

Dear Stony Brook Families,

It is finally feeling like spring and there is a positive spirit that has accompanied the warmer weather. It's great to see the sporting events after school and students enjoying some sunshine and warmth after lunch.

With the end of the year approaching, we are beginning to plan for schedules for next year at Stony Brook. If your child is in 6th or 7th grade, please see below for information about confirming the performing arts selection for next year. We ask that you complete this form even if your child is not changing their instrument or performing arts selection. Next week our 6th graders will have a presentation about all four of the world language choices and there will be a form sent out to families to rank order the four languages so that we can schedule them for 7th grade.

Next Friday our 8th graders will be taking the science MCAS tests and the following Monday and Tuesday all students will be taking the math MCAS tests. It is important that your child's Chromebook is charged so that it is able to be used for testing. We know that some students get nervous about testing and hope that you can reinforce at home that while we want students to do their best, there is no need to be anxious about MCAS. These assessments give us information about how students are doing in content area skills, but they are only one piece of information. The learning and growth that students demonstrate each day in their classes is important and should not be seen as less than a statewide assessment.

Next week is Teacher Appreciation Week. The PTO has some plans to celebrate our teachers, which are described below. We are lucky at Stony Brook to have such dedicated teachers and staff who care so much for our students' academic, social, and emotional well-being.

Have a great weekend!

Sincerely,
Allison and Rick

Information that is specific to Stony Brook :

Performing Arts course selection for current 6th and 7th graders

As we begin the process of building the 2024-2025 student schedules, all families are asked to complete the performing arts course selection form. Students may choose to take Band, Orchestra, Chorus, or a combination of Theater Arts and General Music. We expect that most students who currently participate in Band, Chorus, or Orchestra will continue to do so, and we ask that the form be completed as confirmation of that choice. Please complete this Google Form with your child by May 15: [Performing Arts Course Selection Form](#).

Registration for the 2024-2025 School Year Bus pass opened on Wednesday, May 1, 2024.

In order for your child to take a bus next year, they must be registered through the transportation department.

For transportation information and FAQ: [Click Here](#)

For step by step registration instructions: [Click Here](#)

Stony Brook hosting MTEG Middle School Festival on Saturday, 5/4

Stony Brook will be hosting the middle school festival for theater again this year and there will be performances from 5 other districts throughout the day. The first show starts at 9 am and Stony Brook's performance will be the final one at 3 pm. Tickets for the day are \$10. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

8th Grade end of year events

Here is the schedule of events that are planned for our 8th graders during the last 7 days of school.

Monday, June 10 - APEX field trip *Permission slips were sent earlier this year. We will still accept them if someone has not yet turned it in.

Thursday, June 13 - PTO sponsored KONA Ice truck visit mid-day

Friday, June 14 - Field day

Friday, June 14 - PTO sponsored dance at Stony Brook (combined with Blanchard) 7-9 pm

Monday, June 17 - Grade 8 Completion Ceremony in auditorium 11:45-1:15 pm ****Each student may have no more than two guests attend.*****

Monday, June 17 - Grade 8 slideshow assembly 1:15-1:45 *This is a ***student-only event*** and will be held in the auditorium.

Tuesday, June 18 - Last day of school for all students - early release at 11:00 am

Stony Brook PTO - Upcoming events and opportunities to get involved

The PTO is planning a special week for the teachers & staff during the National Teacher Appreciation Week (May 6 to May 10) for which we are seeking donations from SBS families. Please consider donating to help us show our gratitude and appreciation for the dedicated and hardworking staff and teachers at Stony Brook.

Donate items here: <https://tinyurl.com/stonyptotagiftcarddonate2024>

Donate Cash here: <https://tinyurl.com/stonybrooktaweek24paypal donate>

Stony Brook PTO - WE NEED YOU!

The Stony Brook School PTO is **urgently** looking for a PTO Co-President, PTO Treasurer, PTO Secretary and additional Board Members to join our team for the 2024-2025 school year. If you are considering joining the PTO next year and/or are interested in getting more information please email stonybrookschoolpto@gmail.com or text Jamie @ 978-399-8548

Stony Brook PTO - 8th GRADE CELEBRATION DANCE - !! VOLUNTEERS NEEDED !!

The Stony Brook and Blanchard School PTOs are planning a fun-filled evening celebration/dance for all WPS Grade 8 students on FRIDAY, JUNE 14th at Stony Brook Middle School, 9 Farmer Way. **This event is possible ONLY if we have enough volunteers so please consider signing up.**

<https://tinyurl.com/wps8thgradedancevolunteers>. A flier with details for 8th grade students will be sent out closer to the event.

Please email stonybrookschoolpto@gmail.com if you need more information about any of the above. Learn about the SBSPTO by visiting our [website](#).

Our final meeting of the school year will be on Tuesday 5/28 at 3:30pm via google meet. Please consider joining us! <https://calendar.app.google/mUPtcTgOru285BTQ9>

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
Thursday, 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:

WEF Fundraiser

Please click [HERE](#) to access information about the WEF fundraiser in honor of Teacher Appreciation Week, which is 5/6-5/10.

District-wide Art Show - Thursday, May 9

Please join us in celebrating art created by students across the district, K-12 on Thursday, May 9, 5-7 pm. It will be held at Westford Academy and admission is \$1 per person. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

The Night I Died at the Palace Theater—Mystery-comedy production at Blanchard 5/9 and 5/10

The cast and crew of Blanchard Theatre Arts is proud to present: The Palace Theatre actors are just getting ready to rehearse the final scene for their latest production, "I Ain't Got No Body," when they run into a snag. The director who wrote the play is found dead onstage. Lois is shocked into an allergy attack! Ava faints! Luther orders a pizza! There's a lot of disbelief among the troupe until it becomes quite evident that Dexter Allan has, indeed, shuffled off this mortal coil. Not only that, he owed several of the actors a lot of money. "I know you can't take it with you," Gordon moans, "but apparently you can take somebody else's!" And then Frances dies! Only she doesn't really die. And then the pizza kid shows up. Only he really isn't the pizza kid. The one thing they all are sure of is their director is dead ... or is he? Timothy accuses Gordon! Glenda accuses Dana! Luther

can't figure out where his pizza is. And baby-faced detective Jimmy Todd has to put together all the clues. Maybe, thinks Jimmy, there are clues in the play they are producing. After all, Dexter wrote it. Was he trying to leave a hint? Or was he murdered for what was in that missing final scene? Clues intermingle with unveiled threats as cast member turns against cast member. Who heard Dexter's final words? Who kept threatening him for all to hear? And just when is Luther going to get his pizza anyway? This comedy-filled mystery is brought to you by Pat Cook, the author of *Death and Taxes* and *Three Murders and It's Only Monday!* Produced by special arrangement with THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY of Woodstock, Illinois. Click [HERE](#) for a poster about the production.

Online Ticket sales begin Sunday, 4/28 at <https://www.showtix4u.com/event-details/82240>. Tickets are \$12 online, \$10 for students, and \$15 at the door 45 minutes prior to each performance (cash or check only). The two shows are Thursday, 5/9/24 at 7 p.m. and Friday, 5/10/24 at 7 p.m. at Blanchard Middle School, 14 West Street, Westford, MA

Westford Summer Music Program

The Westford Summer Music Program is accepting registrations for this year's July 8-12 camp at Stony Brook. The program is open to all Band, Chorus, and Orchestra students in the WPS who are entering grades 5-9. For more information, please contact program director, Mr. Shekleton, at ashekleton@westfordk12.us or see their registration brochure [here](#).

Science Fair opportunity for middle schoolers

Some Westford Academy students have organized a science fair geared towards elementary and middle school students from grades K-8 on May 11th where students can present their projects (similar to the STEM fair hosted by the Westford elementary schools) and compete for an award. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Town Wide Appeal for Last Night Volunteers and Donations to help the Class of 2024

Dear Westford Academy Friends,

We hope that this note finds you and your family healthy and safe. As life returns to normal, so many people are still working through the adverse impacts of the pandemic and our hearts go out to you. We are writing to you today about the Last Night celebration for the Class of 2024. Last Night has been celebrated with the WA graduates for over 25 years and the Westford Academy Last Night Committee has been working hard to ensure this special WA tradition will continue. We will be recognizing the seniors by having a substance-free overnight celebration with fun activities, entertainment, and a raffle/prize giveaway; compiling class memories in a slideshow; giving each senior a WA fleece blanket; and putting together their class Photo Walls for their reunions. To accomplish this we need your help. It takes over 300 volunteers and many, many generous donors to make this celebration a success.

*We need help both before and during the event in a variety of areas. Parents of all students from K to 12, are encouraged to volunteer. We rely heavily on parents of underclassmen and younger grades for the event so that the parents of Seniors can enjoy graduation. For more information on how to sign up to volunteer, please go to <https://walastnight.org/volunteer>.

*Last Night is totally funded through generous donations of Westford Families and area businesses. For more information on purchasing from our Raffle Wish List or making a cash donation online, go to <http://walastnight.org/donate/>. To make a donation by mail, please send your check made payable to

WA Last Night to Last Night, PO Box 4079, Westford, MA 01886.

We appreciate your consideration in helping us with Last Night. Your support will make all the difference. Also, if you can, please spread the word. Thanks for your support!

The Last Night Committee

Mental health awareness poster contest for middle school students

The Town of Westford Community Behavioral and Mental Health Committee is holding a mental health awareness poster contest for middle schoolers to participate in. The focus of the posters is: What helps you relieve stress? Submissions need to be on 8.5x11 paper and are due on May 20. They can be dropped off in the main office at Stony Brook. There are prizes for the top three submissions. Please click [HERE](#) for the flyer with additional important information . Please click [HERE](#) for the parental consent form.

Westford Academy Ghost Youth Football Clinic

The Westford Academy Football team is running their 3rd Annual Youth Football Clinic!

Clinic info: No experience needed/ Flag and tackle players welcome. Athletes will be taught by WA coaches and players. 60\$ to register- all proceeds go to WA football.

Dates: June 10-12/ 5:30-8pm/ At Westford Academy Turf

To register- www.westfordacademyfootball.com

Click [HERE](#) for more information.

SUMMER BASKETBALL OFFERINGS FROM THE WA GIRLS' BASKETBALL PROGRAM

WA GIRLS' BASKETBALL SUMMER CLINIC - June 24-27, girls entering 2nd through 9th grades

The Westford Academy Girls' Basketball program is running its annual summer clinic for girls entering Second grade through Ninth grade. Held in the Main and Aux gyms at Westford Academy, the clinic is for girls of all levels of ability and experience who want to play basketball and learn and refine their skills in a fun and supportive environment. Half day and full day options are available, and there is a sibling discount. The clinic counselors are members of the WA Girls' Varsity Basketball team, and the clinic is run by current Bowdoin College basketball player and WA graduate Carly Davey and current coaches Cammy Desrochers (WA '17) and Russell Coward. Please click [here for the registration form](#), and feel free to contact Russ Coward at rcoward@westfordk12.us with any questions.

WA GIRLS' BASKETBALL SUMMER MINI-CLINIC - June 20 and 21, girls entering 1st through 5th grades

Since school ends Tuesday, June 18th, we are also offering a mini-clinic at the Crisafulli School. We will have access to the indoor and outdoor basketball courts, so this clinic is perfect for all levels of players entering First grade through Fifth grade. This clinic will run from 8:30am to 11:00am on Thursday, June 20 and Friday June 21. The clinic counselors are members of the WA Girls' Varsity Basketball team, and the clinic is run by current Bowdoin College basketball player and WA graduate Carly Davey and current coaches Cammy Desrochers (WA '17) and Russell Coward. Please click [here for the registration form](#), and feel free to contact Russ Coward at rcoward@westfordk12.us with any questions.

WESTFORD EDUCATION FOUNDATION CLASS OF 2024 FUNDRAISERS!!

We are so excited to announce our fundraisers for the Class of 2024! Balloons are back and we are also offering Class of 2024 Grad lawn signs. We are so proud of our Seniors and cannot wait to see the support all over town. We are only offering curbside pick up, please click on the link for order information and further details. Celebrate the Grad in your life - your own, your neighbor's, your friend's, your child's friends, your babysitters, nieces & nephews.

DEADLINE FOR ALL ORDERS IS 5/24!! DON'T MISS OUT! Visit our website www.westford.org/wef to place your orders.

Proceeds from these fundraisers will be used to provide innovative education and professional development grants to Westford Public Schools. We know there are many ways to support our graduates; we thank you for

choosing to also support WEF as we fulfill our mission to support innovative education while we give directly back into our community and support our schools!

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](#).