

Dear Stony Brook Families,

We have had a great first full week of school at Stony Brook. We have 6 different groups of 8th graders who are helping to do the daily announcements each morning and it is so great to hear their voices and see them take on leadership roles. Our students have been involved in after school sports, clubs, and theater already, and it is great to see so many students getting involved in school activities.

We will have our Back to School Night on Thursday, 9/21, from 5:30-7:00 pm. Students will bring home a paper copy of the schedule for their parents/guardians to follow. Parents/guardians will have the opportunity to follow a modified version of their child's schedule. We will end the evening with a brief presentation in the Auditorium with general information with the administrators. We look forward to seeing you all next week.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Sincerely,
Allison and Rick

Below is important information for families:

Conference Date / Calendar Change

The School Committee approved a change to the district calendar, which impacts the dates for the middle school conferences. Here are the changes that impact the calendar at Stony Brook:

* **The first two days of the week of Thanksgiving (11/20 and 11/21) will be full days** and there will not be conferences on either of those

days. 11/22 will still be an early release since it is the day before Thanksgiving.

* **Middle school conferences will be on Wednesday, January 10, and Thursday, January 11, and both of these days will be early**

release days. Conferences will be held from 11:45-4:15.

We wanted to bring your attention to this change in the calendar as soon as possible. By holding the conferences after the December break families will have received the first trimester report cards and comments before signing up and meeting with teachers. Here is the link to the [updated District Calendar](#).

Communication with Teachers

Throughout a typical school day, teachers received multiple emails and messages from families, colleagues, the office, and students. Please understand that teachers do their best to reply to communications within 24 hours of receiving them, but it will not necessarily be an immediate response during the same school day. We encourage all staff to allow themselves to separate from school-related communication in the evenings and over the weekend. All of our staff have different commitments that take up their non-school time, including families, other jobs, and other responsibilities. We appreciate your understanding and patience.

Girls in STEAM Event - Saturday, 9/16

This is a free event that will have various activities in Engineering involving Software, Mechanical, Electrical as well as Art projects and Leadership sessions. Presenters include NASA scientists, Women Engineers, Technology Professionals, Girls with STEM majors and Artists. The event is geared towards Students in 7th grade and higher.

Attendees will participate in hands-on experiments and interactive sessions involving Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Mathematics. There will also be presentations by women centric organizations like Girls, Inc and Women Hacks. Lunch and refreshments will be served.

FRC 5962 perSEVERE is a Robotics team that is hosting this event under the umbrella of the parent non-profit organization - Merrimack Valley Robotics. Students can rsvp or sign up to volunteer at <https://forms.gle/zDyTzHdZp7GMpbtw8>

Yearbook

You can get a 10% discount if you purchase a 2023-2024 yearbook until October 31, 2023. Students will bring home fliers as well. Click on this link: <https://www.treering.com/purchase?PassCode=1015224146213733>

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.

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.

PTO Information and "No Fuss" Fundraiser

The first SBSPTO Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 26th at 3:30 pm (Virtual). All Stony Brook School parents & teachers are welcome to attend. *We are looking for a backup secretary if anyone is interested in getting more involved with the PTO and is interested in taking minutes at our monthly meetings.* Please email us at stonybrookschooldpto@gmail.com for the meeting link & agenda.

1. [PTO Meeting Dates](#)
2. [What the SBSPTO did in the 22-23 school year](#)
3. [SBSPTO Website](#) (For additional information about the PTO)
4. Please like us on [Facebook](#) to receive PTO information.

Are you Interested in getting to know who we are and what we do to see if you are interested in joining our meetings? Get to Know the Stony PTO (in person @ an off site location) Wednesday, 9/20 at 6:30pm [RSVP](#)

The SBSPTO thanks the parents who have already donated to the PTO's [ANNUAL "NO-FUSS" FUNDRAISER](#).

- This fundraiser is our Primary Source of Funds, we hope that you will consider contributing to help us reach our goal of **\$15,000**.
- All donations are tax-deductible and all collected funds go toward sponsoring events and items that benefit the students of Stony Brook School.
- The suggested donation is \$60 PER STUDENT or \$100 PER FAMILY, but any amount is greatly appreciated.
- **Deadline: September 30, 2023**

If you prefer to donate by check you can send it in to the Main Office or drop it off at the PTO table on Sep 21 (Back-to-School Night). Checks should be made payable to 'WEPTO-Stony Brook School'. Kindly put it in an envelope addressed to SBSPTO and include your email address in it.



Learn More about SBSPTO [HERE](#)

WestFest on 9/24, 12-4

Westford Education Foundation is gearing up for their annual Family Fun Food Truck Festival! Sunday September 24th 12-4 at Stony Brook Middle School.

VOLUNTEERS: We are in need of volunteers. Please consider joining us to support our community together on this great event!

FUNFEST: Local clubs, sports teams, organizations and other non-profits are welcome to fundraise with us by hosting a carnival game or activity

SHOPFEST: We still have spots for crafters and vendors to sell their goods at our event.

SPONSORS: Work for a local business, consider one of our awesome sponsorship opportunities

For all information about Westford Education Foundation and WESTFEST 2023 please check out westford.org/wef We could not do this community event without you! Thank you for all your support!

Sarah Bischoff wef@westford.org

Destination Imagination

DI Parents Info Night: Destination Imagination!

Sign up your kid(s) and yourself for the fun of DI this year, the STEAM activity where small teams solve a big challenge while learning skills and teamwork. Learn more at <http://westford.org/DI> and register to come to Parents Info Night on Sept 27, from 7-8 pm at the Fletcher Library. With science, drama, stories, engineering, art, and project skills, it's 100% kid-powered fun! Please click on this link to learn more about [Destination Imagination](#).

Information about the Community Wellness Coordinator for the Town of Westford

They will offer Mental Health First Aid Training at the end of the month and Community Assistance office hours at the library. Click [HERE](#) and [HERE](#) for more information.

Trunk or Treat - 10/27

The event will take place on October 27th from 5-7pm at the Westford Academy Senior Parking Lot. Elementary and middle school students will be trick-or-treating out of car trunks that are set up and hosted by various Westford Academy student organizations. There will be candy and treats in the trunks! The students who participate in this event are encouraged to dress in their Halloween costumes.