

**WOOD-RIDGE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL**  
**151 FIRST STREET**  
**WOOD-RIDGE, NJ 07075**  
**Phone # 201-933-6777 – Fax # 201-939-0259**

*Keith Lisa, Principal*  
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September 1, 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We would like to welcome back our returning parents and their children to another successful year and of course we want to welcome our first time WRIS parents and children to our community. As all of us are well aware, the last two school years have been anything but normal. However, we have strived to provide the very best possible learning environment for our students, finding plenty of successes along the way. Most noteworthy, the Intermediate School was open for live instruction during the entire 20-21 school year. We attribute those results to the hard work of our entire WRIS community, which made it possible. Although, this year presents its own set of challenges, we are confident that we are prepared and will do our very best to build upon our successes.

This year, we will see great strides towards a more normalized WRIS while still paying the utmost attention to the safety, health, and wellbeing of our students, staff, and school. Our students will be returning to a more typical schedule, a full day bell schedule beginning at 8:10 AM, ending at 2:50 PM, switching classes between periods, being provided live specials, and of course enjoying recess and lunch. In addition, we are bringing back most of our clubs, running them live, and Before and Aftercare will resume as it has in previous years with the first day taking place on Friday, September 10<sup>th</sup>.

A return to these activities does present some risks, risks that will be mitigated by sanitizing of desks, social distancing measures, the continued use of masks, and the inclusion of brand new air purifiers within every classroom. For lunch, we are very fortunate with a large cafeteria that will afford us the opportunity to spread out our students safely, yet still allow them the time to socialize with their peers. Students will be discouraged from any sharing of food and we will continue our practice of not holding classroom parties which will help to prevent food or snacks from being shared or consumed in the classroom. Should any of these practices change in the future due to updated safety guidelines you will be notified but as of now we feel it is best to keep these practices in place. Other items of note are as follows:

- Lunch will be provided to all students at no cost. However, for purposes of funding to our District, we do ask that you continue to fill out the free/reduced lunch forms if you have done so in the past. Further details on the lunch offerings will be posted online under the Lunch Menu dropdown on the WRIS homepage.
- Visitors will continue to not be allowed in the building and we ask that items are not dropped off for your child during the school day.
- It is strongly suggested that any Covid-related vaccination updates are forwarded to the school nurse. Please note that this is in addition to the required vaccination documentation for upcoming 6<sup>th</sup> graders.
- As per NJDOE guidelines, students will maintain a minimum distance of 3 feet to the greatest extent possible. Per the NJDOH, if students are between 3 to 6 feet apart in class and appropriately wearing their mask, quarantining of close contacts will not be required should a student test positive for COVID-19. However, please note that students within the classroom that have not been quarantined will continue to receive notice regarding the positive case.
- We will be continuing the practice of students reporting directly to class upon entrance into the building beginning at 8 AM. This practice will help to curtail students congregating in our gymnasium or cafeteria.

- As per NJDOE, there is no Remote Learning option this year. Requests for remote learning for anything other than a COVID illness will not be permitted and any such absences will be recorded as an unexcused absence unless a doctor's note is provided. i.e. Students will not be marked as virtual.
- There will no longer be a requirement for students to temperature screen in the mornings upon entry into the building as this is not considered an effective approach to prevent COVID.
- Parents will no longer be required to complete the daily health questionnaire in RealTime, however, parents are urged to continue to be vigilant, monitor for signs of COVID, and keep your child home should symptoms or exposure be present. See the [CDC](#) website for further details.
- At this time, we do not anticipate the use of Desk Barriers unless otherwise recommended by the Bergen County Department of Health
- In order to decrease student traffic in our stairwells and halls we will continue last year's practice of drop-off and dismissal by grade level at different entrances/exits.
  - Fourth grade will enter/exit through the main entrance on 1<sup>st</sup> Street.
  - Fifth grade will enter/exit through the parking lot cafeteria door on the North Side of the building closest to North Avenue.
  - Sixth Grade will enter/exit through the parking lot Gymnasium door on the South side of the parking lot.
- Drop off zones will remain the same as last year with:
  - Fourth graders dropped off in the front of the school on 1<sup>st</sup> Street
  - Sixth graders dropped off in the back of the school on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street,
  - Fifth graders dropped off in either of the above mentioned drop off zones.

In keeping our Wood-Ridge Intermediate School family well informed of the various activities and programs offered in WRIS and to provide you with the most relevant and effective means of communication, we ask that you make certain you have a valid email address and cell phone number entered into RealTime. Additionally, we ask you to verify that you have selected the checkbox to receive alerts via email and/or text message. I would also encourage you to stay abreast of some of the more fun daily activities going on in the school, by checking in on our website, our school calendar, and by following me on Twitter @WRPrincipalLisa.

Please note that there will be no mailings. Your child's schedule and all forms are available in the RealTime Parent Portal. If you are unable to log into your RealTime Portal account, please contact the main office for further assistance. If you have not logged into your account yet, you will be required to acknowledge and/or complete a series of forms prior to accessing your child's schedule. We strongly suggest that you either print out a copy of your child's schedule or write down his/her schedule for their first day of school so that they might locate their homeroom and other classrooms.

Please remember that education is a joint effort between the students, parents, and staff. We urge you to join the PTA. Information on how to sign-up online will be posted in the coming weeks. Back to School Night is scheduled for Tuesday, September 28<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM with details on this event soon to follow. I welcome you and your child and wish you a happy and healthy return. The first day of school for students is Thursday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, a one session day beginning at 8:10 AM, with dismissal at 12:28 PM.

We thank you for your continued support and we look forward to another successful year at the Wood-Ridge Intermediate School. Rest up and enjoy the remaining days of summer. We eagerly await your child's arrival.

Sincerely,



Keith Lisa  
Principal