



# Washington Island School District

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**Hello Washington Island Parents/Families-**

Welcome Back To School, 2022/23 ... we're excited for another year of learning and fun!

I hope you enjoyed a wonderful summer, and are recharged and ready to start the new school year. We look forward to working with all our students and families to make this an incredible and productive school year. We're very proud of our amazing learning community, and thrilled to be partnering with you again. We welcome and value your positive energy and share your commitment to excellence in education.

Our skilled, devoted staff have been planning and preparing for our students all summer, and are ready for another great school year. Our enthusiastic office team has been registering new families, ordering instructional materials, updating student files, and preparing for the 22/23 school year. The building is refreshed and ready; Joe Trippem, our hard working Buildings & Grounds person, spent his summer on the maintenance and a thorough cleaning of our school. We are ready!

## ***Reconnecting***

We are starting with a celebration of our school's opening with a Welcome-Back School-Social Community-Picnic, and we hope to keep on coming together throughout the year. We are discussing, and beginning to plan, things like open houses, school socials, and lunch picnics. We are also hoping to reconnect our school with our larger community. We will be partnering with the WICHP to sponsor events with our students, our island seniors, and community members. We're hoping to form similar partnerships and to begin student service projects out in our community.

If you have ideas for how our school / students can partner with our community, or if you'd like to be part of the planning/ volunteering, please reach out to us. We're open to new ideas and creative thinking. This year we will continually be asking ourselves questions like, "how can we involve our families more," and "how can we make greater connections in/with our community." We want to be as deliberate about reconnecting as we had to be about distancing. The pandemic has caused change and there's no "going back" to how it used to be, but **we will move forward from here together.**

***Back to School & Registration***

This year we're hoping to streamline the registration process with a couple dates/times for parents to come into school to register their school-age children. Our school registration times will be on Monday, August 22 from Noon to 4:00 and Tuesday, August 23 from 8:00 to Noon.

We hope you'll join us for our "2022/23 Season Home-Opener" on September 1st. We'll be opening our doors to welcome our students back to school at 8:15, and our first day schedule will be modified slightly so we can **welcome our families and community members to a back-to-school picnic from 11:45-1:00.** We'll plan to do it on the 2nd if it's going to be raining on the 1st. We (the school) will be serving hot dogs and providing lemonade & ice water. We would love for our families and community members to join us and bring side dishes, fruit/veggies, chips, or desserts to share

***Schedules***

Student schedules will be handed out on the first day of school, and our bell-schedule will be the same as last year (see table below).

<b>2022/23 Bell Schedule</b>	
<b>1st Hour 8:20 -9:10</b>	<b>5th Hour 12:24-1:11</b>
<b>2nd Hour 9:13 - 10:00</b>	<b>6th Hour 1:14-2:01</b>
<b>3rd Hour 10:03-10:50</b>	<b>7th Hour 2:04-2:51</b>
<b>4th Hour 10:53-11:40</b>	<b>8th Hour 2:54-3:35</b>
<b>Lunch/Rec 11:43-12:21</b>	

***Our Teachers This Year***

**Our school is fortunate to be welcoming four new teachers and quite a few students** (and their families) who were not with us last year, along with a couple changes in who is teaching what. There will be a couple familiar "new-faces" teaching our Freshmen & Sophomore science

and ELA/Lit courses as Mrs. (Miranda) Dahlke and Mrs. (Kayla) Mann take on those new challenges, respectively. We are also very happy to have Mr. (Matt) Sullivan with us to reopen our Fabrication Lab; to have Mrs. (Kirsten) Foss joining our team as a special education & middle-level teacher; to have Mrs. (Mary) Grzelak returning to teach social studies; and to have Mrs. (Marisa) Kehren with us to teach middle school math and to be the in-room math resource-teacher for our high school students. (Our high school math students will learn their content through asynchronous courses they will be taking with teachers online. This hybrid approach will allow us greater differentiation in course levels, and may allow us to expand the elective opportunities we can offer our students.)

We are also excited to be offering our 4K-8th students weekly guidance lessons from Ms. (Cheryl) Crozier. Their lessons will be mostly virtual, and will be held on a rotational basis during their regularly scheduled classes.

In addition to our new teachers, we're also welcoming back Mrs. (Leila) Nelson, who will be teaching 12th grade literature studies and advising the yearbook club this year; Mrs. (Mel) Jones, who will be returning to teach art and physical education, Mrs. Miranda Dahlke will continue teaching 7th and 8th grade science and our STEM rotational; Mrs. (Kayla) Mann will continue teaching middle school lit. and ELA; Ms. (Kaitlyn) Stoller will be returning to teach our 4K/5K and to be our Student Council advisor; Ms. (Alyssa) Wagner will be returning to teach our first and second graders; and Mrs. (Marleen) Johnson will be back to teach our fourth and fifth grade students this year. We're also hoping that Miss (Donna) Briesemeister will be returning to teach music for another year!

### ***Field Trips***

After a hiatus during the pandemic, our freshmen and sophomores will head to Washington DC in the spring. In addition to the Washington DC trip, all our teachers will be encouraged to offer our students the unique opportunities that excellent field trips have to offer. The students heading to our nation's capital this spring will be fundraising throughout the year to defray the cost of the trip. We welcome your support for this amazing opportunity through any donations and/or patronage of our fundraising efforts, including the return of the community-donation school rummage sale/car wash over Labor Day weekend. If you're interested in donating or volunteering your time in support of the trip, we'd love to hear from you.

### ***You're Why We're Here!***

We're here to serve our students and their families. I will be posting monthly updates here on our website. Our teachers are also encouraged to reach out to families early and often, and we

hope that you will feel welcome in our school and comfortable sharing your ideas, concerns, comments, and questions. We look forward to working with you this year!

Enthusiastically,

Tim Verboomen & The Washington Island School Staff

Tim Verboomen

Principal/Curriculum Director

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