

August 18, 2023

Hello WBS Families!

I cannot believe that it is the middle of August already. I hope that everyone has had time to rest and recharge. We look forward to welcoming students to the new school on Friday, September 8, 2023.

We've had hardworking construction crews on site at West Bedford readying the school for September. I took a walk through the building today and noticed that every day we are closer to completion. The rooms are bright and spacious.

We hope to invite families to an open house before September 8th, but we cannot confirm a date at this time. If we are unable to have the open house prior to the first day of classes, we will have one later in September.

Information to support a smooth opening:

1. School Supply Lists

- a. A link to the school supply lists can be found on the front page of our website [West Bedford School](#).
- b. Students do NOT have to bring all their school supplies on the first day. Students are encouraged to bring items they can write and color with, a couple of scribblers (younger grades) or binder with loose leaf (older grades).

2. Transportation

- a. The first day of school is always an exciting one and even more so this year as we open the doors to West Bedford School for the first time. If your child has been allocated bussing, please have your child ride the bus. Getting into a school routine from day 1 makes it easier for everyone.
- b. Please note that there is a small kiss-and-go loop for students receiving drives in private vehicles. The kiss-and-go loop is designed to allow parents a location for student drop off and pick up. The loop is intended for quick transitions and parents/guardians are asked to:
 - i. Remain in their vehicles.
 - ii. Do not park your vehicle within the loop.

To limit the disruption to the flow of traffic, we ask that you please respect the rules for our kiss-and-go loop!

- c. There are some visitor parking spaces available in the first parking lot, closest to the field and high school basketball court. All other parking spaces around the building are intended for West Bedford School and West Bedford High School staff. When visiting the school, please be sure to use visitor parking only.

3. Arriving at school for the first few days:

- a. When your child arrives at school there will be several staff and student ambassadors on hand to direct students to their proper entrance door and guide them to their classroom.
- b. Each grade level will be assigned to a specific school entrance for when they arrive or leave the building. We ask that students use their assigned entrance as it helps to improve traffic flow within and around the building. This will also provide the most direct route for your child to get to their classroom and to leave at the end of the school day (the door your child goes in, is the door they will exit at the end of the day). More details will be provided closer to opening day.

****We ask that families, who accompany their child to school, say goodbye outside of the building. We will be welcoming over 1200 students into our school and want to ensure that every child can be assisted by our WBS staff and student ambassadors.**

4. **Lockers:** Students in grades 7 to 8 will have the first opportunity to request a locker. This will be on a first come, first serve basis, as we know that not every student in middle school will want a locker. After requests from grades 7 & 8 are processed, our grade 6 students will have the opportunity to access a locker.

There will be a \$5.00 locker/lock rental fee for the school year. Payment of the \$5.00 is done through School Cash Online. More information will be provided around how to do this, closer to opening day. Students do NOT need to rent a locker prior to September 8th.

School Cash Online: Currently, our school is not yet available in this platform, so you cannot set up an account. Our admin assistants will be setting up School Cash for the school during the first few weeks. Please note that we will be using this tool for all school fees.

5. **Cubbies:** Students in Pre-Primary to Grade 5 will be provided with a cubby to store their outdoor clothing and bookbag. Most of the cubbies have been installed, but some will be arriving after we open. Students that are not assigned a cubby right away will store their personal items in the classroom.
6. **Cafeteria:** Our cafeteria will open the week of Monday, September 11, 2023. Should this timeline change, an update will be sent home to families. There will be an online option to order and pay for student lunches. This makes it easier for students to get their lunch order in a timely manner.

7. Important Upcoming Dates

Activity	Date
First day of school for students	Friday, September 8, 2023
Picture Day	Monday, September 18, 2023
Picture re-take Day	Friday, October 20, 2023

We will continue to share more information with families as we get closer to opening day!

Susan Casey (Principal PP-8), Phillip MacEachern (VP PP-8) and Courtney, Smith (VP PP-8)