior	<b><i>Intentional</i></b> actions involving serious physical contact where injury may or has occurred.	Hitting, punching, scratching, hair pulling, kicking, biting, etc.	Major
Fighting	Actions involving serious physical contact where injury may or has occurred with <b><i>more than one person participating.</i></b>	Hitting, kicking, punching, scratching, fighting, biting, spitting, hair pulling, etc.	Major
Disruptive Behavior	Student engages in low-intensity but inappropriate disruption.	Humming, tapping, blurting out, playing with items at inappropriate times, talking, horseplay, etc.	Minor
Disruptive Behavior	Behavior causing an interruption in a class or activity. Disruption includes <b><i>sustained loud</i></b> talk, yelling or screaming; noise with materials; horseplay or roughhousing; and/or <b><i>sustained</i></b> out of seat behavior.	Repeated non-compliant behaviors such as: humming, tapping, blurting out, playing with items, talking, etc.  Yelling, screaming (verbal fighting), crying tantrums, etc.	Major
Theft	Student is in possession of, having passed on, or being responsible for removing someone else's property.	Taking pencils, erasers, items of little or no value	Minor
Theft	Student is in possession of, having passed on, or being responsible for someone else's property.	Repeated minor behaviors or taking items of significant value	Major
Disrespect to Peers	Low-intensity name calling or other socially rude interactions.	Name calling, sticking out tongue, making faces, rude behavior	Minor
Bullying (see <b>Bullying Protocol</b> )	Student repeatedly delivers disrespectful messages (verbal or gestural) to another person that includes threats and intimidation, obscene gestures, pictures, or written notes.	Disrespectful messages include negative comments based on race, religion, gender, age, and/or national origin; sustained verbal attacks based on ethnic origin, disabilities, or other personal matters.	Major

Disrespect to Adults/ Insubordination/ Defiance	Student engages in brief or low-intensity failure to respond to adult requests.	Not following directions, not completing classwork, saying “no”, rolling eyes, ignoring requests, etc.	Minor
Disrespect to Adults/ Insubordination/ Defiance	Refusal to follow directions, talking back and/or socially rude interactions.	Repeated minor behaviors (over the course of the day or week), name calling, swearing at someone, etc.	Major
Property Damage/ Misuse	Low-intensity misuse of property.	Littering, erasable writing on property, breaking pencils, etc.	Minor
Property Damage/ Misuse	Student partakes in an activity that results in destruction or disfigurement of property.	Repeated minor behaviors, damage that can’t be easily fixed or cleaned, etc.	Major
Honor Violation	Lying, cheating, and omitting parts of the truth in order to misplace blame, forging signatures.	Continuous or repeated forging parent signature, cheating on homework or test, lying, etc.	Minor
Honor Violation	Repeated or continuous lying, cheating, omitting parts of the truth in order to misplace blame, forging signatures.	Continuous or repeated forging parent signature, cheating on homework or lying, etc.	Major
Technology Violation	Student engages in low-intensity misuse of any school technology.	Use of technology without staff permission, improper handling of equipment, not following staff directions when using technology, etc.	Minor
Technology Violation	Repeated misuse of any school technology or deliberate act of technology abuse.	Repeated minor misuse of technology, stealing passwords, cyber bullying, deliberately accessing or downloading inappropriate content, etc.	Major
Inappropriate/Abusive Language	Student verbalizes or writes using language that is inappropriate for school.	Name calling, cursing, written or verbal insults or threats, etc.	Minor
Inappropriate/ Abusive Language	Repeated verbalizing or writing using language that is inappropriate for school.	Repeated name calling, cursing, written or verbal insults or threats, etc.	Major

**Please note that in addition to the infractions listed above, the WCS has adopted a Face Covering policy. The complete policy is on page 59. Students who are non-compliant with mask wearing will face consequences.**

*For additional information regarding WCS discipline policy, including that of suspensions from school, reference WCS School Policy Handbook, Section (pp. 62-78)*

## **School Bus Rules and Guidelines**

These rules and guidelines are for the safety of students and bus drivers. Remember, school provided transportation is a privilege, not a right.

### **Practice Kindness:**

- Be respectful with words and actions.
- Follow the bus driver's direction the first time.

### **Accepts Responsibility:**

- Ride only your assigned bus; get on and off at your assigned stop.
- Keep personal devices off and put away.

### **Works Hard:**

- Maintain cleanliness and appearance of the bus. Do not damage the bus in any way.

### **Stays Safe:**

- Remain seated, facing forward in your seat.
- No eating or drinking
- Keep your body and all other objects to yourself and inside the bus.. Use appropriate noise levels

### **Consequences for bus infractions:**

- First offense: Warning
- Second offense: Change of seat/preferential seating on the bus
- Third offense: 1 day suspension from the bus
- Fourth offense: 2 day suspension from the bus/ meeting with parents
- Fifth offense: 3 day suspension from the bus/ meeting with parents

***Any further offense will result in a prolonged suspension from the bus as determined by the offense as well as a meeting with the parents.***

**New Covid-related bus procedures have been established. These include mask-wearing by students at all times, physical distancing on the school bus, and assigned seats. Any infraction of these rules may result in immediate suspension from the school bus.**

**Additionally, students may only ride on ONE school bus. Families may not request a change of bus except in the event that the families move to a new residence during the school year.**

## **BULLYING AND HARASSMENT**

Any student who intimidates or threatens another student through verbal, physical, mental, or written bullying will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including long-term suspension. The principal, dean, or his/her designee will implement this regulation in compliance with the district's Code of Discipline. For more information, visit our district website for our district plan ([www.westportschools.org](http://www.westportschools.org)).

## **DRESS CODE POLICY**

The responsibility for the dress and appearance of the students will rest with individual students and parents. They have the right to determine how the student will dress providing that attire is not destructive to school property, complies with requirements for health and safety, and does not interfere with the educational process. The administration is authorized to take action in instances where individual dress does not meet the stated requirements. This does not mean that student, faculty, School Council, or parent groups may not recommend appropriate dress for school or special occasions. It means that a student will not be prevented from attending school or a school function, or otherwise be discriminated against, so long as their dress and appearance meet the requirements set forth above.





## HEALTH AND WELLNESS

### Medication

All medications should be given at home when possible. PLEASE DO NOT SEND MEDICATION TO SCHOOL WITH A CHILD. A RESPONSIBLE ADULT NEEDS TO TRANSPORT ALL MEDICATIONS TO AND FROM SCHOOL. Any medication that a student will take in school (whether an over-the-counter or prescription medication) requires an order from a physician in order for the student to receive the medication at school. Medication brought into school MUST be in the original packaging with pharmacy label. A parental consent form is also required. Both of these forms can be found at westportschools.org by choosing the Parent link on the top bar and scrolling down for the appropriate documents. The forms are attachments at the bottom of the Health office webpage. You may also obtain copies of these forms from the school nurse.

### Illness

Please do not send your child to school when signs of an illness such as a temperature of 100.4 or greater, persistent cough, vomiting or unknown rashes are present. If your child has a fever or is dismissed from school with a fever then they should return to school only after remaining fever free without the use of fever reducing medications such as Tylenol / Motrin for a FULL 24 hours. **Students that are dismissed with a fever must stay home the following day to allow for the 24 hour requirement.** Notify the school nurse if your child contracts any infection or contagious conditions such as: strep throat, conjunctivitis (pink eye), scarlet fever, chickenpox, mononucleosis, or whooping cough.

### Injuries

Notify the school nurse if your child has a significant injury that requires a consultation with an orthopedic physician. If your child is under an orthopedic doctor's care, clearance will be needed to return to physical education activity. When you visit the orthopedic physician he / she can provide you with the necessary paperwork to forward to the school. If your student has a head injury or is diagnosed with a concussion, please call to discuss this with the school nurse. Remember that if a student is unable to participate in physical education then they will also need to stay inside during the outdoor recess period and refrain from physical activity during the recess period.

### Flu Vaccine Mandate

The state of Massachusetts has issued a mandatory Flu vaccination for all students whether in-person or at-home learners. The vaccinations must be done by December 31st.

## **Physical Examination Requirements**

A physical examination is required for **all** students entering **Preschool**, entering **Kindergarten** or **upon transferring into Westport Community Schools**. We also require a physical exam in Grades 3, 6 and 9. If a physical is required for your child this school year, please send in a copy of their physical exam. Notices will be sent home if a copy of your child's physical exam has not been received. The school physician is available late winter / early spring and will perform a physical exam if you wish.

## **Health Screening**

Vision Screenings are done in Preschool, Kindergarten, Grades 1-5, Grade 7 and Grade 10. Hearing Screenings are done in Preschool, Kindergarten, Grades 1-3, Grade 7 and Grade 10. Postural Screenings are done in Grades 5-9. Parents will be notified of any concern with a screening that necessitates a medical follow-up with your own physician or optometrist. A response letter with testing results should be forwarded to the Health Office. Height, Weights and BMI are done in Grades 1, 4, 7 and 10 to monitor growth and development. Please notify the school nurse in writing by the end of September if you do **NOT** wish for your child to participate in the BMI screening. A request to not participate must be received each year that you opt out of the screening. If you would like a copy of your child's BMI results please let the nurse know and a copy will be forwarded to you.

## **Miscellaneous**

- Please do not send cough drops into school with your child. Cough drops may contain medication (which requires a doctor's order) or pose a choking hazard. Instead of cough drops, we recommend sending in a water bottle so your child can take frequent sips of water to soothe a sore throat or dry cough.
- Proper footwear is necessary to help prevent injuries during outdoor recess. Students who wear flip-flops or shoes without backs will **NOT** be permitted to use the playground equipment or athletic fields / courts.
- Students should come to school dressed for the weather as students go out for recess or for physical education. Because outside recess is so important for the development of young students, we have outdoor recess as often as possible. During the winter months, students go outside as long as the temperature is 25 degrees or above.
- 

***For additional information regarding WCS Health and Wellness policy, reference WCS Student Policy Handbook (pp. 38-42).***

## SCHOOL SECURITY

For the security and safety of the children, our staff, and our school building, we would like to share the following policies and procedures:

All school entrances are locked during the school day. The building can be entered only through the door adjacent to the parking lot on the north side of the school. Please ring the doorbell and you will be greeted as promptly as possible. Please note the school doors do not open to students/families until 8:30 a.m. New for the 2019-20 school year will be an additional layer of security. All visitors to the MAC will need to stop at the window located in the vestibule. Only visitors that are there for volunteering or for meetings will have access to the school building. This includes any parents/guardians picking up students from the nurse's office.

### **Fire Drills/Evacuation Plans**

A minimum of 4 fire/evacuation drills are held during the school year. Each classroom has a "fire drill and evacuation plan" posted in the classroom showing at least two exits. All staff are required to participate in training regarding the location and use of fire extinguishers.

More than one type of incident can cause a school building to be evacuated; fire, bomb threat, civil emergencies, natural disaster, and so on.

Special evacuation drill activities related to fire safety or other emergencies will be planned and implemented by each principal in coordination with the central office and/or civil authorities to insure orderly movement of students to the safest available space in the event of a true emergency or disaster (WCS Ed. Policy Code: EBC).

In addition, Macomber School may also conduct drills based on other types of emergencies as directed.

Families will be notified about any safety drill that occurs throughout the school year.

***For additional information regarding WCS School Security policy, reference WCS Student Policy Handbook (p. 88)***

## RETENTION AND PROMOTION

Research, common sense, and our own life experience shows us that social promotion (assignment) and retention are not effective solutions to the problem of underachieving or underperforming students. While social promotion does provide the advantage of socializing with peers of the same chronological age, social promotion sidesteps the achievement problem because students enter the next grade unprepared and the gap between expectations and performance widens each year. Only infrequently, where a child's social/emotional maturity or developmental readiness is an issue, will retention bring about expected results. The problem of underachieving students should be viewed in context, and individual plans should be developed to match individual solutions to individual achievement problems. A student's failure in school must be reviewed in multiple contexts. The family, the health care provider, the school, the classroom, and the peer group impact on a student's ability to cope with the academic program.

Finding the answer to underperformance means viewing the student in these many contexts. Students must be prepared to meet the challenges of each grade level and are expected to demonstrate mastery of skills and content as reflected on standardized tests, MCAS scores, and teacher grades.

***For additional information regarding WCS Retention and Promotion policy, reference WCS Student Policy Handbook (p. 47)***

## STUDENT RECORDS

In order to provide students with appropriate instruction and educational services, it is necessary for the school system to maintain information about them and their families. It is essential that pertinent information in these records be readily available to appropriate school personnel, be accessible to the student's parents or legal guardian and/or the student in accordance with the law and yet be guarded as confidential information.

The Superintendent will provide for the proper administration of student records in keeping with state and federal requirements. The temporary record of each student will be destroyed five years after the student transfers, graduates, or withdraws from the school district. Former students desiring information from their records may obtain it by requesting such information from the Director of Pupil Personnel Services. The Committee wishes to make clear that all individual student records of the school system are confidential including individual addresses and telephone numbers.

***For additional information regarding WCS Student Records policy, reference WCS Student Policy Handbook (pp. 28-37).***

## **CHANGE OF INFORMATION**

If at any time during the school year there is a change of address, telephone number, place of employment, etc., **you must notify the school** so that our records can be kept up-to-date.

## **CLASS ASSIGNMENTS**

Our class placement procedure is extremely child-centered and begins with extensive conversations about each individual child. Our goal is to create classes which address both the fit between the individual student and teacher AND to create a classroom environment which is conducive to learning for all students. Our teachers spend many hours and put much professional thought and effort into placing their present students into next year's classes. Teachers identify if a student is academically strong, average or challenged by the grade level material. Teachers also identify students who may need special assistance, whether it is remediation or extension of the grade level curriculum. In addition to academic performance, teachers also make note of student behavioral skills, identifying those who are strong leaders with their peers, in need of peer support, or challenged by group interactions. Teachers also consider those children who need to be separated.

We respect tremendously that you know your child in ways we could not possibly know them. We likewise ask that you trust that your child's teacher also has knowledge about your child's academic, social, emotional and behavior needs that may vary significantly from what you see in the home setting. ***Here at Macomber, we ask that parents do not request a specific teacher. You may, however, share additional information to further assist us in this placement process. Parents may submit this information by letter only, addressed to the principal, no later than May 1st.*** Examples of the kind of information that can help in configuring classes include: changing family dynamics which could impact the classroom, newly diagnosed or potential learning difficulties, specific learning styles, peer relationships in or out of school, and any other factors which we might be unaware of that relate to your child's learning. **Please note that we do not accept letters that specify individual teachers by gender, experience level or name.** Thank you for your trust and support!

## CURRICULUM

Children in the three-to-eight age range acquire knowledge in ways that are significantly different from the way older children learn. Younger children learn best through direct sensory encounters. The curriculum responds to the differing learning and developmental needs of young children. Each decision about the curriculum was made in light of what is developmentally and individually appropriate and what is best for the particular children being served. The content of the curriculum reflects a balance of all areas of learning offered in an integrated manner and reflecting the holistic nature of learning. The following indicators reflect the content of teachers' daily lesson plans and are based both on firsthand, day-to-day experiences and extensive research into how young children learn.

- Life experiences are used as a basis for learning.
- Language acquisition and development are experience based.
- Spoken and written language skills interact and influence each other.
- Children learn about reading and writing through observing these skills being used and through using and interacting with their environment.
- A natural language approach precedes phonics instruction which is introduced in the kindergarten. Children develop an awareness of phonics through interaction with meaningful text (i.e. stories, songs, invented spelling, etc.).
- Skills are presented in a meaningful context.
- Independent pre-writing and pre-reading practice are scheduled each day.
- Numbers and numeration are developed through manipulation of concrete objects and are understood by the children before they move to operations.
- Development of logical thinking and problem solving is fostered.
- Many opportunities are made available for children to explore, investigate, and discover mathematics.
- Concepts, dispositions, and the acquisition of skills are addressed in an integrated fashion; content is not presented as isolated bits of knowledge.
- Values are taught through modeling, role-playing, and simulation.
- Content is responsive to the cultures and linguistic diversity of children involved. Representatives of the community come frequently to the school.
- Play is respected as an appropriate way of learning.
- Content is integrated around themes. The theme approach includes activities in language arts, social studies, creative dramatics, music, art, science, math or any combination of these, rather than via short periods of time spent on each subject area.

**All teachers use the most recent standards developed by Massachusetts to create their units of study. At this time, teachers in grades K-2 use *Journeys* as a resource for reading instruction, *Foundations* to instruct phonics, and *Go Math* as a resource for mathematics instruction. ST Math and Lexia are also used by all teachers to support mathematics and reading instruction.**

## STUDENT SERVICES

### **ELL**

Education is a basic right of all children in the United States. The federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB) added important new educational rights for English language learners and their parents. Federal laws, such as NCLB, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Equal Educational Opportunities Act of 1974, and Massachusetts state laws recognize that students who are new to the United States and who are English language learners need extra support. They need help to learn English and, at the same time, to master academic standards.

The Westport Community Schools is committed to ensuring that all educational programs meet the diverse needs of all students. Students who are English Language Learners (ELLs) in grades K-12 are provided with a comprehensive ELL Program that is staffed by highly qualified ELL teachers. These teachers focus on meeting the needs of all students in the program in two areas: becoming proficient in the English language and adjusting to the school and community culture.

State and federal laws use the terms “students with limited English proficiency” (or, LEP students), “English language learners” (or, ELLs), and “English learners” to describe the same group of students.

The Westport Community School’s English Language Learner (ELL) program assists students whose first language at home is not English. Students are supported in language development, particularly in listening and reading comprehension, and language production - speaking and writing.

### **Special Education**

The Eligibility Guidelines for Special Education were developed by the MA Dept. of Ed. at the direction of the Legislature as a result of the January 1992 amendment to chapter 71B (the State Law for Special Education). These included the establishment of an effective pre-referral process; increasing the capacity of regular classroom teachers to make modifications to curricula and instructional strategies and to measure the effectiveness of those interventions. All assessments are an ongoing process of gathering information about the student and the learning environment. It is a problem solving process aimed at generating the kinds of information necessary for effective decision-making and learning



## **Section 504 Accommodation Plan**

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is designed to ensure that individuals with disabilities are not excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefit of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program, organization, or activity receiving federal financial assistance, such as a public school district. Section 504 does require school districts to reasonably accommodate students with disabilities so that they may receive the benefits of the school district's educational programs. Reasonable accommodations do not require major or substantial modification in the school district's program. A Section 504 Plan is a written plan that outlines accommodations that are necessary in order for a person with a handicap to be able to access general education services.

## **TITLE I**

The Title I Program is one of the key components of the *No Child Left Behind Educational [NCLB] Act* of 2001. Specifically, *NCLB* is working toward the goal that all students will reach high standards, at a minimum, attaining proficiency or better in reading and mathematics. One of the primary goals of the Title I Program is to help all children become proficient and confident readers in the early grades. This provides a foundation to become better learners throughout their school years and beyond. Your child may receive support provided by one of our interventionists or reading specialists. Selection for this program is based on various assessments, end-of-year testing, and teacher recommendations, all of which help us assess the needs of each child. Services vary according to the needs of students. These might range from receiving extra help in sounding words and spelling, while other students are assisted in vocabulary and comprehension development.

## **Instructional Support Team (IST)**

IST is a school-based, problem-solving group whose purpose is to assist with strategies for working with students who have difficulties in learning and/or behavior. Based upon the discussions of the IST, students may be provided with tiered system of support or "Response to Intervention" (RTI). The committee includes the Principal or designee, the student's grade level team, the grade level special education teacher, and may include one or more of the following: reading specialist, nurse, school adjustment counselor, school psychologist, behavior specialist, occupational therapist or speech pathologist. The primary role of the committee is to help students with learning and/or behavior problems receive assistance they need within the regular education setting. An intervention plan is developed and put into place for a specified period of time and monitored throughout that period. A follow up meeting is scheduled to evaluate the effectiveness of the plan. If necessary, a second plan can be formulated.

## **Counseling**

Macomber School employs a full time certified School Adjustment Counselor. The counselor may provide student support and consultation to teachers, administrators and parents regarding academic and/or behavioral issues, and he/she may conduct classroom and/or small group lessons. He/She also coordinates special education services for preschool and kindergarten, and facilitates the Early Intervention Transition Process.

## **Kindergarten Screening**

All children entering kindergarten are screened using a standardized screening instrument in the spring. The screening is conducted by one of the early childhood team members assigned to the school. Students found to be “at risk” as a result of the outcomes may be referred to the Macomber IST team for further evaluation. Preschool-age children are screened on an individualized basis on recommendations of the early childhood team and/or parents’ request.

## **Transition Planning**

Preschool children who are suspected of having a disability and are being transitioned into the public school system may be referred six months prior to their third birthday. Young children may be referred as a result of their participation in an early intervention program, pediatrician’s recommendation or parental request. For students being transitioned into kindergarten, transition planning begins in early spring. Children identified with special needs are eligible for special needs services, free of charge, at age 3. Parents are included in the transition process and the development of an Individual Education Plan should the child be eligible for special needs services. Children enrolled in preschool or kindergarten may be referred for a special needs evaluation at any time with the consent of a parent/guardian should any developmental concerns arise that are affecting the child’s ability to access the curriculum.

For students transitioning from another school system, parents and/or guardians should have an official transfer slip, signed release of information form from their previous school’s administration office and copies of school records. All transfer students must have a signed transfer slip from the administration of the previous school. Parents or guardians should also have a signed release of information form and copies of any special needs service plans if applicable.

## INTEGRATED PRESCHOOL

### **Arrival/Dismissal Procedures**

Students will be dropped off at the designated area (see Arrival/Dismissal Procedures, p. 13)

Children will be dismissed from designated areas at 2:20 pm. Family members are to wait outside for their child. All family members must be masked and stay socially distant. If anyone other than the parent is picking up your child, we must have a note. We will also check identification before releasing your child to them.

### **Tuition**

Students who are enrolled in the preschool program are required to pay a yearly tuition, payable on a monthly basis, and due on the first day of each month. In addition, a one-time non-refundable registration fee is due at the time of registration, to hold the student's slot in preschool. Tuition is used to support the program to include teaching materials, play equipment, "enrichment" activities, entertainment, and for any additional expenses deemed necessary by the early childhood team members. Tuition is due the first of the month. If tuition is not paid by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month, your child is not eligible to return the following month. Families may pay for the entire year in September as well.

### **Extra Clothes**

Each child needs a complete set of extra clothes to be kept in the classroom. Please label everything and put them in a labeled zipper bag.

### **Snack**

Snack will not be provided. Please send in one healthy snack with a drink and a lunch with a drink. Please let us know if your child has any allergies. Classrooms will limit celebrations (i.e. holidays) that involve food during the school day to no more than one party per classroom per month.

### **Other Requests**

Your child will need 2 photographs of himself/herself. We laminate, label and mount these photographs in their cubbies and mailboxes.

A backpack labeled with your child's name and large enough for papers and notes is requested. We check backpacks daily for any "mail" from home.

## HOME/SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP

### **Communication**

Visit the Macomber School website to keep up to date on events and school happenings at [www.westportschools.org](http://www.westportschools.org). (new website)

You will receive a newsletter during the first week of each month announcing school events and featuring news from our classroom teachers. Individual classroom teachers are encouraged to provide a classroom newsletter to inform families of updates and curriculum focus. Many classroom teachers also use computer apps to keep in communication with families. The school newsletters will be available on the Macomber website. Please refer to the Macomber Website at [www.westportschools.org](http://www.westportschools.org) (new website) often for updates and important information.

Visit the district's Facebook account <https://www.facebook.com/westportcommunityschools/> or Twitter account @SchoolsWestport to learn more about school events and exciting news!

Westport Community Schools also utilizes **ONE CALL NOW** to notify parents of school closings, emergencies, etc.. Parents may receive notification via phone, email and texts.

### **Homework Policy**

Homework has proven to be an effective supplement to instructional activities introduced at school. Assignments may vary according to grade level and need. Please consult with your child's teacher for her/his specific expectations.

### **Parent/Teacher Conferences**

Parent/teacher conferences will be held in November. You are always welcome to request a conference with your child's teacher as needed throughout the year. **This year, the conferences may be held via Google Meet. More information will be provided.**

### **Report Cards/ Progress Notes**

Macomber School functions on Trimesters. In November, March and June you will receive a Standards-Based Report Card informing you on your child's progress. Progress Reports are sent home as needed mid-way through the marking periods.

## **Family Involvement**

You are partners in your child's learning. Our school has many opportunities for you to participate actively.

The WES/MAC PTO (parent-teacher support organization) of both the Westport Elementary School and the Alice A. Macomber School meets regularly once a month. We are fortunate to have the strong support and participation of our PTO through teacher grants, sponsorship of enrichment activities, volunteerism, support for major improvements, field trips, and fundraising.

You will receive an invitation to indicate your area of interest, followed by an organizational meeting. All organization meetings will be posted. You will receive membership information directly from WES/MAC PTO and frequent updates on WES/MAC PTO activities. Information is mailed home, posted on the bulletin board at school or sent home with students.

There are many opportunities for parent participation through volunteerism at the Macomber School:

- Active participation of the WES/MAC PTO Board
- Attending monthly WES/MAC meetings
- Assisting in the classroom
- Serving as a visiting reader
- Serving as a computer volunteer
- Participating on the School Council

**All volunteers:** Volunteers must complete a CORI check form and read and sign-off on the *Volunteer Guidebook* available in the school office. Volunteers are encouraged to wait until October before volunteering.

**Due to Covid-related restrictions, we will not have volunteers at the beginning of the school year, but will monitor this decision as the year progresses.**

## **Fingerprinting**

All volunteers who will be attending any school related field trip outside of the school building must have a fingerprint on file with the Central Administration Office. Please call the school office for more information on fingerprinting.

## BREAKFAST AND LUNCH

### **Breakfast**

Macomber School offers a “Grab n’ Go” breakfast for those interested. The "Grab n’ Go" breakfast is available to all Kindergarten through 2nd grade students. As students enter school each morning, those interested will be directed to the cafeteria to retrieve their "Grab n’ Go" breakfast before heading to their respective classrooms. Students will receive 2 whole grain rich items and one cup of 100% fruit juice. Students have the option to take a fruit over the fruit juice. **Please note: If your child does not qualify for the free or reduced lunch program, and has a negative lunch balance, they will not be allowed to purchase breakfast.**

Full breakfast	\$ 1.75
Qualifying Free breakfast	.00
Qualifying reduced breakfast	.30

### **Lunch**

The Macomber School serves wholesome and nutritionally sound meals daily to all students. Application for free or reduced price lunches are available at any time during the school year should your financial status or household size change. Our school has special menus designed for the nutritional needs and preferences of young children. Monthly menus are sent home and are posted in the school foyer as well as the school website for you to plan lunch choices with your child. The costs are as follows:

Full lunch including milk	\$ 3.00
Reduced lunch	.40
Lunch milk only	.50

**All Macomber students will be receiving free lunch and breakfast until December 31st. Families who believe they may be eligible for free or reduced lunch and breakfast should still fill out the free/reduced lunch forms.**

## TRANSPORTATION

### **School Bus Transportation**

Parents are responsible for transporting their children to and from the Integrated Preschool Program each day. Parents are encouraged to set up car pools with each other.

Transportation will be provided to Macomber School from home to school and from school to home for students in kindergarten through second grade.

**Due to Covid-related procedures, families may only have one address where their child (ren) are to be picked and dropped off.**

**A parent or guardian must be at the bus stop for all kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students. If no familiar adult is present, the student will be brought back to school or, if no one is available, to the Westport Police Station. The parent will have to make arrangements to have the student picked up. A parent may be charged a fee or lose bus privileges for 3 days after a child has been returned 3 or more times to school. All other students will be dropped off at their assigned bus stops.**

Video surveillance may occur on district school buses. Video recordings may become part of a student's educational record or a staff member's personnel record. The district shall comply with all applicable state and federal laws related to record maintenance and retention.

### **Policy for Emergency Transportation**

Procedures suggested are based upon the *Massachusetts Dept. of Public Health* handbook policies. All parents are required to fill out emergency information forms at the start of the school year. This information contains names and numbers of person(s) to be notified in the event of an emergency, physicians' names and numbers, any pertinent medical information. Emergency transportation may be called. Parent/Guardian is always contacted (see Emergency Procedures Handbook).

## FIELD TRIPS

Educational field trips are taken in conjunction with the curriculum at the various grade levels. These trips are designed to supplement different aspects of the classroom curriculum and to introduce students to the resources of the community. Parents will receive notices of field trips well in advance of the scheduled trip date and will always be asked to sign the field trip permission forms. Parents **MUST** sign and return permission slips in a timely fashion in order for their child to participate. Failure to do so may exclude a child from attending. Please be cognizant of the time the field trip is scheduled for departure.

## TOYS AND VALUABLES POLICY

Toys are not to be brought to school. Besides being distracting to classroom instruction, toys are often lost or misplaced at school. Toys include: electronic games, skateboards, yo-yos, trading cards or anything that disrupts the teaching/learning environment.

## LOST AND FOUND

Please put your child's name on everything that he/she brings to school. This includes lunch boxes, hats, mittens, coats, boots, shoes, and school bags, etc. Parents are welcome to check for missing items in the ***Lost and Found***, which is located in the main hallway in front of the office. Also, please encourage your child to check for lost items. Any student who loses an item on the school bus should contact the bus driver the next time the student rides the bus.

## SCHOOL CELEBRATIONS

It is the policy of the Macomber School to hand out invitations for special occasions only if all members of the classroom are receiving one.

Due to Covid restrictions, there will be no school celebrations or shared food. This will continued to be monitored throughout the school year.



## **USE OF FACILITIES**

The Alice A. Macomber School is available for a variety of uses. All inquiries should be made through the Macomber School office well in advance of the date on which you wish to schedule your activity. There is a facility fee for activities. For more information, please call the school office at 508-678-8671.

**Due to Covid restrictions, the Use of Facilities is currently on hold.**

## **ASBESTOS HAZARD EMERGENCY RESPONSE ACT (AHERA)**

A copy of the AHERA Management Plan for the schools is maintained at the central administrative office located at 17 Main Road and at each of the school's administrative offices. The management plan is available, during normal business hours, without cost or restriction, for inspection by representatives of the EPA, the State, the public, including teachers, other school personnel and their representatives, parents, employees and subcontractors. The Westport Community Schools shall charge a fee to make copies of the management plan.

## EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

State and federal laws as well as School Committee policy guarantee that no person shall be excluded from or discriminated against in admission to a public school of any town, or in obtaining the advantages, privileges and courses of study of a public school on account of actual or perceived race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex/gender, marital status, homelessness, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, family care leave status, pregnancy or any condition related to pregnancy, or military/veteran status.

This law makes it clear that all aspects of public school education must be fully open and available to all students, without discrimination. We may not exclude students from any course, activity, service or resource available on account of actual or perceived race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex/gender, marital status, homelessness, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, family care leave status, pregnancy or any condition related to pregnancy, or military/veteran status."

The Equal Educational Opportunity Regulations, adopted by the Massachusetts Board of Education in 1975, address five areas of school policy: school admissions, admission to courses of study, guidance services, course content, and extra-curricular and athletic activities.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this law and how it affects your children, please contact your school principal, or the Superintendent of Schools, at 508 636-1140 x 4001, or the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Copies of the law and the regulations can be obtained from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, 350 Main Street, Malden, MA 02148-5023, 617 388-3300x285 or x242, and are also available on the Internet at <http://info.doe.mass.edu>.

The Title IX Coordinator and the Civil Rights Coordinator, is the Director of Special Education. Direct any complaints regarding any found discrimination to the Superintendent of Schools, Westport Community Schools, 17 Main Road, Westport, MA 02790 or phone 508-636-1140.

## **MEAL CHARGE POLICY**

The School Committee is committed to providing students with healthy, nutritious meals each day so they can focus on school work, while also maintaining the financial integrity of meal programs and minimizing any impact on students with meal charges. However, unpaid meal charges place a large financial burden on the school district, as food services is a self-supporting entity within the district. The purpose of this policy is to ensure compliance with federal reporting requirements of the USDA Child Nutrition Program, as well as provide oversight and accountability for the collection of outstanding student meal balances.

The provisions of this policy pertain to regular priced school meals only. The School Committee will provide a regular meal to students who forget or lose their lunch money.

### **Meal Charges and Balances**

Students will pay for meals at the regular rate approved by the School Committee and for their meal status (regular, reduced-price, or free) each day. Payment options will be delineated in student handbooks and provided to parents of incoming students. After the balance reaches zero and enters the negative, students will not be allowed to purchase a la carte items including but not limited to a second entree, snack, ice cream, or an additional beverage. The student will still be allowed to take a meal, and that meal will continue to be charged to the account at the standard lunch rate based on their meal status. The parent/guardian is responsible for any meal charges incurred. If there is a financial hardship, a parent/guardian should contact food services directly to discuss payment options such as an individualized repayment plan.

### **Payments**

Parents/Guardians are responsible for all meal payments to the food service program. Notices of low or deficit balances will be sent directly to parents/guardians via email or regular postal mail at regular intervals during the school year. At no time shall any staff member give payment notices to students unless that student is known to be an emancipated minor who is fully responsible for themselves or over the age of 18. If parents/guardians have issues with student purchases they should contact food services for assistance.

Parents/Guardians may pay for meals in advance. Further details are available on the school district webpage and in student handbooks. Funds should be maintained in accounts to minimize the possibility that a child may be without meal money on any given day. Any positive remaining funds for a particular student will be carried over to the next school year.

All school cafeterias possess computerized point of sale/cash register systems that maintain records of all monies deposited and spent for each student and those records are available to parents by setting up an online account (see student handbooks for more details) or by speaking with the school's food service manager. The point of sale system is designed to prevent direct identification of a student's meal status. Parents will receive automated low-balance emails or mailed notices weekly, if applicable. If notices do not result in payment, parents will receive a phone call from food services. If the phone call does not result in payment the food service manager shall turn the account over to the business office.

### **Refunds**

Refunds for withdrawn and/or graduating students require a written request (email, postal, or in person) for a refund of any money remaining in their account to be submitted. Graduating students also have the option to transfer funds to a sibling's account or to donate to a student in need with a written request.

### **Delinquent Accounts/Collections**

Failure of a parent or guardian to maintain reasonably current accounts may result in a referral to the Superintendent for his/her review. The Superintendent shall ensure that there are appropriate and effective collection procedures and internal controls within the school district's business office that meet the requirements of law.

If a student is without meal money on a consistent basis, the administration may investigate the situation more closely and take further action as needed. If financial hardship exists, parents and families are encouraged to apply for free or reduced price lunches for their child. Each school handbook shall contain detailed instructions for parental assistance.

### **Policy Communications**

This policy shall be communicated to all staff and families at the beginning of each school year and to families transferring to the district during the year.

LEGAL REFS: MGL 71:72; USDA School Meal Program Guidelines May 2017  
CROSS REFS: JQ, Student Fees, Fines & Charges  
SOURCE: MASC February 2018

Presented: July 9, 2019  
Adopted: August 15, 2019

## **COLLECTION OF MONEY/FOOD TICKETS Student Meal Charges Lunch Policy**

The purpose of this policy is to insure compliance with federal reporting requirements for the Child Nutrition Program and to provide oversight and accountability for the collection of outstanding student meal balances. Federal reporting requirements do not allow the Child Nutrition Program to charge meals. Students may pay for meals in advance, at the time of purchases or make electronic payments.

Westport Community Schools Food Service Department is a self-funded program. Staffing levels do not allow for the extensive time involved in billing for charged lunches. USDA Federal Management Circular 796.1 (RV.2) lists bad debts as non-allowable expenditures of federal funds, therefore losses on meals charged and /or NSF checks cannot be paid out of Child Nutrition funds. To assure compliance with Federal Management Circular 796-1 (RV.2) annually a transaction should be made for uncollectible charges or insufficient fund checks by general funds to record reimbursement for all said bad debt. USDA federal regulations state that all meal payments are to be made at the point of service. The State Agency's position is that Child Nutrition Program funds cannot be used for program purposes to resolve bad debt as noted by USDA, FNS Instruction 796-1 Rev. 2.

All school cafeterias possess computerized point of sale/cash register systems that maintain a record of all monies deposited and spent for each student and said record will be made available to the parent upon request. Each school shall inform parents that meals can be paid for in advance and that balances may be maintained in their child's account to minimize the possibility that the child may be without meal money on any given day. If a student is without meal money on a consistent basis, the Food Service Director will investigate the situation more closely, including contacting the parent/guardian to bring money to the school and/or encouraging the parent to apply for free or reduced price meals, or to make payments through the online payment system, [MySchoolBucks.com](http://MySchoolBucks.com)

Students may be eligible for free or reduced price meals. Applications are available in the main office at all schools, the Food Service Department Office, 17 Main Road, Westport and on the Food Service Department website at [www.westportschools.org](http://www.westportschools.org). We strongly encourage all families that may qualify to apply for free or reduced price meals at any time to help during financially difficult times.

Parents/Guardians may be notified in writing when 3 charges have accumulated. It is expected that all incurred charges will be paid within 5 days of written notice; by sending cash, check or money order payable to the Town of Westport. Payment must be sent with the child to the cafeteria, by mailing a check or money order to

the appropriate school, and through the online payment systems [MySchoolBucks.com](https://www.myschoolbucks.com) Students will be served a differentiated meal if the accumulated balance is not paid in full. The differentiated meal shall consist of a sandwich (not peanut butter and jelly), fruit, vegetable and eight-ounce low fat milk. If the charge balance has not been paid within the expected time of the written notification and a pattern of not providing a bag lunch or money for lunch for a child is noted, the Massachusetts Department of Children and Family Services may be informed of the situation.

In addition, if a student has a negative balance, they will not be allowed to purchase a double lunch or an additional slice of pizza on “special pizza” days.

This policy’s provisions pertain to regular school breakfast and lunch meals only. Federal policy prohibits the withholding of meals from a child as a form of discipline. The Superintendent shall develop regulations and procedures to support this policy.

## REMOTE LEARNING

In the event of a district-specific emergency requiring the use of remote learning, the superintendent of schools may declare such emergency and shall, as soon as possible, obtain the approval of the school committee. The remote learning plan below will be applicable in cases of disease, weather emergencies, destruction or damage to schools rendering them inaccessible, or other extraordinary circumstances, including emergencies declared by government officials, the school committee, or the superintendent.

When it becomes necessary for the school district to provide support to students who are unable to attend classes or access appropriate services due to an extended closure, the superintendent shall establish a plan and procedures to ensure that such services are provided. The provision of educational services may include the use of technology and devices, and strategies designed to support student learning away from school.

The remote learning plan will, to the extent possible:

- Ensure the safety of all students and faculty in coordination with appropriate local and state departments and agencies;
- Provide support for student social and emotional wellbeing and address the implications of trauma experienced by students or faculty as a result of the emergency;
- Identify goals and strategies for maintaining standards of student achievement and school improvement plans;
- Ensure instruction and services are delivered by district educators and personnel as much as practicable;
- Utilize the most effective tools and resources available for students and faculty, including the skills and talents of district personnel, in the delivery of instruction and services and share resources as needed;
- Provide resources and services equitably to meet the needs and circumstances of all students;
- Identify remedial strategies necessary after the emergency to advance student achievement (i.e. after-school, extended day, summer school, and contingency scheduling to cancel vacations.);
- Gather information both during and after the period of emergency regarding the most effective means of remote learning to implement as appropriate.

In developing a remote learning plan, the superintendent will:

- Identify and prepare effective means for communicating with faculty, students, parents and community stakeholders.
- Collaborate with municipal agencies that support the schools and community.
- Consult with the school committee to identify any extraordinary actions necessary or authority required to administer emergency and remote learning plans. This includes any changes to district policies on the



school calendar, grading, promotions and retentions, local graduation requirements, testing, and standards and accountability

- Consult with administrators and principals to ensure the continuing education of students at all levels, including:
  - use of the most appropriate resources, tools and strategies to deliver the curricula given local circumstances and conditions;
  - equitable access to appropriate content for all students;
  - specific accommodations for students at high risk, including clients of special education, students with disabilities, English learners, students at economic disadvantage, homeless students, students in foster care and students of military families.
- Utilize available technological resources suitable for serving students at all levels. This inventory will be prepared in advance in anticipation of an emergency.
- Ensure the privacy rights of students, faculty and families are protected, including assessing the security of district technology.
- Consult with bargaining units to determine if modifications to collective bargaining agreements need to be established for the period of the emergency.
- Identify the financial implications of the emergency plan and recommend transfer of funds as may be necessary.

LEGAL REFS.: 20 U.S.C. §1232g Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)  
15 U.S.C. §§ 6501–6506 Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA)

CROSS REFS.: EBCD – Emergency Closings  
IGA – Curriculum Development  
IGB – Support Services Programs  
IHBEA – English Learner Education  
IJND – Access to Digital Resources  
IJNDB – Empowered Digital Use  
IJNDC – Internet Publication  
IJNDD – Policy on Social Media  
IHBEA – English Language Learners  
JB – Equal Educational Opportunities  
JBB – Educational Equity

SOURCE: MASC – May 2020

## STUDENT CELL PHONE AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that students' use of cell phones and other electronic devices do not interfere with the educational program or school activities within the Westport Community Schools. The use and possession of cell phones and electronic devices at school or on school property is a privilege, not a right. Therefore, students who choose to bring cell phones and electronic devices to school or onto school property, including buses, agree to the following policy.

- Cell phones and electronic devices must be turned off and kept out of sight during class time and at other times as directed by school staff.
- For safety reasons, students may not use ear buds or headphones during school hours *unless* they have explicit permission from the principal. (This includes during recess, lunch or in hallways during passing time.)
- Any allowable use of cell phones and electronic devices must not violate existing school policies including but not limited to policies regarding:
  - o bullying, intimidating, and harassing behaviors via texting and social networking sites;
  - o academic integrity (e.g. sharing of assessment or assignment information);
  - o safety protocols (e.g. fire drill procedures, hallway passing, etc);
  - o acts that may interfere with the learning opportunities of other students or the orderly operation of the school; and  
use of a cell phone or electronic device with camera, video or voice recording function in a way or under circumstances which infringe the privacy rights of others.
  - o Inappropriate content is unacceptable

Violations of this policy will be subject to progressive discipline in accordance with respective school handbook. Multiple violations may result in the loss of the privilege to possess cell phones and electronic devices at school.

### Cell Phone and Electronic Device Searches

The search of cell phones and other electronic devices for pictures, text messages, video, audio, or uploaded/downloaded material in connection with an investigation regarding an alleged violation of school inception and justified in its scope. Acceptable searches may include, but are not limited to, searches for video, audio, pictures, text messages, emails or other data regarding:

- assaults and/or fights;
- harassment/intimidation/bullying or sexting;
- possession, use, or distribution of controlled substances, illegal drugs, or alcohol;

- identification of ownership of stolen or lost devices; and,
- documentation of cheating.

If a search of an electronic device is found to contain evidence pertinent to an investigation, the school administration has the sole discretion to confiscate the device, contact the police, or give the device to law enforcement officials.

## **POLICY ON COVID-RELATED ISSUES**

The School Committee takes note of the COVID-19 emergency; resulting disruption of the traditional school day and year; growing concerns of students, families and the community; and the growing number of issues that will affect public education.

Therefore, the school committee establishes an emergency, interim policy to:

- promote public safety and safety of students and faculty,
- maintain to the extent possible the high and efficient level of educational services,
- ensure support for students in general and in particular for those at highest risk educationally as well as those at social and economic risk, and
- comply with the emergency orders of the governor and adhere to the extent possible, to the guidance of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and other agencies of state and federal government and expedite the safest strategy for returning students to school.

The school committee will approve the final plan submitted to DESE which will outline its strategy for returning students to school and will, in collaboration with the superintendent, make such modifications to the “back to school plan,” and district policy, and will authorize the superintendent to suspend, revise or create protocols to facilitate the safe return to school.

The superintendent will designate the appropriate staff members to oversee the safe administration of COVID-related policies during the period of the pandemic emergency and shall make such recommendations to the school committee as needed.

The school committee will authorize the superintendent to act expeditiously in executing the “back to school” plan in accordance with current law and regulation and will, where noted, authorize the superintendent to suspend, revise, or recommend policies, rules and protocols as needed to serve the best interests and safety of students, their families, and the community.

The “back to school” plan shall constitute the policy of the school district during the pandemic emergency, and the superintendent shall exercise the authority provided in law to carry out the plan as needed.

- General district goals affected by the pandemic.

The superintendent, with the advice and consent of the school committee, may suspend or modify individual district policies to address the COVID-19 emergency as declared by the governor. Such suspension of policy shall expire upon the end of the emergency as declared by the governor.

The goal of emergency pandemic policies shall be to:

- o ensure the safety and health of students, faculty, staff, and all persons who may come in contact with them;
- o provide the most effective educational services as possible to students under the circumstances;
- o authorize changes to operating protocols as needed to open and operate schools effectively from various venues or platforms;
- o conduct the district business and operational functions of the district as efficiently as possible;
- o allow the superintendent and staff to act quickly to carry out a “back to school” plan and,
- o facilitate the re-establishment of a safe and productive school day and year.

- Student assignment to schools (File JCA)

Subject to the guidance from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, the superintendent may suspend or revise the assignment of students to schools, including the assignment of new students for such a period as the emergency declaration is in force.

- School calendar (File IC/ICA)

Subject to the guidance from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the provisions of collective bargaining agreements, the superintendent may suspend or revise the school calendar with the approval of the school committee.

- Class size (File IIB)

In order to maintain healthy, safe, and effective classrooms, the superintendent may suspend district policy on class size, subject to the provisions of the collective bargaining agreements where applicable.

- Attendance (File JH)

Subject to operative law and regulations, suspend, modify or adapt policies related to student attendance including the link between and absences when appropriate, (including the link between attendance and grades), chronic absence policies, and accommodations for students requiring special placements

- Time on learning (File IC/ICA and ID)

Subject to the guidance from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the provisions of collective bargaining agreements, the superintendent may suspend or amend requirements for time on learning for the duration of the COVID pandemic.

- Grading and retention (File IKE)

In accordance with guidance from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, the superintendent may propose, subject to the approval of the school committee, modifications to the policy of the district for grading and retention of students.

- Local graduation requirements (File IKF)

In accordance with guidance from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and modifications to current regulation or law, the superintendent may propose, subject to the approval of the school committee, modifications to the policy of the district regarding graduation requirements.  
DUPLICATE STATEMENT IN SPECIAL EDUCATION

- Special education (File IHB, IHBA, IHBA, IHBA, IHBF)

The superintendent and school committee should be mindful that attainment of a high school diploma may render certain students ineligible for further services.

- Discipline and Suspension/Expulsion with homeschooling rights (File JIC, JK)

The “back to school” plan recommended by the superintendent and subject to the approval of the school committee shall contain protocols for serving students who are disciplined or suspended during the pandemic emergency.

Further, the superintendent shall provide in these “back to school” plans provisions for students who were disciplined or suspended or who may elect to remain at home under the provisions of the policies related to homeschooling, or who may elect remote learning in the interests of safety or health concerns.

- Exemptions for particular groups of students (i.e., use of masks for youngest children, high risk students) (File JL)

The superintendent shall provide protocols to principals and teachers regarding students who may require special exemptions from health and safety standards during the pandemic emergency. Such protocols may address exemption for utilizing support animals.

- Job descriptions (File GCA)

The superintendent may revise job descriptions for district staff, considering the provisions of current collective bargaining agreements, in order to secure the safety and health of students and staff, establish effective communications between school and community, maintain facilities, transport students as needed, provide food services, and acquire necessary materials to operate schools safely and securely during the pandemic. The superintendent will inform the school committee of any such changes. Any changes to job descriptions shall expire at the end of the declared emergency situation.

- STUDENTS AT RISK (JIE, JL, JLC, JLCC)

During the COVID pandemic, the superintendent or principal of a school may revise or suspend provisions of policy to facilitate the education of students at risk or with special physical needs or their family caregivers, including, but not limited to caring for or educating students with disabilities, illness, pregnancy, child rearing responsibilities, or special education needs consistent with law and regulation.

- Privacy of Students. (File JRA)

During the pandemic, the rights to privacy held by students and their families shall not be abridged by the public schools. Such rights extend to the confidentiality of student academic records, health data, economic status, and other such information as may be considered confidential by law.

Massachusetts law prohibits the recording of individuals without their permission. Similarly, students may not be recorded in classrooms by audio, visual, or remote means without the permission of parents or, if of age, by individual students. During periods of remote learning, the privacy of students participating in on-line classes shall not be violated by recording them without appropriate permissions.

- Pivoting back to remote learning, or back to in-school instruction

The superintendent shall incorporate into the “back to school” plan protocols for modifying these plans including addressing the needs of students who may require reversion from in-school to remote learning modalities because of the pandemic emergency.

- Home schooling File IHBG (temporary), home-bound instruction File IHBF (e.g., students with physical disabilities) and remote instruction for students in quarantine

The “back to school” plan shall provide for students who are temporarily homebound due to illness, quarantine, or disability

- Public Safety Officers, including the school resource officer (MOA with the local police.)

Subject to current law or regulation, the superintendent shall report to the school committee of any change in status of the school resource officer. (If the district eliminates visitors to school during the school day, the SRO may be impacted.)

- Eligibility for participation in extracurricular activities, including sports (File JJ)

Subject to law, regulation and standards established by the appropriate and legitimate regulatory body, the superintendent may propose changes to district protocols for participation in extracurricular activities including sports subject to the rules established by the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association.

- Attendance vs. participation in events (File JH and Student/Athletic Handbooks)

Subject to law, regulation or emergency declaration, the superintendent may propose protocols or modifications or suspensions of district policies regarding attendance by students or the public in school events including, but not limited to assemblies, sports events, large gatherings, or other programs.

- Visitors in schools and buildings (File KI)

Subject to current emergency declarations, the superintendent may propose suspension or modification to district policies regarding visitors to school buildings during the school day and after school hours.

- Illness and contact tracing (File JLCC)

Subject to the provisions of the “back to school” plan, the superintendent may establish protocols for tracking student contacts as a means of locating others from whom students may contract or expose other persons to the COVID-19. Such protocols will be consistent with law and regulation and be consistent with standards to protect the privacy of students, their families, and other persons.

- Transportation and busing (File EEA, EEAA, EEAE, EEAG)

Subject to current law and regulation, the superintendent may suspend or modify policies related to the transportation of students by the school district. Legal requirements relating to IEP’s that contain transportation for students shall not be altered without the appropriate family consent. These modifications shall be consistent with the district “back to school” plan.

- Operations and plant maintenance (File EC, ECA)



Subject to the provisions of law, regulation and collective bargaining agreements, the superintendent may suspend or amend current policy to ensure the efficient operation of business functions and maintenance of school buildings and other such offices as the district maintains.

SOURCE: MASC - July 2020

## FACE COVERINGS

The Westport Community School District is committed to providing a safe environment as schools reopen during the COVID-19 pandemic. According to public health experts, one of the best ways to stop the spread of coronavirus and to keep members of our school community safe is the use of face masks or face coverings. Therefore, in accordance with guidance from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH), the following requirements are in place until further notice.

A face covering that covers the nose and mouth must be worn by all individuals in school buildings, on school grounds and on school transportation, even when social distancing is observed. Exempted from this policy are students in Grade 1 and below.

Individuals may be excused from the requirement for the following list of reasons, per CDC guidance:

The individual:

- has trouble breathing;
- is unconscious;
- in incapacitated;
- cannot remove the mask or face covering without assistance.

In addition, masks or face coverings will not be required for anyone who has a medical, behavioral or other challenge making it unsafe to wear a face mask or face covering. A written note from a physician is required for a requested exemption. Parents may not excuse their child from the face mask requirement by signing a waiver.

Additionally, face masks or face coverings will not be required when appropriate social distancing is enforced:

- during mask breaks;
- while eating or drinking;
- during physical education classes;
- while outside.

Exceptions to this policy under certain circumstances, such as for students with medical, behavioral or other challenges who are unable to wear masks, must be approved by the building principal in consultation with the school nurse or local Board of Health. Face shields or physical barriers may provide an alternative in some instances.

A student's mask or face covering is to be provided by the student's family. Staff members are responsible for providing their own face coverings. However, the district will supply disposable face covering for individuals who arrive at a building, or board school transportation, without one.

If students are in violation of this policy, the building principal will consult with the parent/guardians to determine whether an exception is appropriate, or the student may be removed from the school building for in-person learning until such time as they can comply with the requirement or the requirement is lifted.

Violations of this policy by staff will be handled in the same manner as other violations of School Committee policy.

Visitors in violation of this policy will be denied entry to the school/district facility.

This policy will remain in place until rescinded by the School Committee.

LEGAL REF.: Commonwealth of Massachusetts, COVID-19 Order No. 31 - <https://www.mass.gov/doc/may-1-2020-masks-and-face-coverings/download>

REFS.: Center for Disease Control and Prevention – Considerations for Wearing Masks - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-guidance.html>  
Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education – Reopening Guidelines - <http://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/>  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts – Mask Up MA! – <https://www.mass.gov/news/mask-up-ma>

SOURCE: MASC – August 2020



# WESTPORT COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

**Please keep this notice available for your reference throughout the school year.**

**These items are a combination of policies already in place as well as those resulting from the collaboration of the Westport Public Schools Fall Reentry Subcommittee**

**Before** coming to school or getting on the bus, families should assess their child's state of wellness before leaving home for school.

**Students must stay home if they are not feeling well!**

- Fever greater than 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit, chills or shaking chills
- Cough (not due to other known cause, such as chronic cough)
- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Headache when in combination with other symptoms
- Muscle aches or body aches
- Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea
- Fatigue, when in combination with other symptoms
- Nasal congestion or runny nose (not due to other known causes, such as allergies) when in combination with other symptoms.

If the student has any symptoms of COVID-19, they should not attend school. The family should notify their school nurse that the child will be absent and the reason for the absence. The school nurse will follow-up with the family regarding the child's symptoms, whether the child was seen by a medical professional and any testing that was done. The child can return to school once cleared by the school nurse and/or the Westport Board of Health.

It is important to know the symptoms of COVID-19 mimic the symptoms of many other illnesses. To protect all students and staff, any symptoms of COVID-19 will be treated as a suspected case until determined otherwise. If a child becomes ill at school, families will be notified and for everyone's safety asked to pick up the child within 30 minutes.

**Students** with a temperature above 100 degrees should not attend school until they have been fever-free (under 100 degrees) for three (3) days and without the use of antipyretic medication, such Tylenol, Motrin, Advil or ibuprofen.

**Handwashing** should be done often during the school day. If your child is unable to wash their hands and/or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer, please contact your child's school nurse to discuss alternatives.

**Masks:** All students, staff and anyone entering the building will be required to wear masks at all times. Each school will schedule mask breaks for students.

Please fill out and return the Student Medical Update Form. Inform the nurse of any changes in the state of your child's health anytime during the school year.

**Medication:** All medications should be given at home when possible. **PLEASE DO NOT SEND MEDICATION TO SCHOOL WITH A CHILD. A RESPONSIBLE ADULT NEEDS TO TRANSPORT ALL MEDICATIONS TO / FROM SCHOOL.** Any medication that a student will take in school (whether an **over-the-counter or prescription medication**) **REQUIRES** an order from a physician in order for the student to receive the medication at school. Medication brought into school **MUST** be in the original packaging with pharmacy label. A parental consent form is also required. Both of these forms can be found at [westportschools.org](http://westportschools.org) by choosing the "Parent" tab and selecting "Health Office" from the list. The forms are at the bottom of the Health Office webpage. You may also obtain copies of these forms from the school nurse.

**Injuries:** Notify the school nurse if your child has a significant injury that requires a consult with an orthopedic physician. If your child is under an orthopedic doctor's care, clearance will be needed to return to physical education activity. When you visit the orthopedic physician, he/she can provide you with the necessary paperwork to forward to the school. If your student has a head injury or is diagnosed with a concussion, please call to discuss this with the school nurse. Remember that if a student is unable to participate in physical education then

they will also need to stay inside during outdoor recess period and refrain from physical activity during the recess period.

**Physical Examination Requirements:** A physical examination is required for all students entering Preschool, entering Kindergarten or upon transferring into Westport Community Schools. We also require a physical exam in Grades 3, 6 and 9. If a physical is required for your child this school year, please send in a copy of their physical exam. Notices will be sent home if a copy of your child's physical exam has not been received. The school physician is available late winter / early spring and will perform the physical exam if you wish.

**Screening:** Please note that school screenings are **on hold presently** per the Department of Public Health. Please address any concerns that you have with your child's doctor.

**Miscellaneous:**

Please do not send cough drops into school with your child. Cough drops may contain medication (which requires a doctor's order) or pose a choking hazard. Instead of cough drops, we recommend sending in a **full** water bottle so your child can take frequent sips of water to soothe a dry throat.

Proper footwear is necessary to help prevent injuries during outdoor recess. Students that wear flip-flops or shoes without backs will NOT be permitted to use the playground equipment or athletic fields / courts. Students should also come to school dressed for the weather as students go out for recess or for physical education.

When you anticipate that sunscreen / sunblock will be needed, it should be applied in the morning at home prior to coming to school. Sunscreen / sunblock that is necessary during the school day requires the same procedure as a medication in school - a doctor order and parental consent. Please do NOT send sunscreen / sunblock in with your child without obtaining the necessary doctor order and consent.

Please feel free to call the school nurse with any questions or concerns.

