

Country School

2 Alphabet Lane

Weston, Massachusetts 02493

TEL: 781-786-5400

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August 2023

Dear Country School Families,

The start of the 2023-2024 school year is quickly approaching and we are very excited to welcome everyone back to school on Tuesday, September 5th. Please read all provided information carefully to ensure a smooth transition back. Also, please refer to our [website](#) for back to school information, updated school calendar, and bus routes.

School Hours:

- School hours are Monday-Friday from 8:00 am-2:20 pm.
- School hours for Wednesday's All School Early Dismissal are 8:00 am-11:30 am. Early release Wednesday generally lands on the first Wednesday of the month. Please refer to the school calendar posted on the website for those specific dates.
- School hours for Kindergarten are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 8:00 am-2:20 pm and Wednesdays are 8:00am-12:15pm. On District Early Release Wednesdays, Kindergarteners will be dismissed at 11:30.

Classroom Visits:

Classroom teachers will be in touch to share a day and time for your child to visit the school and their new classroom. With the exception of Kindergarten, these visit times will be specific to the class your child is assigned. During the visits, parents and students will have the opportunity to visit the classroom and meet the classroom teacher. Information specific to your child's class will be sent from your classroom teacher and will include the day, time, and meeting location.

Kindergarten Specific Information:

Kindergarten Visit Day:

Tuesday, September 5th from 10:00-10:45 a.m.

WCCA Kick-Off Party

Tuesday, September 5th at 11:00 am on Alphabet Field.

Back to School Night:

Country's Back-to-School Night will take place on **Thursday, September 28th**. This is scheduled to be an in-person event. Stay tuned for more detailed information closer to the date.

Arrival/Dismissal:

Here are a few helpful reminders that will contribute to a smoother transition:

- **Arrival**

- **Students can be dropped off by car at 7:55 am.** If you arrive early, we will ask you to keep your child(ren) in the car with you until 7:55. This allows us to be able to safely unload all students arriving by bus and then safely supervise students arriving by car. Thank you for your cooperation with this morning arrival routine.
- Please unload in the designated drop-off area (between the cones) and have your child exit the car on the **passenger side only**. This allows us to quickly and safely unload cars and keep the traffic moving, minimizing a back up on School Street.
- Please have your child practice exiting the car independently with backpacks and other school items ready to go. It is helpful to say your goodbyes while waiting, rather than once in the drop-off zone.
- If you need to assist your child with getting out of the car, please park in one of the spots in our parking lot and walk your child over.
- ***Dismissal***
 - Display your pick up placard on the passenger side of your vehicle. If you are new to Country School or need an additional placard for your car, please let your teacher know on visiting day.
 - Please only have your child enter your vehicle on the passenger side. Make a plan to adjust car seats so your child can easily enter the vehicle. Loading the vehicle on the passenger side ensures students can safely enter the car without risk of being struck by a passing vehicle.
 - If you need to help with buckling your child, please either park and walk up to the pick up area to greet your child, or have your child load into the vehicle and then pull into one of the parking spaces along the sidewalk (as you pull away) to buckle your child. This will help to minimize the back up in the pick-up traffic.
 - It is helpful to have children practice opening car doors and buckling independently to limit parents needing to get out of the car.

Student Belongings:

Please do not send extra items to school such as toys, blankets, etc. We try to minimize the amount of materials that will travel back and forth from home to school and that can create potential distractions during the school day.

The following items are allowed:

- Backpack
- Lunch bag and/or snack bag
- Labeled reusable water bottle - **We now have 3 filtered water bottle fill stations at Country School!**
- Tissues (optional)
- Extra change of clothes

Snack and Lunch:

All grade levels will have a morning snack break. Please send your child to school with a reasonable size snack. Classes will enjoy snack either in the classroom or outside. Teachers will make the decision day to day on what is best for their class.

Students will eat lunch in our cafeteria. ***We are pleased to announce that this coming school year, our Country and Woodland Elementary Schools will be transitioning back to open-serving lunch lines as***

they were pre-Covid. Families will no longer need to pre-order lunch for their children through the order form, as previously required, and we will return to serving hot lunch daily. Students will have multiple vegetable/fruit/grain choices during lunch each day. If students prefer to avoid the hot lunch item any given day, they can choose a salad, sun butter sandwich, ham croissant, or bagel with cream cheese instead. Parents can find our monthly menu [here](#).

Health Precautions:

Please refer to the [WPS Nursing communication](#) regarding updated Healthy and COVID protocols. It is a helpful resource detailing all the health and safety precautions that will be in place for this school year. **Masking is optional for all and is a family decision.** All students, faculty, and staff will be supported in their decisions to mask or unmask. We will not be testing for COVID as school, but will have masks available for students and staff. Students and staff that test positive will have to isolate for 5 days total. They are advised to mask upon return through day 10. Students who are symptomatic will be sent home and parents will be informed of suspicion of Covid and request for testing. We will not be requiring proof of negative test at this time.

We recognize there is a lot of information being sent in the days leading up to the start of the school year. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions you may have. Depending on the nature of your question you can contact your child's homeroom teacher (last name first initial@weston.org), the school nurse, Janet Weinstein (weinsteinj@weston.org), the School Adjustment Counselor, Amy Black (blacka@weston.org), or the Building Principal, Erin Maguire (maquiree@weston.org).

We look forward to seeing you and your child(ren) very soon and are excited for the school year ahead!

Sincerely,
Erin Maguire
She/Her/Hers
Principal