

Dear Stony Brook Families,

We hope that you enjoyed the break from the school schedule last week. It was great to have everyone back this week! Our students have been very engaged in their learning and their classes. All students will take the Math MCAS next Wednesday and Thursday so please remind your child to fully charge their Chromebooks on Tuesday and Wednesday evening to ensure they are ready for the online testing.

If your child is in 6th or 7th grade and you have not yet had a chance to complete the Google Form to choose their performing arts class for next year, please do so as soon as possible. All students in 6th and 7th grade need to make a selection for next year. The link to the Google Form is below and can also be found [HERE](#).

I wanted to share some additional information about TikTok and other social media that families may find helpful. Many of the videos that are shared on TikTok and through social media that our students have on their phones are fun and cute and relatively harmless. Other videos and content include derogatory and offensive language and messages in a format that is enticing to kids because of the type of humor that is used. We want families to be aware that these messages could be seen and shared among our middle schoolers. We encourage families to discuss the types of content that is being seen by their children in whatever way is appropriate based on your child's access to social media and/or TikTok.

The PTO is planning some wonderful ways to recognize the staff at Stony Brook during Teacher Appreciation Week. Please see below for information about how you can help with these efforts. We thank all of you for your support of the Stony Brook Staff!

Next Tuesday, May 2, is a professional development day for staff and voting day, so there is no school for students.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Allison and Rick

Here is some important information for families:

MCAS Next Week - Math Tests are Wednesday, 5/3, and Thursday, 5/4

Students in all three grades will take the Math MCAS tests on Wednesday and Thursday next week. They did a great job with our ELA testing, and we are positive that the same will be true with the math tests. As with every day, we hope that students get a good night's sleep and eat something in the morning to be prepared for their day. *Students will use their Chromebooks so it is important that everyone makes sure that they plug their device in so it is fully charged.*

Panorama Survey Information and Opt Out Details

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' experiences at school, 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 week of May 29, 2023 to the end of the week of June 5, 2023. Students at Stony Brook will be taking the survey on Wednesday, May 31. 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 May 12, 2023 ONLY if you would like to OPT OUT your child out of taking the survey.

Click the link below for more information and the opt out form:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfx9Ar6gES7jO1n_DT1qHvJqjfiJ5yZVoqQ2rwMiiyD_2wdKQ/viiewform?usp=sf_link

Performing Arts Selection for Current 6th and 7th Graders–Complete ASAP

If your child is in sixth and seventh grade please be sure to complete the Google Form to indicate their choice for **performing arts placement for next year: band, orchestra, chorus, theater arts, or music**. Information about these offerings, participation requirements, as well as the Google Form to make your selection are included below. The deadline to select a performing arts course for next year has passed, but if you have not completed it please do so as soon as possible. Please see the information below and click on the [Google Form HERE](#) to make your child's selection.

[23-24 Performing Arts Selection](#) (information)

[23-24 Performing Arts Selection - Gujarati translation](#)

[23-24 Performing Arts Selection - Ukrainian translation](#)

Westford Education Foundation 2023 Graduation Fundraiser!

Celebrate our Westford Academy 2023 grads with balloons, yard signs and banners. A great gift to your child, friend, babysitter or student! The fundraiser runs until May 19th so get your orders in! Thank you for your support. Follow WEF on Facebook for the most up to date information.

<https://www.westford.org/wef/2023-wa-graduation-fundraiser/>

WEF – Teacher Appreciation! National Teacher Appreciation Week is May 8 – 12, 2023

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 the Westford Public Schools!

Proceeds from these notes will be used to fund grants for innovative educational programs in Westford. 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.

Donations made to WEF in honor of 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/teacher/> 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.

ARPA After School and Camp Assistance Applications 2023

Through ARPA funding we are proud to announce that we will be reviewing/accepting applications for the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 for one free week of Kids Club Summer (starts June 26th, 2023) per child OR \$400 per child for the Recreation Department After School Program (starts August 30th, 2023). Eligibility for this program is income and Westford residency based.

The information on the application will be used to determine your family's eligibility for assistance based on your present gross household income that falls at or below 300% of the federal poverty level (the following income eligibility chart is located on page 3 of the application). The application can be found here: <https://westfordma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/12733/FINAL-ARPA-Afterschool-and-Camp-Assistance-Application-2023>

Applications should be emailed to Regional Community Health and Wellness Coordinator, Brittany Nash at bnash@westfordma.gov or hand-delivered to the Westford Town Hall, Health Department Attn: Brittany Nash. Applications are funded on a first-come, first basis. For any questions, please email bnash@westfordma.gov or call Brittany Nash at (978) 399-2564.

DC Parent Information Meeting—May 15, 6-7 pm

There will be a meeting for parents of students attending the DC trip on Monday, May 15, from 6-7 pm in the Stony Brook auditorium.

K-12 Art Show - May 11 at Westford Academy

The Westford Schools K-12 District Art Show will be held on May 11th from 5-7 PM at Westford Academy. Please click [HERE](#) for the flyer about this event. We hope you can attend to see our students' amazing art from kindergarten through twelfth grade.

Updates from the PTO

The PTO is planning a special week for the teachers and staff during the National Teacher Appreciation Week (May 8 to May 12) 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/TA23DonateFB>

Donate Cash here: <https://tinyurl.com/TA23Donation>

PTO INFORMATION EVENING—MAY 10

The Stony Brook School PTO is **urgently** looking for 2 PTO Co-Presidents and several Board Members for the 2023-2024 school year. See [FLYER](#) for details. If you are considering joining the PTO next year and/or are interested in getting more information & meeting the current PTO members please consider attending an Informal Information Session at **6:00 pm on Wed, May 10 at Evviva Trattoria. RSVP [HERE](#).**

Grade 8 CELEBRATION - !! VOLUNTEERS NEEDED !! SIGN-UP [HERE](#)

The Roudenbush Community Centre in partnership with the Stony Brook and Blanchard School PTOs is planning a fun-filled evening celebration/dance for all Grade 8 students in Westford on FRIDAY, JUNE 16 at 65 Main St, Westford. **This event is possible ONLY if we have enough volunteers so please consider signing up.** A flyer with details 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](#).

Amazon Wish List to Help Add New Books to Our Library

The Stony Brook Library has an [Amazon Wish List](#)! Help Provide New Books for Students!

Mrs. Smith, our School Librarian, has an Amazon Wish List of books requested by students. School Library funds are limited, making it difficult to always have the books kids want to read on the shelves. We appreciate the generosity of our school community, and love to add newer, undamaged books to our collections! Please help the Library by donating a book from the list. Thank you so much for supporting the library. Click [HERE](#) to see our list.

Thank you to those who have already purchased books from our wish list—we really appreciate your contribution to our library.



Upcoming SEPAC Virtual Event

In partnership with the Federation for Children with Special Needs, the Westford Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) will be offering a virtual event on May 9, 2023, at 7:00pm - **Turning Three Essentials** . Please click on this link to find out more about this and to sign up:

https://fcsn-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUld-quqz8pGNJ3_gRvFidCtieuSkB5uIVw

Basketball Summer Clinics

The Westford Academy Boys' basketball program led by Head Coach Chris Bramanti and members of the Westford Academy Boys' and Girls' Basketball programs will host various basketball clinics and the annual 4 on 4 summer league this summer. [Click here](#) for more information. The clinics are designed for hoopsters CURRENTLY in grades 1-8 who wish to have fun learning the game of basketball and/or begin training for summer and fall leagues through a series of competitive and challenging drills. More information can be found at www.basketballwa.com. The premise of the 4 on 4 league is that with only four players on the court at a time, each player will be more involved and active in the game. Each player will learn more individual

basketball moves, will learn to move without the ball, cut, set screens, shoot, rebound, and play individual and team defense – all without having to worry about following additional instructions from a coach. More information can be found at www.basketballwa.com.