

**West Tatnuck School
Principal's Newsletter
August 22, 2019**



Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome Back! I want to take this opportunity to welcome all of the West Tatnuck students and parents to the new 2019-2020 school year. I'm hoping that all of the students are rested and ready, as I am, for the exciting and stimulating learning environment that takes place at our school each and every day across all grade levels.

All West Tatnuck News and calendar of events can be found at the link listed below.

<https://worcesterschools.org/school/west-tatnuck-school/>

This letter should give you all of the necessary information needed to begin the school year. The first day of school for **all students in grades one through six** will be **Monday, August 26, 2019** the first day of school for **students in preschool and kindergarten** will be **Thursday August 29th, 2019**. A reminder to parents of kindergartners that Kindergarten Screening will take place on Monday August 26th through Wednesday August 28th, School hours will be the same as last year: **grades kindergarten through six (9:05-3:10)**, **preschool morning session (9:05-11:30)** and **preschool afternoon session (12:30-2:55)**, the earliest time that children should be arriving to school is **8:50 a.m.** Please do not bring your child to school before that time because there is no supervision for your child prior to **8:50 a.m.** ***It is important to note that the school day begins at 9:05 am promptly and any student arriving to the school after that time will need to visit the main office and receive a tardy slip from the secretary to bring to their classroom teacher.**

The Early Bird Program (before school care program) will begin on **Tuesday, September 3rd**, and will be available from 8:00-9:00 a.m. on Mondays through Fridays at a cost of \$5.00 per hour or \$25.00 per week. A registration form can be obtained on Know Your School Night.

Students in grades 2-6 will receive agenda books to keep track of daily assignments. It is the expectation that each child uses this educational tool every day to establish good organizational skills for homework and assignments.

Due to safety and security issues, all parents must check into the main office before conducting school business. **Parents should not be going to classrooms without scheduled appointments, as unexpected visits interfere with the learning process.**

All parent volunteers need to have a CORI check in order to volunteer in any capacity in our school. This is a state law and a mandatory requirement. All CORI checks are good for 3 years from the date of the CORI. A CORI will be available for you to fill out on Know Your School Night, This form must be hand delivered to the office. We will then attach a copy of your Massachusetts driver's license to the form for processing.

Drop off and Pick Up Procedures

The following arrival and dismissal procedures to and from school are important to remember. If we work together and follow some basic rules, we will be able to move the traffic in an orderly and safe manner. First, please continue in the direction that your vehicle is traveling after dropping off your child and do not turn around in our driveway, a neighbor's driveway, or in the middle of Mower Street because this type of driving is not safe and causes traffic jams. When dropping off your child for school, please pull up next to the orange cones on the school side of the street just after the school entrance. This is a drop off area only and vehicles cannot park there. **Do not park your vehicles where orange cones are located.** As always, the Worcester Police remind us that it is important to obey the **NO PARKING SIGNS** posted on Mower Street. Always wait for the crossing guard to safely cross your child across Mower Street. **Only handicapped vehicles, school busses, and school staff vehicles are allowed into the school driveway during arrival and dismissal times.** During nice weather days, students being dropped off by parents or walking to school, will walk up the tar path leading around to the rear of the building to the playground area. During inclement weather days, walkers and drop-offs should enter the building by walking up the sidewalk to the side entrance near the library. We encourage all drivers to obey the no parking signs on Mower Street and legally park your vehicles when you need to come into the school for school business. At dismissal time, the walking lines leave first so please do not move your vehicles until all students are past West Moreland Street and safely crossed by our crossing guard. As always, we appreciate your patience during the first few weeks of school until routines have taken place. Being helpful to each other will make arrival and dismissal procedures run smoothly. Your courtesy and cooperation are deeply appreciated!

During recess activities outdoors, please make sure that all types of balls brought to school by students are **nerf type balls, bouncy playground balls, or lightweight beach balls.** ****No hard cover balls, plastic or rubber, are allowed due to safety concerns****

Our **West Tatnuck School Community Organization (WestSCO)** will meet monthly at the West Tatnuck School. The first scheduled meeting will be held on **Wednesday September 4th at 6:30 p.m. in our library.** This initial meeting will be to establish our working committees for the 2019-2020 as well as fundraising priorities and goals.

As the new school year begins, I want to extend my gratitude to you for assisting your child with his or her summer reading and for being a good role model and strong support in making education the number one priority in your household.

Sincerely,
Ellen Moynihan