

Minot Forest Elementary School 4 Viking Dr. Wareham, MA 02571 508-291-3555

September 10, 2020

Dear Minot Forest Families:

Welcome back! We have been preparing for the start of school with lots of changes in information. I have waited as long as I could to send out this letter so you could have the latest updates. The school hours for Minot Forest students is one that we were waiting on. We needed to know when to expect our buses to arrive in the morning and when we could expect dismissal. We have tentative times to begin for now. We will make adjustments after a few weeks once we start the bus runs. Buses should arrive at Minot at 9:00 AM and bus dismissal will be 12:30 PM. Lunches will be sent home with the students. The buses go to Decas from here in the morning and at dismissal. Parent drop off and pick up will be different. We will have parent drop off be from 8:40-8:55 AM and dismissal will begin at 12:20 PM. These times limit the number of students in the halls at one time. The first day of school is September 16. We all begin remotely until the tentative date of October 5. That date will need to be finalized. Some of our teachers are working in a team and some are teaching all subjects themselves.

Grade 3: Ms. Conlon/Mrs. (Jacqui) DeGrace-Hybrid; Mrs. Cardoso/Ms. Johnson-Hybrid; Mrs. Letourneau-Remote; Mrs. Martins/Miss Drinkwater-Remote; Mrs. Fitzgerald-Hybrid.

Grade 4: Mrs. (Janessa) DeGrace-Remote; Miss Nash-Remote; Mrs. Slazas-Remote; Mr. Houdlette/Mrs. Potter/Teixeira-Hybrid; Mrs. Panzone/Mrs. Bergamini-Hybrid.

Ms. Byrd-Hybrid/Remote; Ms. Tierney-Hybrid/Remote; Mrs. Houghton-Hybrid/Remote. The teachers will notify these families with specific class information once it has been finalized.

Students who are coming to school in the Hybrid model are placed into two Cohorts. Cohort 1 comes to school on Monday and Tuesday. Cohort 2 comes to school on Thursday and Fridays. ALL students work at home on Wednesdays. Unless there were a few exceptions, students with last names A-K were placed in Cohort 1 and students with last names L-Z were placed in Cohort 2. We did this as a district. Siblings with different last names were placed in a Cohort that was decided together with the schools. The teacher name and Cohort will be included at the end of this letter. Students will need to bring their Chromebook back and forth each day fully charged. They will need them to use when they are in school.

ALL students who are riding a school bus (regular or van) must wear a mask as they get on the bus and keep it on for the duration of the ride. They must have the mask on when they enter the building and keep it on for the duration of the day. Mask breaks will be scheduled. Students can only ride the bus they have been assigned to. Due to limited capacity, bus passes to take a different bus cannot be given this year.

If you are dropping off your child or picking them up at dismissal: Parents will drive into the Town Hall parking lot. If you arrive before staff come outside at 8:40 AM, you will have to park in the parking spaces. Once staff open the doors, you will drive down into the oval by door #9. Your child will quickly exit from the right side of the car with their mask already on and you will drive away. This is a quick drop and go. We cannot have cars lining up waiting in the oval as this will create a line to the street and cars will not be able to enter the parking area, which causes a back-up on route 6. This is not allowed. Please wait until the car in front of you leaves. Some students have to exit the left side of the car so you cannot pass a car on the left to leave quicker. For safety reasons, you have to stay in line.

Parent pick up will be in the same area. You will park and walk over to door#8 and #9. Grade 4 families will be at one door, grade 3 families will be at another. Families must maintain 6 feet distance and masks must be worn. Students will line up by grade in the hall, with their masks on. Once you give your name to the duty staff, your child will be called to leave. To avoid multiple handling of the pens, we are not having families sign out on the clipboard. We will have a list with students being picked up and staff will circle the name of the person who came that day.

A note is required to pick up your child. If you are picking up your child every day, you can write one note for the school year. It would be helpful to do that now. Please email Tracy McGraw, one of the Minot's secretaries, at tmcgraw@wareham.k12.ma.us. Be sure you write your child's full name, grade, and teacher name on the note as their name could be different than yours. This note is different than listing people on the emergency form who can pick up your child if you are not able to. Please list any possible people that could pick your child up at the end of the day. Please bring your photo identification in with you every day (license or MA ID card) If your child normally rides a bus but you need to pick them up at dismissal, write a note to your child's teacher in the morning. They will be added to the end of the day pick up list.

Student drop off is from 8:40 AM-8:55 AM. The doors close at 8:55 AM. If you arrive after 8:55 AM, you will need to drive to the front of the school, park in the lot across from the school, and walk your child with masks on to the front doors. This is due to buses parking and unloading students. You cannot enter the oval when school buses are there unloading as it is against the law to pass a school bus with red lights flashing. Students are tardy beginning at 9:10 AM. If you arrive at 9:10 AM or after, your child will enter the main door and will receive a tardy slip before proceeding to class. Please send a note explaining why he/she is tardy.

Please call the school in the morning if your child is going to be out sick. All absences required a note upon return. If your child has a medical appointment, please send in a note from the doctor/medical provider's office so the absence can be marked excused. Absences without a medical note will be marked unexcused.

Please be sure you always keep your email and contact information updated with us for our records. If you have any court paperwork or custody papers, we will need a copy of them as well. We all look forward to a great year. Should any of the above information change, I will let you know. If you are on Facebook, please join the Minot Forest Elementary Facebook page. I post many updates there as well as on our school page on the district website www.warehamps.org.

Sincerely,

Joan Seamans

Principal

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Robin Murphy

Assistant Principal

rmurphy@wareham.k12.ma.us

Teri DeFilippo

Dean of Students

tdefilippo@wareham.k12.ma.us

Your child's teacher and information:

(This information was emailed to parent/guardians)