

March Newsletter

March 2022: School Newsletter

Woodrow Wilson Elementary
235 Birch Street, Waterbury CT,
Main Office: 203- 573-6660

School Hours:

8:35am-2:50pm (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday),

Only the 1st Wednesday of the Month is a 12:00pm dismissal (See WPS district calendar)

****No Student Pickup after 2:15pm.**

Principal's Message:

Spring forward 1 hour on March 13th, and we gain more daylight in our day! This is a refreshing time of year, as March rejuvenates our love for reading with a very special time full of recognition for childhood literacy. With the annual "Read Across America" promoting the importance of reading, as well as celebrating the famous child author Dr. Seuss' birthday on March 2nd, and the major impact he made with children's books. As the school year is moving so quickly, with less than 70 days of the school year remaining, I am reminded of the great Dr.

Seuss book "Oh The Places You'll Go", as our 5th graders prepare to leave for middle school and enter a new stage of their life. As the school year is swiftly passing us, and less than 70 days remain, it is important to make the most of your learning each and every day. Let's embrace the freshness of new beginnings and the beauty of the Spring season with unity and excitement to make each day better than the day before!

Principal Important reminders

1. All schools are categorized by the State of CT based on student attendance – please remember the importance of sending your child to school every day.
2. Arrival time - students should report to school between 8:05 – 8:30 – instruction begins at 8:35
3. Dismissal time is at 2:50 – students must be picked up on time. There is no afterschool supervision for students
4. Absolutely no handheld manual pencil sharpeners allow at Wilson School

Message from Superintendent:

Wearing of Masks is Optional Starting Monday, March 7, 2022

Parents/Guardians, Students and Staff,

We hope each and everyone of you are staying safe and healthy as we begin to welcome the spring season. I would like to provide some updates regarding district and school operations. Your flexibility and collaboration has been exceptional, and I thank you as we continue to navigate throughout the pandemic.

First and foremost, masks are still recommended. However, the wearing of masks is optional starting Monday, March 7, 2022 for students and staff within school buildings as well as for individuals who utilize the bus transportation.

We will continue to show mutual respect and demonstrate empathy, regardless of each community member's decision to wear a mask or not. In addition, the district will continue mitigation strategies to ensure buildings are clean and sanitary. The shift in the mask mandate is not an indication that the pandemic is over by any means. The district alongside the Waterbury Health Department will continue to monitor the COVID data on a daily basis.

At present time, the following situations will require students to wear a mask while in school:

- If a student is sent to an isolation room and/or is experiencing COVID-like symptoms, then the school can require that student to wear a mask while in the isolation room.
- All staff exhibiting COVID-like symptoms will be required to mask.
- If a student tests positive for COVID and stays home for a five-day isolation period, they are then required to wear a mask for days 6-10. (This applies to staff members who test positive.)
- Students/Staff who are identified as a close contact to a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 will be required to wear a mask at all times around others for 10 days

- **These protocols are subject to change if conditions warrant. The district will continue to consult with state and local officials as we monitor daily and weekly data.**

In addition to the above, the following situations will require masks to be worn while on school premises:

- Spectator Fan policy will remain in effect for indoor sports until the conclusion of the State Basketball Tournament
- Student-Athletes who test positive for COVID-19 should not exercise during isolation and follow the AMSSM return to play guidelines

Tips as you prepare your children for Mask Optional:

- We recommend having an open and honest discussion with your child/ren regarding their own personal feelings concerning mask-wearing at school. Please make sure they fully understand your family's decision about mask-wearing at school. Teachers will not enforce mask wearing for students.
- Remind your child/ren that some students/families/staff will have made a different decision about wearing masks at school and that WPS welcomes and accepts everyone's decision, whether or not they are wearing a mask.

Additional Updates and Reminders:

- **Staying Home When Sick** - It will continue to be very important (even more so with Mask Optional) for children to stay home if they are not feeling well, or if they are exhibiting any COVID symptoms.
- **COVID Reporting** - All families will need to continue to report COVID-19 positives to school principals, even with masks being optional.
- **COVID At-Home Tests** - All students and staff have received two tests. Please test your child on Friday, March 4th and Sunday, March 6th before returning to school on Monday, March 7th. We appreciate any and all steps you are all taking to help keep our school community safe and healthy. Additional tests

will be provided to students and staff who exhibit symptoms at school or identified as close contacts of a positive student or staff in school.

- **Visitor Policy** -The current visitor policy will remain in effect for the current 2021-2022 school year.
- Vaccinations - Vaccines continue to be readily available for students age 5 and up. Please visit the following website for more information: [COVID-19 Testing Sites](#).
- **Student/Staff Testing**- All students can continue to get tested for COVID-19 at each school once a consent form is signed. Beginning Monday, March 7, 2022, WPS staff who are vaccinated or unvaccinated can also get tested for COVID-19. [Consent forms are available online](#) for students and staff members.

We will continue to assess and fine-tune procedures with an emphasis on the health and safety of both our students and staff. I greatly appreciate all of the feedback from families and staff concerning this issue. In addition to the daily COVID reports, we'll continue to communicate both at the district level, as well as from the school level.

Sincerely,
Dr. Verna Ruffin
Superintendent

COVID19 Self-Test Kit Distribution for All Students and School Staff in WPS

March 3, 2022 Waterbury Public Schools distributed two Self-Test Kits ("kits") to all Pre K-12 students and school staff. Please set aside the Self-Test Kits if/when your children display COVID-19 symptoms.

Masks were voted optional during our Board of Education Meeting (3/3/2022) and therefore, the district recommends using a test kit over the weekend prior to March 7, 2022, in an effort to help mitigate the spread and transmission of COVID-19 to other students or colleagues

Dress code Reminder!!

Please remember NO Jeans are allowed to be worn in school. NO HOODIES are allowed in class. Hoodies must be removed before entering the classroom.



Important School Information:

- March 1, 2022- Half day, 12pm dismissal
- March 3, 2022- 1:30pm Black History Month Virtual Assembly & live museum -Date TBD
- March 4, 2022- No School
- March 31, 2022- End of 3rd Marketing Period

SPIRIT WEAR DAY



- March 1, 2022- Wear a Silly Hat and Socks day
- March 2, 2022- Wear PJs to School
- March 3, 2022- Dress up like your favorite character from your favorite book- No Costume mask allowed
- March 17, 2022- Wear Green to school

BUY YOUR *Yearbook* TODAY

<http://ybpay.lifetouch.com/order> School ID Code
is 101177522



DATES TO REMEMBER

- April 4, 2022- Spring Picture Day!!**
- April 5, 2022- Early Dismissal 12pm**
- April 5, 2022- Parent Teacher Conference 5-7pm**
- April 6, 2022- PJ Day, \$1 Donation**
- April 7, 2022- No School- Good Friday**
- April 12, 2022- Early Dismissal 12pm**
- April 17-22, 2022- Spring Recess No School**
- April 26, 2022- Early Dismissal 12pm**