



# Whitman-Hanson Regional School District

Office of the Superintendent



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August 6, 2021

Hello Members of Panther Nation:

I am writing you today with important information on the opening of school for the 2021-22 school year. School begins for all students on **Wednesday, September 1, 2021**. Our operations and administrative teams are busy with final preparations to welcome our school community back. The purpose of this e-mail is to provide you with information on frequently asked questions prior to opening. You will find our team is committed to providing parents/caretakers with secured on-line access to information.

### Homeroom and Class Information

Homeroom and Class Information will be posted on-line using our Secured Parent Portal System. Access to the system is via our main District website at [www.whrsd.org](http://www.whrsd.org), and by clicking the "Parent Portal" icon located on the home page of the website.

Student information will not be posted at school sites for student safety reasons. If you encounter a problem with access to your child's information, please call your individual school directly. Information will be available using the **SCHEDULES link on the left hand panel on the parent portal as follows:**

Preschool Academy	Posted Aug 20, 2019 after 11:00 am
Elementary Schools (Conley, Duval, and Indian Head)	Posted Aug 20, 2019 after 11:00 am
Middle Schools (Hanson and Whitman)	Posted Aug 20, 2019 after 11:00 am
*High School	Posted Aug 20, 2021 after 11:00 am

\*High School Counselors will be available to resolve schedule issues with students in the School Counseling Office on Wednesday, August 25 and Thursday, August 26 from 9:00 am-3:00 pm.

### High School Parking Permits

All students wishing to park on the High School Campus **MUST** have valid parking stickers. Parking permit applications are available in the high school main office from 7:30 am -2:00 pm, Monday through Friday.

### Student Transportation Information

A separate email will be sent to notify parents/guardians when bus information is posted on-line using our Secured Parent Portal System under the TRANSPORTATION link on the left-hand panel. Bus assignments and stops are done in collaboration with our public safety departments, transportation contractor, and school administrative staff. Routes are designed to safely and efficiently transport students to school. Parents are reminded, by District policy, stops must be safe for parents to walk to and wait with students. It is not a requirement for parents to be able to see students waiting for the bus from their house.

Bus times are approximate, and we ask that you please have your children at the bus stop at least 10 minutes prior to the posted time. The same is true for drop-off times in the afternoons. As a reminder, there must be a parent, or pre-approved guardian/adult at the stop to release any kindergarten student. In order to maintain bus schedules and student safety, if a parent or guardian is not at the bus stop, the kindergarten student may be taken back to the school or to the next scheduled school for pickup.

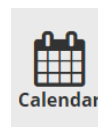
Requests for stop reviews must be submitted via an on-line form available on our main district website. Our Transportation Department works collaboratively with large day care providers to obtain lists of students who may be transported from these locations. This information should already be reflected in your portal information. The change form should also be used to request alternate pickup/drop off locations. Please keep in mind that any changes must be for the entire week (Monday through Friday). The District allots one seat, on one bus, per child. All bus change requests must be received by the date posted on the bus change request form in order to be processed for the first day of school.

### **Student Lunch and Meal Accounts**

Whitman-Hanson Regional School District is providing free meals to all students under the USDA's Child Nutrition Programs (Seamless Summer Option). Children enrolled in the district are eligible for these free meals regardless of eligibility through June 30, 2022. These free meals include breakfast and lunch. To ensure all children receive the nutrition they need, please contact Nadine Doucette, Director of Food Services to request any meal modifications at 781-618-7477 or email [Doucette.nadine@whrsd.org](mailto:Doucette.nadine@whrsd.org). All meal modification requests require documentation from your child's physician to be submitted to your school nurse for review. All approved modified meals will be provided to your child at no additional costs. Whitman-Hanson uses the My Payments Plus system for your student(s) meal accounts. Parents can use the MPP to pay for meals or a la carte items such as chips, ice cream, milk, etc., view cafeteria purchases, receive low balance alerts, or enroll in autopay. We have opened the system for deposits for the 2021-2022 school year. Any balances remaining on your child's meal account have been rolled forward and will be available for the first day of school. You may use the on-line system, free of charge, to review meal account balances and purchase history. If you use MPP to pay for meals or enroll in autopay, a small fee is applied per transaction by the vendor for making credit card deposits to accounts. You may deposit funds to multiple students using a single transaction. You will need your student's ID number (available in the parent portal) to setup a new meal account. Payments by check or cash may also be made at your child's school. The system may be accessed at [www.mypaymentsplus.com](http://www.mypaymentsplus.com). Also available are IOS and Android Apps which allow you to view and deposit via your mobile device.

### **School Year Calendar**

The most updated school year calendar is available by clicking the "Calendar" icon located on the home page of the website at [WHRSD School Calendar link](#). We encourage parents to download a copy and be familiar with open house dates, early release days, and school vacation weeks.



### **New Enrollments and Withdrawals**

This time of year is very busy for our District Student Registrar. If you know of new people who may have moved into your neighborhood with children, please encourage them to contact our Student Registrar as soon as possible. Information and forms for the registration process are available on our District website, or by calling 781-618-7481.

If you received this message, your child is still active in our system. If you have moved and intend on withdrawing your child to enroll in another District, please make sure you advise staff at your child's last school of attendance. This allows our staff to process records to transfer to your child's new school to avoid any delays in starting school.

### **Parent Portal Questions and Access**

Access to the on-line portal is provided to parents and legal guardians for students. We require a completed portal request form to be on file prior to providing account login information. After three logins, you will be forced to select a secure password and prompted to select 8 pictures you like and 8 pictures you dislike to allow for a self-password reset in the future. A SAVE button located on the screen will not be enabled until you have chosen a password, and selected the 8 *likes* and *dislikes*. In the event you have trouble accessing the system, you may contact our parent information line at 781-618-7438.

### **Elementary Open Houses**

The open houses for all elementary schools, including kindergarten students, will be held on Tuesday, August 31, 2021 from 4:30-6:00 pm. Information will be sent by the building principals as part of the opening package. To ease student concerns regarding the school bus, the district has worked with our transportation company, First Student, to make buses available during the open house.

### **Important Phone Numbers**

Student Registration	781-618-7481
Transportation	781-618-7491
Parent Portal Questions	781-618-7438
Conley Elementary School	781-618-7050
Duval Elementary School	781-618-7055
Hanson Middle School	781-618-7575
Regional High School	781-618-7020
Indian Head School	781-618-7065
Whitman Middle School	781-618-7035
Preschool Academy	781-618-7116
Automated voice service	781-618-7000

**COVID 19 preparations and precautions**

On Friday, July 30, 2021 the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in collaboration with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health released new guidance for school districts regarding COVID 19. [DESE/DPH COVID-19 Guidance for Districts and Schools: Fall 2021](#). These recommendations for opening will be discussed and determined at the August 18, 2021 School Committee meeting.

**WHRSD School Committee Membership**

I am pleased to welcome Michelle Bourgelas and Beth Stafford as the school district's newest School Committee members (replacing Robert Hayes and Daniel Cullity respectively). We thank our former members for their years of service and wish our new members all the best. On May 17, 2021, Christopher Howard was voted as the new Chairperson of the Board.

On behalf of the Whitman-Hanson Regional School District, we wish you and your families a very safe and enjoyable end to the 2021 summer. We are looking forward to a successful and productive 2021-22 school year.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey Szymaniak  
Superintendent of Schools  
Whitman-Hanson Regional School District