

Wellsville Elementary

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August 2023

Dear Wellsville Families,

The summer has flown by in the blink of an eye- it is already time to start thinking of the fall and back to school. On behalf of the Wellsville Elementary School faculty and staff, we are excited to begin the school year. By now, you should have received a postcard with your student's teacher assignment on it, if not, please contact the WES office. We are working diligently to ensure our building is ready to welcome back students and families. To support a smooth start to the school year, please read this entire back-to-school message; a lot of important information is included below.

- **Wednesday, August 30th, 2023: Elementary School Meet the Teacher/ Open House from 3:30- 5:00 pm**
 - Welcome back packets will be available in your child's classrooms. If you are unable to attend, this packet will be sent home with your child on the first day of school.
 - This packet includes important student identification information that can be updated that night and turned into the main office- the current contact information is very important.
 - You will have an opportunity to meet your child's teacher and explore the classroom and building before the first day of school.
 - School bus transportation information.
 - Parent drop-off/ pick-up ticket updates will be provided (in your packet & posted online).
 - Cafeteria staff will be available to provide information or answer questions.
 - Religious Release Time information.
 - Tour the YMCA program and their "Back to School Carnival" and meet the YMCA staff.
 - PTA (Parent-Teacher Organization) will have information about their organization.

- **Tuesday, September 5th, 2023: First Day of School**
 - Doors open from 8:55-9:10; We have a NEW arrival & pick-up procedure (detailed later in this letter).
 - Parent arrival & dismissal will be in the LOWER BACK PARKING LOT of the school.
 - Bus arrival & dismissal will be in the FRONT parking lot
 - We ask that no parents enter the FRONT parking lot unless you are going to the main office.
 - Free Breakfast and lunch is available to all students.
 - Students must be in the classrooms by 9:15; any student arriving after 9:15 will be considered tardy for the school day.
 - Dismissal for students will be staggered between 3:05-3:15.

- Any parent who needs to pick up their child during the school day must come into the main office to sign out their child. Your child will meet you in the main office.
- To ensure the safety of the Wellsville Elementary School Building, we limit those within the building during school hours to essential personnel or pre-arranged visitors.
- If your child is taking the bus, please remember there will be **NO** changes to transportation requests unless there is an **EMERGENCY**. Any changes **MUST** be into the main office before 1:00 PM.

- **Arrival/Dismissal:**

We have changed our arrival/dismissal procedures for the 23-24 school year at Wellsville Elementary due to local traffic pattern changes. A map of these changes will be available in your student's Welcome Back Packet at open house & will also be posted on our school's website the last week in August.

- **Buses: Arrival/Dismissal** will be **IN FRONT** of Wellsville Elementary. We ask that **NO** parent cars use our front parking lot during this time unless you are coming into the main office.
- **Parent Pick-up/Drop-off:**
 - All parent drop-offs will follow in a loop around the **LOWER BACK PARKING LOT**. Staff will be in the lot to open your car doors and have your child exit your vehicle starting at 8:55 AM. We ask that **NO** parent exit their car to keep traffic moving in the morning.
 - Parent Pick-up will happen in two locations: Students in grades PK-2 & those siblings from the intermediate end will report to the primary cafeteria. Parents of PK-2 students will park in the **LOWER BACK PARKING LOT**, exit your vehicle, and will be allowed to enter the **Primary Cafeteria** starting at 3:05. After you have checked in, your child will be called to meet you. You will not be allowed beyond the primary cafeteria into the Elementary Building.
 - Parents picking-up students in grades 3-5 will go to the **UPPER BACK PARKING LOT** and loop toward the building. A staff member will look for your "parent pick-up ticket", so we can call your student to come out of the building and meet you in your car. We are asking that parents stay in their vehicles until your student arrives.

Please be patient with pick-up and drop-off times (self-transport & buses) during the first few days of school. As we adjust to the new transport changes, there may be some delays.

- **Back to School Shopping:**

- The Wellsville Central School District was able to purchase the majority of your student's supplies for the 2023-2024 school year. However, families will still need to purchase personal items such as water bottles, PE sneakers, backpacks, and pencil cases.

- **Parent Square**

- This year, most of our parent communication (important upcoming events, school closures, student absences, etc.) will be via Parent Square. Please review the green paper enclosed & look for an upcoming message to activate your account.
- The Remind app will no longer be used.

- **Snacks & Celebration Treats:**
 - To account for the health and safety for all of our students, including those with food allergies, all snacks or celebration food items (aka- Birthday treats) must be store-bought or provided in individual pre-packaged sealed items (no homemade or home packaged items). We encourage parents and guardians to have a conversation with their student's classroom teacher before sending food items into school. All items should arrive a couple days in advance, when possible. Treats or food items that do not follow this guidance will not be distributed and will be returned home.
 - The school cafeteria offers party snacks for purchase. Please have a conversation with your child's teacher and arrange purchase with the cafeteria manager.

- **Tuesday, October 3rd: Reading Under the Lights**
 - More information will be sent home closer to this event.

- **Wednesday, October 4th, 2022: School Picture Day**
 - More information will be sent home closer to this event.

Communication is key! We cannot stress how important it is for parents to be involved in their child's education. Checking the school website, the district's Facebook page, student folders, the Parent Square or even become a member of the PTA are excellent ways of staying 'in the know' related to Wellsville Elementary School. If you have any questions or concerns, please call the Wellsville Elementary Office- we would be happy to help you!

Once again, we look forward to having our ONE PRIDE family back for the first day of school, Tuesday, September 5th, and working with you to provide an excellent educational experience for all students.

Enjoy the rest of your summer,

Elizabeth M. Sinski

Ms. Sinski
Wellsville Elementary Principal

Walter Kewley

Mr. Kewley
Wellsville Elementary Assistant Principal