

October 14, 2024

Hello West Bedford High Families,

Hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving Holiday Weekend. Our grade 7 and 8 students had a great time at the dance on Thursday, great to see them have so much fun. Please see the below information for the upcoming week.

1. **Attendance Reporting. Reporting an absence must be done via phone call or email:**

TO EXCUSE AN ABSENCE please call (902) 405-0442 Ext. 1

Please leave a voice message including:

- Your name
- Student full name (*please spell the last name*)
- Date of absence(s)
- Reason for absence(s)

If your student will be leaving school early, or arriving late, please indicate departure or arrival time in your message.

You can also email your student's absence information to: wbhsa@hrce.ca. **Please recognize this email is different than the school email. This is for attendance only.**

Lates: We are having a higher volume of lates in the morning (non-bus related) over the last few weeks. Please make sure your child is arriving at school no later than 9:10am in the morning as doors lock at 9:15am. Students with significant lates will start to get phone calls home as arriving to school on time is part of the Provincial Student Attendance and Engagement policy.

2. **Picking up students end of day at West Bedford (pylons have now been put on the road by HRP).** Due to traffic, bussing and safety concerns at the end of day, we are asking parents not to park on the road when picking up your child. This is causing challenges for our buses and safety concerns for our students. Going forward, please park in the lower parking lot in any spaces available at the end of the day only. Most of the elementary staff have left at this point and lots of spaces are open. We have also worked with HRCE operations and have created at least 20 visitor parking spaces in the lower parking that are on the right as soon as you drive in. These will be available any time of the day if you are visiting. Signage will be up shortly. Thanks for your attention to this as student safety is very important.

3. **SAC (School Advisory Council) members.** We are currently looking for SAC members in the following roles. If you are interested in one of the roles below, please fill out the following google form. <https://forms.gle/rSM5R8tS3ivDEZ3o6>
 - **1 Parent.** Looking for a parent of a student in either grade 7 or 8 as to represent the new junior high component of the school.
 - **2 Community members (cannot have child attending West Bedford High).** Looking for one from the Hammonds Plains community area and one from the West Bedford Area.
 - **1 student.** Looking for student from either grade 7 or 8 to represent the junior high. We will advertise this at school, no need to fill out form above.

4. **Grade 9 FIT (Flexible Instructional time).** Starting next week (Oct. 22), grade 9's will get to experience FIT time during integrated learning time. Every second Tuesday, first period in the morning, grade 9 students will have the option to sign up for a place to work in the building such as library, mezzanine, cafeteria, gym, hallways, etc. Students can work on whatever subject they want, seek out teachers for extra help, get a little extra gym time, etc. This was a huge success for our students last year as they found this time very useful to get ahead, see a teacher about something they needed additional support with, get caught up, work with friends from another class, etc. This also helps students get an idea of what some aspects of grade 10 FIT time will be like.

If you have time, please check out the recent article written in Edutopia.org, an education site that just put out an article around "Reimagining Study Hall..." which mirrors many of the foundations of what we are doing at West Bedford High to support student well-being and success. It is approximately a 5-minute read.

https://www.edutopia.org/article/study-hall-can-promote-goal-setting?utm_content=linkpos1&utm_campaign=weekly-2023-10-18&utm_medium=email&utm_source=edu-newsletter

5. **Newcomer Family Orientation Workshop**

On Friday, October 18, 2024, WBS/WBH, in collaboration with the YMCA Settlement Services, will be offering an **school orientation workshop to newcomer families from 6:00 to 7:30 pm.**

We are offering translation services in the following languages:

Arabic, Chinese, Korean, and Ukrainian

(Our English as an Additional Language (EAL) staff will be on hand to support folks who have other first languages)

Please note that there is no childcare or student supervision provided during this workshop. Families are responsible for the supervision of their children if they attend with you.

Please RSVP by Wednesday, October 16, 2024: <https://forms.gle/FAYY9WKitYUhtKZv7> If you would like to attend.

Kind regards,

Susan Casey, Principal WBS & Sean MacDonald, Principal WBHS

Important Dates:

- [October is Mi'kmaq History Month](#)
- **October 16: Picture Retakes**
- October 21-25: School Bus Safety Week in Nova Scotia!
- October 25: NSTU Conference Day (no classes for PP-12)
- October 31: Diwali

Sincerely,

WBH Admin team