

Dear Stony Brook Families,

It was an exciting week with the solar eclipse, Eid al-Fitr, and the return of warmer weather! We hope that our families who celebrated Eid on Wednesday had a great day of celebrating with family and friends.

Thank you to all of the families who provided feedback in the recent survey about communication between school and home. We are reviewing the feedback to find ways that we can improve how we communicate with families. One area that came up was our open house schedule. There are constraints with regards to how long the open house can be and how it can be structured, but we are always looking for ways to improve the quality of this event for families. With each team-based teacher having close to 100 students, it is impossible for individual and multiple conferences to be scheduled during the two January conference days, but we do have an ongoing option for families to meet with teams. If at any point you have concerns or questions about your child's progress in a class or classes, please reach out to the teacher and/or the counselor. Team meetings to discuss any areas of concern you may have can be scheduled throughout the year.

We have changed the format of the information we share in the family memo below to identify information specific to Stony Brook and information that is district or community focused. We will continue to look at how we share information that is important for families to be aware of each week. At the middle school level we share information about upcoming in-school events with students through our all-school Google Classroom, daily announcements, and messages shared in Advisory, rather than directly with families. While this may be a change from how information was shared at the elementary level, it is age-appropriate as we help our students become more independent and responsible. Parents can sign up as guardians on the all-school Google Classroom if they want to also get the information that is shared there and the daily announcements are available on the website each day. Most of the information that is shared through these methods is just for students, but it is available if you are interested in receiving it.

Next week is April vacation and we hope everyone enjoys the break from the normal routine. We will see you on Monday, April 22!

Sincerely,
Allison and Rick

Information that is specific to Stony Brook :

School supply drive to benefit STEM4Youth through May 3

Some former Stony Brook students created STEM4Youth, a youth organization dedicated to educating children of all ages about science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Their goal is to provide free and accessible STEM education to everyone through their programs, events, and fundraisers. Through interactive classes, they aim to ignite curiosity and nurture a love for STEM. In the year 2023 alone, Stem4Youth reached over 5,000 students, with more than 150 students benefiting from their interactive, virtual classes. This success is a testament to their dedication and the growing demand for STEM education in our communities. They are running a supply drive at Stony Brook for new school supplies to donate to schools internationally that have limited resources. There will be collection boxes in the main lobby starting on April 22 and they will continue to

collect school supplies through May 3. They will be collecting the following supplies: notebooks, pencils, pens, markers, folders, erasers, calculators, sharpies, highlighters, colored pencils, and other new and unopened school supplies. Click [HERE](#) for a link to the flyer with more information.

8th grade panoramic photo

On Thursday, April 25, we will have the whole 8th grade gather in the gym during advisory for our annual panoramic photo. If you would like to purchase a copy of the photo, you can go to <https://my.photoday.com/gallery/stony-brook-8thpano> to order.

MCAS testing dates

Here are the dates for our MCAS testing this spring. It is helpful if students are in attendance and on time to school on the days when MCAS testing occurs to avoid the need for making up the test and missing class time. Here are the remaining dates for the testing:

Friday, May 10 - Science Sessions 1 and 2 for 8th grade only

Monday, May 13 - Math Session 1 for all grades

Tuesday, May 14 - Math Session 2 for all grades

Wednesday, May 30 - Civics Sessions 1 and 2 for 8th grade only

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 and website

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. Here is a link to the Stony Brook website: <https://www.westfordk12.us/stony-brook>

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.

Information from the district and/or community:

Middle School Party at Roudenbush - Friday, April 26, 7-9

All middle school students are invited to participate in a party at Roudenbush on Friday, April 26, from 7-9 pm. Tickets are \$10 and are available online by clicking [HERE](#)—they will not be sold at the door. They are also looking for chaperones so if you are interested in chaperoning, please click [HERE](#). You can view their flyer by clicking [HERE](#).

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.

Below are links to the 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 \(English\)**](#)

[**How and when to seek mental health support for your child or teen**](#)

[**Understanding OCD and tic disorders in children and adolescents**](#)

[**Breaking generational cycles: Rewriting parenting patterns**](#)

[**Demystifying Teens: Helping preteens and teens thrive**](#)

Here is the topic for the next webinar on **May 7 at 7:30 pm**: Finding the words: How to effectively speak with kids and teens about suicide and mental health- Click [HERE](#) to register.

Massachusetts Partnerships for Youth - free resources for families

Massachusetts Partnerships for Youth (MPY) has a [**MPY Parenting Solutions Library**](#) available for families. You can also access this through the district website by clicking [HERE](#).