

Dear Stony Brook Families,

Happy New Year! We hope you enjoyed a relaxing vacation from school.

Yesterday we had home basketball games and many students wanted to come see the game, which is great! We love it when students cheer on their classmates and we want them to be able to come to the games. Unfortunately, our home games tend to start rather late because other schools get out later than we do. The first of the home games tends to be at 3:30 or 3:45, which means that there is at least an hour and a half of time between dismissal and the start of the games. We do not have staff to supervise students between 1:55 and the beginning of the games in the gym. If your child wants to come to the game, they need to leave at dismissal and can return to the gym entrance for the start of the first game. Our goal is to ensure the safety of all of our students and in order to do so, we cannot have them in the building unsupervised. Yesterday many students left school at dismissal and went to Dunkin' Donuts, but because of the large number of students who were there, the staff made everyone leave once they had purchased their food/drink. That led to more than 20 students returning to school and wanting to come in prior to 3:00 pm, which was 45 minutes prior to the start of the first game. We wanted to bring this to your attention in case your child asks to stay after for the game so that you are aware that they will not be able to stay in the building. We appreciate your cooperation and understanding with this.

Next week we have two early release days on Wednesday and Thursday due to conferences. There will be breakfast served each day, but no lunch. Dismissal will be at 11:00 each day.

Enjoy the weekend!

Sincerely,
Allison and Rick

Below is important information for families:

Coat Drive to Support the Lowell Transitional Living Center 1/2-1/19

Now that it's the start of winter, people are needing warm clothes more than ever. If you have any old coats, in any size, especially medium to extra large, that would be great for the coat drive organized by one of our 8th graders to support the [Lowell Transitional Living Center](#). This center gives the less fortunate a place to live, but other people's help is necessary to help everyone stay warm, safe, and healthy this winter. Any coat or jacket donations are greatly appreciated! The coat drive will run from 1/2 through 1/19. There is a box in the lobby for donated coats.

PTO Sponsored Events in January and February

Wednesday, 1/10/24 11:30am-2:00pm

On the half day we have reserved Roller Kingdom to provide something for middle school students to do with their friends. The \$20 admission will cover their skating, skate rental, 1 laser tag game, 2 pieces of pizza and a

medium fountain soda. Please see the flier or use this [link](#) to sign up. Spots are limited to Roller Kingdoms max capacity.

Friday, 2/2/24 7:15pm

Blanchard & Stony Brook PTO's have organized a fun night out for Westford Middle Schoolers, their friends and families to watch the UMass Lowell Riverhawks hockey team take on the BC Eagles at the Tsongas Arena in Lowell. Tickets are \$18 each and if purchased with this [link](#) you will get tickets in that same section(s) as other Blanchard and Stony families.

Lunar New Year

There is an ongoing poster contest for students to participate in to promote the Lunar New Year Festival. Please click [HERE](#) for more information. Even though the submission date on the attached document has passed, they are still accepting submissions. The Lunar New Year Festival will be held on February 10, at Westford Academy.

WA Chorus Clinic for All Singers- February 3

The Westford Academy Chorus is hosting a day of fun, games, singing, and MORE on Saturday February 3rd from 9am - 12PM. Any student in grades 4-8 with an interest in singing is welcome to attend and work with our wonderful students. Click [HERE](#) for a flyer with information. The cost is \$20 per student and proceeds benefit students attending our field trip to Philadelphia this spring. Email kstgeorge@westfordk12.us with any questions. Sign-up and more information at <https://forms.gle/5qK2RoNnvBiq8Fkr5>.

Video Webinars and Recordings to Assist Families

This year WA has a partnership with an organization called Cartwheel, which includes the ability for free attendance at monthly webinars and access to the recordings of those webinars after the initial presentation. The topics include information that many families may find helpful.

****On January 10 at 7pm ET**, they will hold a webinar about "How and when to seek mental health support for your child or teen" - [REGISTER HERE](#)**

Below are links to the three recordings of past webinars:

[Five Keys to Parenting Children with ADHD](#)

[Raising Healthy Kids in a Digital World](#)

[Addressing School-Related Anxiety and School Avoidance \(English\)](#)

Here are the topics for upcoming webinars. As registration links and the recorded webinars become available, we will share them with families.

February 6 at 7pm ET: "Understanding OCD and tic disorders in children and adolescents"

March 7 at 12pm ET: "Breaking generational cycles: Rewriting parenting patterns"

April 3 at 7pm ET: "Helping preteens and teens thrive"

Attendance - Reporting Absences, Early Dismissals, and Tardies

If your child will be **absent from school, please call the main office at 978-692-2708 and press 1 before 8:30 am to report the absence.

If you need to **dismiss your child early from school, please send in a note with your child on the morning of the dismissal to bring to the main office so they can receive a dismissal slip. A parent/guardian will need to sign the child out at the main office when they pick them up.

If your child arrives at school **after 7:35 am, they need to report to the office to sign in and receive a pass to their class. If your child will arrive **tardy to school after 8:30 am**, please call the main office at 978-692-2708 and press 1 before 8:30 am to report the tardy.

Stony Brook Events Calendar

Throughout the school year we post important events and information on the [Stony Brook Events Calendar](#). This includes holidays and no school days, evening events for families, and after school activities.

Stony Brook's Instagram

If you would like to follow us on Instagram to see what is happening at Stony Brook, please follow us at @sbpanthers.