

December 15, 2024

Hello West Bedford High Families,

This is the last week before holiday break. The next weekly memo will be January 5th. Please see the information below for the upcoming week.

1. **Non-Instructional Day (Grades 9-11):** On Friday, December 20th, we will have our first high school non-instructional day. On this day, teachers will not be teaching new lessons. Instead, students are encouraged to review what they have already learned or start preparing for work due after the winter break. With midterm assessments and some final exams coming up, students can use this day to get extra help, catch up, or get ahead in any subjects where they need more time. This is a great chance to finish assignments before the break and start thinking about the assessment week at the end of January. Last year, students really appreciated these days and used them well. Many high school students have been asking for this day since we canceled the one in November. If you have any questions, feel free to contact our admin team.

Important Details about Attendance on this Day:

- **Grade 9** students will follow their usual schedule and stay with their regular teacher in each class. (The academic hallways are reserved for grades 10 and 11.)
 - **Grades 10 and 11** students must go to their scheduled classes on time for attendance, then they can move to a workspace of their choice. They can either seek out the teachers they need or work in a space where they feel comfortable. The library and academic wings are quiet places to work, while the cafeteria is available for students who want a more social environment.
2. **SWISHMAS BASKETBALL 2V2 TOURNAMENT: December 20th at lunch** there will be a 2v2 half-court basketball intramural event, 6 teams of two for each of the high school side and junior high participants. One half of the court would be for the high school participants (grades 9-11); and the other half would have the junior high participants (grades 7-9). **Gr 9 will have the option of which group they want to play.**
 - **THE SIGN UP WILL BE DIFFERENT:** Instead of a sign-up sheet posted outside the gym **WE ARE GOING TO have one lunch time where the sign-ups will take place. This is going to be Tuesday at lunch in the cafeteria.** AGAIN, sign up for Swishmas will take place Tuesday at lunch, be sure to have your partner picked in advance and sign up to play Friday.

If you have any questions at all come to the Swishmas leads: Madelyn (grade 10) OR CJ (grade 11)

3. **High School student council.** Grade 9 -11 West Bedford High students and families, we will be hosting a 1 WEEK Food/Toy/Gift card drive from the 16th-19th. Please bring in non-perishable food items, new toys, and Walmart, grocery store, and gas gift cards to your homeroom class. These donations will be donated to families in need, within our own community. The class that brings in the most items will win a sundae party!

4. **The Grade 7/8 Student Council** has been hard at work organizing some exciting holiday activities! We'll be facilitating two 7/8 focused events in the coming weeks: a **Holiday Door Decorating Contest** and a **Food Drive Challenge**. The students are currently designing posters to help spread the word, but in the meantime, here's what you need to know:
- **Door Decorating Contest:** Homeroom classes will compete to create festive classroom doors! During ILT, each homeroom will have the chance to design and decorate their door. The doors will be judged for creativity and festivity. Judging will take place on **Thursday, December 19** to determine our winner (the prize is bragging rights!!!).
 - **Food Drive Challenge:** Each homeroom will receive a large collection box to gather non-perishable food items. Over the next three weeks, homerooms will compete to collect the most donations. The contest will end on **Monday, December 16**, and the homeroom with the highest number of items will win a **hot chocolate party** hosted by our Student Council during ILT the following day. The items will be donated to Feed Nova Scotia.
5. **High school (grades 9-11) summative assessments January 27-30.** Please take note of the following important information regarding formal examinations and attendance. Summative assessment events are a standard assessment and evaluation practice all high schools in Nova Scotia. For this reason, HRCE plans a final exam schedule in their annual calendar which is published in the spring of the previous academic year. Given that exam dates are published well in advance, it is expected that family vacations, or other non-medical absences will be scheduled around this important assessment time. Absence for any reason other than a medical excuse will not be considered an acceptable reason for not writing an exam. Exams will not be proctored at an alternate location.

There may be instances when the school is closed during the scheduled exam day due to inclement weather, a power failure, or other unforeseen circumstances. Exams will be moved forward a day when a situation like this happens. It is important to understand that the student must be present to write the exam on the rescheduled date. Please take this into account when planning and scheduling family vacations around exam time.

Note: Where a student misses an examination without an acceptable excuse as defined above, a mark of zero will be given. International students will receive a zero on their exam if airline tickets are booked early and the student misses an exam.

Important Dates:

- **December 20:** Last day of school for 2024
- **December 25:** Christmas Day
- **December 25:** First day of Hanukkah
- **December 26:** Kwanzaa
- **January 2:** Teacher professional day (no classes)
- **January 3:** First day back for students

Sincerely,

WBH Admin team