

Dear Stony Brook Families,

It's been a busy week at Stony Brook! There are many activities throughout the building keeping everyone engaged. Next Friday is an early release day. Breakfast will be served, but there will not be lunch served. Dismissal will be at 11:00.

Enjoy the weekend!

Sincerely,
Allison and Rick

Below is important information for families:

Student Activity Fees Due

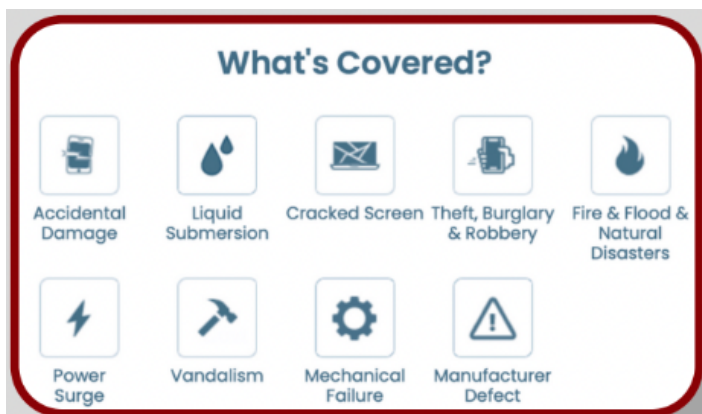
In order to participate in after school activities at Stony Brook, all students must pay a yearly Activity Fee. If your child is participating in an afterschool activity, please send in a check in the amount of \$80.00 to the school with your student's name and 'Activity Fee' written in the memo line as soon as possible. The due date is today, December 15, 2023. Checks should be made payable to Westford Public Schools and turned into the Stony Brook Office. You may also pay online at www.myschoolbucks.com with the same log-in used for School Lunch payments. Select "School Store", select "Browse All Items", select "Student Activity Fee- Middle School" (this may be on the second page).

Activity fees help to pay advisor stipends; without full collection of fees, we would not be able to offer a full roster of activities. Activity fees are separate from athletic fees. Some activities, such as Ski Club, may require additional fees. If you have any questions, please contact Rick McElhinney, Assistant Principal, or Monica Rodriguez, Principal Aide. If this fee will cause your family financial hardship, please contact your student's guidance counselor as financial help is available.

Chromebook Insurance Portal Reopened

We have had some broken Chromebooks, as always happens. The cost of the repairs can be high, so in an effort to help make the repairs more affordable for families, we have reopened the portal for purchasing insurance. The portal will remain open through 12/25. This information was also sent home on colored paper with each student this week.

Please click on your child's grade to purchase the insurance: [6th Grade](#) [7th Grade](#) [8th Grade](#)



ELPAC Meeting–Monday, December 18 at JV Fletcher Library

On Monday, December 18, the ELPAC will be joining PJ Story Time at the JV Fletcher Library from 6:30-7:30, followed by a chance to meet with ELPAC representatives and the library staff. Please click [HERE](#) for more information.

Video 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 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.

January 10 at 7pm ET: "How and when to seek mental health support for your child or teen"

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"

Screening of *Who We Are* at WA on 1/17 at 6:30 pm

The Town of Westford Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee along with Westford Public Schools Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee are excited to partner with Community TeamWork (CTI) to screen Jeffrey Robinson's documentary: *Who We Are ~ A Chronicle of Racism in America*. Please join us for our community viewing! [RSVP Form](#): by January 3rd, 2024. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Westford Education Foundation Fundraising

Give The Gift That Keeps On Giving! Can't find just the right gift to show your appreciation for the wonderful job your child's teacher or special staff member has done? Consider sending a WEF note to your favorite teacher, counselor, teacher's aide, school nurse, office staff member, or principal. It's the perfect way to say thank you and support innovation at Nashoba Valley Technical High School and in Westford Public Schools at the same time! Proceeds from these notes will be used to fund grants for innovative educational programs for NVTHS and WPS. This is also a great idea for class gifts!

Just make a tax-deductible donation (minimum of \$10 per honoree) to the Westford Education Foundation and we will send your honoree an email from WEF with a personalized note. The email will state your name and your message, but will not disclose the amount of your gift.

Note: Donations made to WEF in honor of NVTHS and WPS staff members comply with the state ethical regulations for gift-giving and acceptance. The Westford Education Foundation is an independent, non-profit organization that promotes excellence in education. We fund grants to teachers, staff, and the community for innovative educational initiatives, professional development, and life-long learning ventures.

Visit our website at <https://www.westford.org/wef> for more information on the programs we have funded in your school. All of this would not be possible without the support of our community and people like you.

Please visit https://www.westford.org/wef/thank-a-teacher_winter/ to complete your donation. You can complete your donation using your PayPal account or credit card. You will receive a confirmation email when your note is delivered. Questions? Contact WEF at wef@westford.org. Thank you!

Please check to see if your company has a matching gift program. Your gift may be doubled, or even tripled! Check with your human resources office for a matching gift form to submit with your donation.

Resources available to families through the Town of Westford Community Wellness and Health Departments

Parent Support Group - Are you experiencing the challenges of parenting a child who may be struggling with their mental health? The Westford Parent Support Group is a safe space to come together and receive caring support, learn skills, and receive supportive resources. The group meets the 2nd Thursday of every month from 7-8:30 at the J.V Fletcher Library, Meeting Room, 50 Main Street in Westford. Any questions, please contact Community Wellness Coordinator, Nicole Laviolette, nlaviolette@westfordma.gov or 978-399-2503. Co - sponsored by the Community Wellness and Health Departments.

Community Wellness Assistance – Westford’s Community Wellness Coordinator, Nicole Laviolette, will be available the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month from 2:00 – 4:00 PM at the J.V. Fletcher Library, Mary Atwood Room. Get help with mental health referrals, substance use disorder referrals, parenting support resources, and linkages to other town and community resources. No appointment necessary. For questions, please email: nlaviolette@westfordma.gov or 978- 399-2503

Behavioral Health Help Line - The BHHL is available 24/7, 365 days per year and is available for all residents of Massachusetts. Call or text 833-773-2445. Visit the website to chat online at www.masshelpline.com . BHHL connects individuals and families to the full range of treatment services for mental health and substance use offered in Massachusetts, including outpatient, urgent and immediate crisis care. Call for real – time support, initial clinical assessment, and connection to the right services. The BHHL is staffed by trained clinicians and certified peer specialists to support every caller’s needs. The BHHL is available in more than 200 languages. Individuals who are Deaf or hard of hearing call also use the BHHL by contacting MassRelay at 711. The BHHL is free and available to all Massachusetts residents.

Westford Mobile Clinician - The mobile clinician provides short term services while you or a family member is on a waitlist for ongoing therapy. For more information – contact Community Wellness Coordinator, Nicole Laviolette, with questions – 978-399-2503 or nlaviolette@westfordma.gov

Community Behavioral Health Center (VINFEN) – 866-388-2242

Suicide & Crisis Lifeline – call or text 988

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.