



WHEELER AVENUE SCHOOL



One West Wheeler Avenue • Valley Stream, New York • 11580 • (516) 568-6140
www.valleystream13.com

Constance D. Evelyn, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

John Frias
Principal

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Dear Wheeler Family,

On behalf of the Wheeler Avenue School faculty and staff, I want to welcome everyone to the 2020-2021 school year! As we look forward to an exciting new year, I look forward to connecting with our Wheeler blue jay families. Whether remotely or in-person, I am excited to partner with each of you as we transition back to school. Our staff and the school community are all committed to providing the best educational experience for your child at Wheeler.

I would like to take this opportunity to provide you with some information regarding this year's school model, arrival and dismissal, as well as some general policies and procedures that will help to ensure everyone's safety and success.

School Health

Each morning, prior to your child's leaving for school, NYS requires that you take your child's temperature and report it to the school. Further details for reporting this information to school will be forthcoming. If your child will be absent from school, it is crucial that you contact the nurse's office prior to school, to ensure accurate attendance records for all students. The nurse's direct office phone number (516) 568-6143. There is an answering machine on, when school is not in session. Please send a note with your child on the day he/she returns to school explaining the nature of the absence. **This is mandated by state law. Although all children should attend school regularly, I cannot stress enough that for the well-being of our entire school community, children who are visibly sick should remain at home.**

Students and staff who demonstrate symptoms of illness will immediately be sent to the nurse's office, maintaining all of the social distancing and face-covering requirements. The nurse will assess the individual and follow the district and CDC response protocols. Any individual showing signs of illness will be sent home and/or isolated in a "safe" room until they can be picked up or leave.

Masks

- Students will wear masks at all times except while eating.
- Breaks will be given as needed to students.
- Mask breaks will take place in the classroom or outside only.
- Students will stay seated behind the barrier while taking a mask break.

Students will be expected to wear a mask during arrival and dismissal, on the school bus, as well as while traveling in hallways and any other time they cannot socially distance.

Arrival

Our school day for all students is from 8:50 AM - 3:15 PM. **We cannot be responsible for children arriving at school prior to 8:40 AM.** There will be no access to the building for students prior to this time, except for extra help and Right at School. **When the students arrive they will go directly to their classrooms. Please help us to ensure social distancing of 6 ft. while outside the building.**

As we continually seek to ensure the safety of all of our children, all children whose parents drive them to school, as well as the walkers, will enter the school via the designated entrance, and continue to their classroom. Students arriving by bus will enter via Wheeler entrance and proceed directly to their classroom. **If you are driving your child to school, please pull up to the curb on Rockaway Avenue and let them exit on the passenger side of the car. This “drop and go” procedure will ensure a smooth and safe arrival. Staff will be available at the curb to direct your child for their assigned entrance. We will open the car door and help your child out so we keep the flow moving. If you must leave your car for any reason, please park on one of the side streets.**

- **Rockaway Avenue:** “A” door-2nd grade, “B” door-3rd grade, “C” door-4th grade
- **Wheeler Avenue:** “D” door-5th and 6th grade
- **Main Entrance:** 1st grade

Dismissal

During dismissal, students being picked up by their parents will leave through the following exits on Rockaway Avenue: at the designated entrances/exits. (This should help to alleviate some of the congestion. Please keep the area immediately outside of all doors clear so that the children and their teachers can safely exit the building while maintaining social distancing. All bus children will be escorted directly to their buses while maintaining social distancing.

Please note: On September 3rd and 4th, grades 1 and 2 will line up (socially distanced) on the blacktop behind the school, and will dismiss by the main entrance (cars are not permitted to drive through the parking lot, your child must be walked to the back of the building.***)***

Lunch & Recess

Please note the lunch hours for Grades 1 – 6 are as follows:

Grade 1	11:10-12:00 PM	Grade 4	11:10-12:00 PM
Grade 2	1:00-1:50 PM	Grade 5	12:05-12:55 PM
Grade 3	1:00-1:50 PM	Grade 6	12:05-12:55 PM

All students will eat lunch in their classroom. A rotating schedule will be implemented to provide students with an opportunity to eat in the cafeteria as scheduling permits. Students who purchase a school lunch will have it delivered to their classroom. It is important to note that all student desks will be outfitted with a three-sided barrier that will provide safety for the students with regard to the spread of germs, as well as allowing all students, including those with allergies to eat safely at their desk. During the lunch period, students will continue to have recess on a daily basis. A schedule for socially-distanced play outdoors will be in place for each class/cohort.

The price of lunch for students who choose to buy lunch in school is \$2.25 for a complete lunch. As always, if your child forgets his or her lunch money, they will never be denied lunch.

Material Drop-off and Early Dismissal

In order to limit the number of interruptions to classrooms and to provide for continuity of instruction, students will not be allowed to leave class to call home. The only instances in which children will be able to contact their homes are if they forgot their eyeglasses or items of medical necessity. In these instances, the school will contact you. Once you arrive at school with the aforementioned items for your child, you can leave it on a shelving system immediately located just inside the main entrance and someone will come out and retrieve and deliver to your child. ***Please ring the doorbell to advise the security guard that the item is being left.*** In the event that your child will be leaving school prior to dismissal (i.e., doctor’s appointment, leaving for lunch, etc.), it is imperative that you write a note to your child’s teacher, who will then inform the main office. This will allow us to ensure that your child is ready when you arrive at school. Upon arrival, please **remain in your vehicle and contact the main office.** Your child will then be escorted to you.

Communication and Visitors

Communication is an essential aspect of the parent-teacher-school partnership, and this too, will look different for this year. At present, the NYS Reopening Guidance document requires limiting all visitors to schools. Therefore, all meetings with your child's teacher will be held virtually. If you need to schedule a meeting with your child's teacher, please contact them and they will set up a virtual meeting for you at your convenience. Please make sure to have an up-to-date phone number and email address on file at school as we will be communicating with you frequently throughout the year.

For more detailed information regarding the school's reopening plan and NYS guidance, please refer to the following links:

[VS13 Reopening Plans](http://valleystream13.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/VS13_Reopening_v3.pdf) http://valleystream13.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/VS13_Reopening_v3.pdf

[Dr. LaRocca's Slideshow Presentation \(video\)](http://valleystream13.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Reopening_Plan_Presentation.mp4)
http://valleystream13.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Reopening_Plan_Presentation.mp4

[Reopening Plan PowerPoint Slideshow](http://valleystream13.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/ReopeningPlan_July2020_website.pdf)
http://valleystream13.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/ReopeningPlan_July2020_website.pdf

[NYSED Reopening Guidance](http://www.nysed.gov/common/nysed/files/programs/reopening-schools/nys-p12-school-reopening-guidance.pdf)
<http://www.nysed.gov/common/nysed/files/programs/reopening-schools/nys-p12-school-reopening-guidance.pdf>

Please talk to your children about these procedures for the upcoming school year. This will help to ensure they are more comfortable with many of the changes they will experience upon arrival at school this year. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at any time. I greatly appreciate your continued cooperation and support. Again, I look forward to a great school year.

Very truly yours,



John Frias
Principal