

Dear Stony Brook Families,

We are excited to welcome families into school on Monday afternoon and Tuesday morning for conferences with teachers. If you are coming into the building for your conference please use the main entrance and you will see information about how to reach classrooms. If you are meeting virtually for your conference please click [HERE](#) for all of the Google Meet links. SignUp Genius will send out a reminder of conference times over the weekend to each family who has signed up. Each conference is 10 minutes long—it is important that we start and end on time so that we are able to keep to the schedule for all families. We appreciate your understanding with this as our teachers are working hard to meet with as many families as possible.

If you are coming into school on Monday or Tuesday for conferences and have any old coats that are no longer in use, please consider bringing them with you to help one of our 7th graders with the ‘One Warm Coat’ Drive to benefit families in Lowell. We appreciate any contributions you can make—there are more details listed below.

We have an unusual schedule next week. Monday is an 11:00 am early release day with no lunch served. We will hold the First Annual Stony Brook Panthermonium Games in Advisory groups throughout the morning. We are looking forward to a fun day of competition and team building with all of our students. Tuesday is a 2 hour delayed start so school will begin at 9:35 am. The doors will open at 9:25 that morning. Wednesday is an 11:00 am early release day with no lunch served.

We hope that you enjoy the weekend.

Allison and Rick

### **Here is some important information for families:**

#### **COVID-19 Tests Provided to All Students Early Next Week**

To support a safe and healthy return to school after the Thanksgiving and winter breaks, the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), the Executive Office of Health and Human Services, and the Department of Public Health have worked with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to provide at-home COVID-19 tests at **no cost** to school districts across Massachusetts.

Westford schools will distribute two COVID tests to all students and staff prior to the Thanksgiving break and again prior to the December break. Tests are not mandatory, but a resource for individuals to use, at their discretion, should there be concerns about exposure over the school breaks.

#### **Safety While Driving on Stony Brook Campus**

When you are driving on our school campus please be careful. We have had cars driving quite quickly through the parking lot and in the drop off lane of our school, which has led to two near-miss accidents involving pedestrians this week. Please drive slowly, do not drive in or through the parking lot during drop off or pick up time, and be sure to follow all ‘do not enter’ and ‘one way’ signs for safety reasons. We know that the morning and afternoon can be stressful times during drop off and pick up, so we appreciate your extra attention to ensure everyone’s safety.

#### **8th Grade Baby Photos for Yearbook**

If your 8th grader has not already brought in a baby photo for the yearbook, please be sure they do so by Wednesday, November 23. We will not be able to accept any baby photos after that time.

### **8th Grade Washington DC Trip Deadline - Today is the Deadline!**

8th graders planning to travel to Washington DC must be registered with Capital Tours by ***the end of the day today, 11/18***. Airline tickets and hotel reservations need to be confirmed for the specific size of our group. If your child is not registered by November 18 there will not be a seat for them on the trip. Please go to <https://www.capitaltours.net/> and choose 'Register' in the top right corner to complete online registration.

### **Chromebook Damage and Opportunity to Purchase Insurance**

We have had an increase in damage to Chromebooks and requests for repairs and loaners. If insurance for the Chromebook has been purchased then there is no cost for the repairs, but if a student's Chromebook is uninsured then repairs need to be paid for by the student's family.

The cost for repairs are listed below:

- \*\*LCD/Screen replacement: \$70.00
- \*\*Keyboard replacement: \$60.00
- \*\*Bezels (surrounds screens): \$25.00
- \*\*Hinge replacement: \$20.00
- \*\*Replacement chargers: \$25.00
- \*\*Other parts charged as needed (i.e. cameras, top or bottom cases, etc.)

We have asked that the portal to purchase insurance for the Chromebooks be reopened to allow families the chance to purchase the insurance and avoid the possibility of needing to pay the fees listed above. The link for information about purchasing insurance is [HERE](#). Each grade will have their own link with pricing based on the number of years that students will continue to be at the middle school. *The portal will remain open from November 10 through November 23 for purchasing insurance.*

### **Basketball Tryouts Week of 11/28**

Tryouts for both Girls & Boys Basketball will begin on Monday, Nov. 28th. Girls' tryouts will be from 2-3:30 pm and boys' tryouts will be from 3:30-5:30 pm each day for the week of Nov. 28th. Girls should report directly to the gym after school. Boys should plan to go home and return to Stony Brook to meet Coach Duffet in the gym lobby at 3:30 pm. Due to the number of students trying out, it is important that girls are picked up promptly at 3:30 pm and boys leave school and return at the designated 3:30 pm time.

In order for students to be able to participate in tryouts they:

- \*\*Must have a current Physical on file with the nurse
- \*\*Must register for Stony Brook Basketball using Family ID.

Click here for registration: <https://www.familyid.com/organizations/westford-public-schools>

### **What to do about Flu, COVID, RSV, Strep, the Common Cold, and other Viruses**

If you've seen the news, you have heard that flu, COVID, and RSV are circulating, along with strep and a variety of other viruses. We work very hard to combat these viruses and illnesses here at Stony Brook. Our custodians routinely disinfect areas of high traffic and high touch areas, teachers have the windows open to increase ventilation, and there are air purifiers throughout the building. With this being said, we need your help!

- \*\*School protocol states any student with a fever of 100.4 F should stay home. They must remain fever free without medication for 24 hours before returning to school.

\*\*Persistent cough is a reason to stay home. It is disruptive to the classroom and is a reason for dismissal.

\*\*Students go outside during break and during lunch. It is important they wear appropriate clothing for the weather. The cold does not cause illness. But being cold may cause shivering which decreases the immune system.

\*\*If your child is not feeling well, keep them home. They can access some assignments via Google Classroom and teachers will allow time for making up missed assignments upon return.

\*\*COVID is still here. If you or your child are having cold symptoms, we encourage you to test before sending your child to school.

\*\*Encourage fluids, a balanced diet, and plenty of rest to help combat these illnesses and seasonal issues.

### **Upcoming Panorama Survey—Opt Out Open Through the End of Today, 11/18**

We thank you and your family for being our valued partners as we work together to educate the children in our district. Westford Public Schools values input from our community – and we need to hear from your child or children! Students are important partners as we work to improve our communication, academic program, and overall experience for everyone.

To learn more about our students and their experiences, we will be asking for your child to reflect on their own mindsets and approaches to learning via an online survey they will be completing at school. The survey administration window is scheduled to take place between the weeks of December 5, 2022 and December 16, 2022. The survey shouldn't take more than 20-30 minutes to complete. The survey is available to view in the main office. Please complete the Google Form by November 18, 2022 ONLY if you would like to OPT OUT your child out of taking the survey. Click [HERE](#) for more information about the Panorama survey.

If you would like to opt your child out of taking the survey, please click this link: [Panorama Opt Out Google Form](#)

### **'One Warm Coat' Drive - Extended through Tuesday, 11/22**

If you have extra coats that are no longer being worn at home and you are coming to a conference on Monday or Tuesday next week, please consider bringing them with you to donate to a coat drive supporting 'One Warm Coat' in Lowell. Coats should be gently used with no stains or rips and the zippers need to work. Please click [HERE](#) for more information about the ways you can contribute to this coat drive.

### **Blanchard Theatre Arts Fall Musical - 12/1-12/3**

The Blanchard Fall Musical this year is CRAZY FOR YOU®: YOUTH EDITION. Performances will be Thursday, 12/1 at 7 pm, Friday, 12/2 at 7 pm, and Saturday, 12/3 at 2 pm. To purchase tickets and for more information please see this link: <https://www.showtix4u.com/event-details/69035>

Online sales are \$12/ticket before each performance. Sales close 3 hours prior to each performance. Tickets are \$15 each at the door sold 45 minutes prior to each performance.

### **For the Love of Erika Toy Drive - 11/28-12/9**

Stony Brook will participate in a toy drive in memory of a Westford resident, Erika Gould, who passed away from cancer at the age of 7. Contributions help children through DCF and who are at local hospitals or shelters. We will be collecting new, unopened, and unwrapped toys between 11/28 and 12/9. Please click [HERE](#) for more specific information about the ways you can contribute to the toy drive.

### **Westford Middle School Hockey**

If your child is interested in joining the Westford Middle School Junior Ghost Hockey, please review the Westford Middle School Hockey website and please contact Mike Bonenfant with any questions. Please click [HERE](#) for detailed information about the seasons and registration.

### **ELPAC Night at JV Fletcher Library - 11/28**

The ELPAC (English Learner Parent Advisory Council) is teaming up with the JV Fletcher Librarians to host the ELPAC Night at the Library's PJ Storytime event. This will take place at the JV Fletcher Library and is for our younger learners on Monday, November 28th at 6:30 PM. Click [Here](#) to read our flyer.