

Sept. 15, 2024

Hello West Bedford High Families,

Please see the below information for the upcoming week.

1. Communication. Effective and clear communication is a key to supporting students in their learning and well-being. Here is a flow chart for communication in schools and at WBH.

- Start with the classroom teacher (grades 7-9) or teacher advisor (grades 10-11). Teacher/Teacher advisor emails can be found on the school website <https://wbh.hrce.ca/>

- If you feel your concern or question has not been addressed, please contact the Vice Principal assigned to the alphabet for your child's surname

Allyson MacKay (A- La) – allyson.mackay@hrce.ca

Alison Walker (Le – Z) – alison.walker@hrce.ca

- If your question or concern is in need of a school counsellor

Richelle Williams (A-La) – richelle.williams@hrce.ca

Julie Zinck (Le-Z) – jzinck@hrce.ca

- Newly added!! If your question or concern are around Athletics, please contact our Athletic Director:

Emily Bell – ebell@hrce.ca

- Still have questions or concerns? Please reach out to the School Principal.

Sean MacDonald – macdonalds@hrce.ca

If you feel your question or concern has still not been addressed at the school level, please contact the school supervisor, Brad McGowan at bmcgowan@hrce.ca or 902-464-2000

- 2. High School Attendance.** Students who are attending West Bedford High (Grades 7 – 11) are not on the Automated Attendance System that some of you may have been used to at the Elementary level. To report an absence, please call 902-405-0442 and press (1), or send an email to wbhsa@hrce.ca. When leaving a phone message please provide student name, homeroom/TA, etc.

If a student needs to leave during the day parents must call in and students can then sign themselves out in the main office. The absence is put into Power School as an unexcused absence until a parent calls to excuse it. Parents will receive phone calls for any unexcused absences at the end of the day.

- 3. Grade 8 English Classes.** We have started the year with very large classes in the grade 8 English department – over cap in all classes! As a result, we have just been granted an additional teacher which will alleviate this issue! We are working on rearranging some schedules to accommodate this additional class and in some cases, your child in another grade may have a teacher change for one of their classes. We are trying to minimize the disruption as much as possible!
 - A new teacher will be hired in the next few weeks. The new class will be created, and schedules will change.

What this will mean for Grade 8 students: A new grade 8 class will be created from students currently enrolled in 8-1 to 8-4 and all English classes will follow a new schedule.

Our teachers will be mindful of creating a new class that balances students' diverse learning needs, while also taking social considerations into account. We thank you in advance for your cooperation with this and will update those impacted as soon as possible.

What this will mean for students in Grade 7-11. With the additional homeroom for grade 8s, we will have course changes that impact the entire school. **We are attempting to address course requests for the senior high level (10 and 11) with these impending changes.**

We ask for your patience while this occurs.

- 4. Cell Phone and Air pods etc. update.** First, I would like to report that students at WBH are adapting fast to this change. Teachers are reporting higher engagement in their classrooms and far less disruptions.

*In regard to students using Air Pods, etc. (Bluetooth connection) this cannot occur in the classroom or cell phone free zones. If students want to listen to music, etc. when the teacher has given them independent time, they must use ear/headphones that can be **wired in** to the Chromebook. This will eliminate students trying to use their phones for listening to music. Again, this is when the teacher has given permission. This will be enforced this week. Please take a moment to review this with your child.*

- 5. Student Drop-Off/Parking lot.** With the recent addition of the modulars on the elementary side we have lost a significant amount of parking. As of right now there is no parking allowed in the spaces in the lower parking lot except for staff. If you are dropping off or picking up a student please do so in the designated area that is outlined in map sent out by HRCE. Please know that I am continuing to work with HRCE operations team to look at the spaces we have and possible options to improve the current situation.

Bussing at the end of the day and safety. Students need to stay at the front of the school or inside the main foyer/cafeteria to view the white board with the list of busses that are in the loop for the first round. If your child is allowed to access social media, they can also view this @WBHBusDeparture on Twitter (X). The following link will take you to the Twitter (X) handle: <https://twitter.com/WBHBusDeparture>. If they are not going to be on social media, the buses will still be posted on the white board in the main lobby. Having "X" is an added layer of communication, but not necessary. ***We will not be announcing the buses in the loop over the PA starting this week, they will be on the whiteboard and on "X". Students who do not have "X" should stay inside until their bus number is displayed on the whiteboard.**

Please check <https://hrcetransportation.mybusplanner.ca/> for information about your child's bussing. If your child has access to your account, they can also see where their bus is at anytime.

In regard to safety, students are not allowed to walk through the bus loop, they must stay on the sidewalk when accessing their bus.

Students walking home, or going to parking lot area to be picked up should not be cutting between cars, but stay on the sidewalk going down, or stick to the outside area of the parking lot when walking around. Please speak to your children around this.

- 6. Student Fees (overdue) and lockers.** Student fee - \$10.00 – please pay through school cash online. Please pay by Sept. 13th.

Locks - \$5.00 (cash only). The collection has been ongoing in homeroom/TA over the first few days. Students will not receive a locker until fee has been paid. No outside locks are permitted, school lock only.

- 7. Athletics Team Uniforms Fundraiser. Spots are filling up, so don't forget to sign up your child before they are gone.** We have a great opportunity for basketball enthusiasts in grades 7-9. We have two SMU university basketball players, Aidan MacDonald and Jayrell Diggs who will be putting on a pre-season skills camp here at West Bedford. This will be a total of 9 hours of skills development and scrimmage opportunities for 20 female and 20 male students. The cost is \$125.00 (this works out to \$14.00/hour). Spots are first come first serve and must be paid at the office (cash only). **Fee must be paid by Tuesday, Sept. 17th.** The dates are as follows:

Wednesday, September 18th 3:30 -5:00pm

Friday, September 20th 3:30-5:00pm

Monday, September 23rd 3:30 – 5:00pm

Wednesday, September 25th 3:30- 5:00pm

Wednesday, October 2nd 3:30 -5:00pm

Friday, October 4th 3:30-5:00pm

- 8. Team Tryouts.** Check our website and announcements posted daily. We are having some issues with our athletics calendar, information posted is not showing up or sharing. We are getting this worked out.

- 9. Boys High school Hockey Tryouts (grades 9-11). This is only open to grades 9-11 due to safety of our players.**

Cost: \$37.25 (please pay on school cash online – this includes 4% fee using school cash (\$35 for ice time)

Monday September 16th, from 7:45-9:45 pm

Monday September 23rd, from 7:45-9:45 pm (call back only – additional cost)

These tryouts will take place at the Greenfoot Energy Center in Arena B.

Players who make the first cut will have additional tryout time and cost. This information is to come and based on numbers to pay for the ice.

10. School Pictures. Tomorrow, September 16th. Don't forget!!

11. Lockdown drill. We will be conducting our first lockdown drill this week. Teachers have covered this in the first week of school but will review this again multiple times this week prior to the drill.

12. Curriculum Night. Wednesday Sept. 25th, 6:30 to 8:00pm. Further details in next week's memo.

Important Dates:

September 16th – Picture day

September 25th – Curriculum Night (6:30-8:00pm)

September 30th – National Day for truth and Reconciliation (no classes)

Sincerely,

WBH Admin team