

Welcome Back to School

09 August 2024

Dear WHS Students, Parents and Guardians,

I hope you all had a relaxing and enjoyable summer. The start of a new school year brings excitement and anticipation to all. The Winnacunnet staff and I wish to welcome our returning sophomores, juniors, and seniors, and we look forward to meeting our incoming freshmen and new students who have moved into our district from other communities.



Enclosed in this envelope you will find:

- Handbook Parent/Guardian Verification Page that **must be returned to school by September 13.**
- Armed Forces Recruiter Access letter (optional for juniors and seniors only), **due by September 13.**
- WHS Yearbook Order Form (Seniors)
- Winnachronicle Publication Schedule
- 2024-2025 Household Application for Free and Reduced-Price School Meals

***Please note:** WHS Health Form is not included – will need to be completed online through PowerSchool.

Important Dates

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| ● Tuesday, Aug. 27th | Freshmen Only Orientation (First Year Students) 7:45 am – 2:30 pm
Transfer Student Orientation (Lecture Hall) 9:30 am – 11:00 am
First day for SST students |
| ● Wednesday, Aug. 28th | Regular day schedule for all students, all classes held |
| ● Thursday, Aug. 29th | School Picture Day, Class Assemblies, Warrior Block Activities |
| ● Friday, Aug. 30th | No School |
| ● Monday, Sep. 2nd | No School, Labor Day |
| ● Tues-Fri, Sep 3rd - 6th | Regular Day, all classes held |

Freshman Orientation Schedule, August 27th (Freshman Students Only)

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|-----------------|---|
| 7:45am – 8:25am | Gathering & Greeting - Auditorium |
| 8:25am – 9:00am | Freshman Seminar |
| 9:05am – 2:30pm | Students Attend Modified Daily Schedule |

Daily Schedule

The daily schedule includes six (6) blocks per day, a break after block 2, three (3) lunches (block 5), and Warrior Block.

Block	Start Time	End Time
Warning	7:40 AM	
1	7:45 AM	8:40 AM
2	8:44 AM	9:39 AM
Break	9:39 AM	9:47 AM
3	9:47 AM	10:42 AM
4	10:46 AM	11:41 AM
5A	11:44 AM	12:12 PM
5B	12:12 PM	12:40 PM
5C	12:40 PM	1:07 PM
Warrior Block	1:11 PM	1:31 PM
6	1:35 PM	2:30 PM

New Staff

Several new staff members have joined us this year:

- Misako Moore, Administrative Assistant
- Laura Betts, Case Manager
- Sarah Carrol, Case Manager
- Jessica Anderson, ESOL Teacher/Coordinator
- Bridget Hughes, Part-time Library Facilitator
- Detective Ian Connors, School Resource Officer

In addition, there are several UNH Interns joining us this year:

- Seamus Baker, English Intern for Madeline Mullen
- Caroline Hanna, English Intern for Gabrielle Borden
- Kevin Shegani, English Intern for Bryan Yeaton
- Elizabeth Veale, English Intern for Anne Persechino
- Rachael Tweedlie, PE and Health Intern for Aubrey Belakonis (Fall only)

Bus Schedules

Bus schedules will be posted in local newspapers later this month and will be posted on our website. Buses will begin running their routes on Tuesday, August 27th.

Seacoast School of Technology (SST)

The first day for SST students is Monday, August 26th. While this is prior to Winnacunnet's start date, bus service will be provided for students attending SST. SST students need only to be here in time to catch the bus for their session. Buses will leave from the Dining Hall entrance at 9:00 am (mid-session) and 12:00 pm (pm session).

Comcast Internet Essentials

The Comcast Internet Essentials Program provides reduced cost home internet. Internet Essentials costs \$9.95 per month. There are no price increases, no activation fees or equipment rental fees. In addition, families can buy a low-cost computer through the plan for \$149.99. For eligibility and information about this program, students/ families can visit <https://www.internetessentials.com/> or call 1-855-8-INTERNET (1-855-846-8376).

Technology Resources

Every member of the Class of 2028 will be provided a Dell 3110 Chromebook device. Like a textbook, these computers will remain in the possession of students during the school year. Once students are eligible for graduation, they can assume ownership of the device.

With these devices, along with GSuite applications, Winnacunnet students will have dependable and convenient access to valuable online resources and reliable computer access wherever the student has an internet connection. GSuite is easy to use and is a very efficient way to manage email, calendars, documents, and store digital files. GSuite also includes programs such as word processing, spreadsheets, and presentations for student use. Google Classroom is available for sharing of school assignments and curricular resources.

In addition to PowerSchool, all students have a Winnacunnet High School email account using Google Workspace for Education services. The student email format is:

firstname.lastname@warriors.winnacunnet.org

For more information on the technology available to students, see the IT Services page at [IT Services](#).

Securly

Winnacunnet High School uses Securly's cloud-based web filter for schools. Securly provides school administrators with visibility into the online activity of students 24/7, both on and off campus. Browsing history is archived and detailed reports are available for download. The high school administration will receive email notifications for flagged content corresponding to potential cyberbullying, suicide, and acts of violence based on Securly's sophisticated AI engine. School-provided WHS Gmail accounts, and Google Drive folders are also scanned in real-time and trigger alerts based upon flagged content.

Traffic Plan

To ease the potential congestion associated with student drop off/pickup, please follow the guidelines below:

- Parents who drop off students may enter the property either by Park Avenue or Winnacunnet Road. Students should not be dropped off prior to 7:15 a.m. Parents should exit the property at the Park Avenue entrance.
- For student pickup at the close of school, please do not block the travel lanes into the school. A suggestion is to wait in the senior parking lot or arrive after the buses leave at approximately 2:35 p.m.
- There is no parking, stopping, or standing at the following areas:
 - Landing Road between the Gym Lot and Park Avenue
 - Along Alumni Drive in front of the Gym
- To ease congestion behind the Gym and to facilitate departure of athletic buses, student pickup in the gym lot is not permitted until after 2:45 p.m.
- Please do not pass the buses when dropping off/picking up students when the red lights are flashing.

Locker Assignments

Any student may request a locker at any time in the Facilities Office. Please remember that students are responsible for securing their personal and school property. Too often we find students leaving their belongings out and unsecured. Students are issued locks for physical education lockers.

Communication Plan

A weekly Principal's Message will be posted on the website. An email notification will be sent out when the message has been posted, as well as links to various updates. We will be posting our handbooks, bus routes, school calendars, calendar of events, athletic schedules, code of conduct, directions to athletic facilities, and our school delays and cancellations on our website at www.winnacunnet.org. Please bookmark this web address and look at the information when you have questions.

In our continuing effort to increase communication and to celebrate all the positive things that occur daily at Winnacunnet, we have developed an official social media presence for Winnacunnet High School on Instagram and Facebook. The Instagram handle is **@winnacunnethighschool** and the Facebook is **/winnacunnet**. The community is also invited to receive daily announcements via email. Announcements include up to date information on subjects such as upcoming testing, clubs and activities, sports schedules, class information, and the lunch menu. Go to [Daily Announcements](#) to subscribe.

Staff can be contacted by calling 926-3395 or by emailing us using our

firstinitiallastname@winnacunnet.org.

For example, my email is

wmcgowan@winnacunnet.org.

You will be able to find a complete staff roster in our handbook and on our website.

Important Phone Numbers:

Front Office	926-3395
Guidance Office	926-8769
Athletics	926-9604
Special Services	926-3658
Student Activities	758-9250
Nurses' Office	758-9738 (9292)
Office of the Superintendent	926-8992
Bus Company	964-2322

Application for Free and Reduced Meals

Families requiring assistance with breakfast and lunch costs can apply for free and reduced meals. Instructions to complete the application are available at [F&R Meal Instructions](#). The application is enclosed and available at [F&R Meal Application](#). Applications can be returned to school with your student or mailed to the attention of the School

Nutrition Director, Ed Comeau. Please note that only one application per family is necessary. The information provided on the application is confidential and will be used only for the purpose of determining eligibility and verifying data.

Directory Information

In compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), parents/guardians and adult students need to be provided with an annual notice of their rights to inspect and review education records, to amend education records, to consent to disclose personally identifiable information in education records, and to file a complaint. The Winnacunnet School District Policy JRA: Student Access and Records can be viewed at [FERPA](#).

Student/Parent Handbook

A digital copy of the Student/Parent Handbook will be posted on the school website (www.winnacunnet.org) and automatically bookmarked for all students on their computers. Hard copies will be available in the main office and assistant principal's offices.

Please review the handbook with your child as it contains information covering faculty and staff members, bell schedules, school calendar, guidance and counseling services, academic policies, the code of conduct and general policies.

Enclosed is the Handbook Parent/Guardian Verification Page. Parents/Guardians and students must sign the verification page indicating that they have read and understand the rules and expectations at Winnacunnet High School. If you have any questions regarding the information in this handbook, you may call an assistant principal for explanation or assistance.

Student Attendance

Research and experience clearly indicate that regular attendance in school leads to increased academic performance. To prepare students to be college-and-career ready, they are expected to attend and be on time for all scheduled classes and other activities which are announced as compulsory.

Failure to attend class without a valid excuse from a staff member or parent is considered a class cut and consequences will be assigned accordingly. The

school day runs from 7:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Students are required to be in school for the entire school day, except for seniors who are assigned a free block and open campus privileges.

If a student is going to be absent from school due to illness, or other reasonable circumstances, the student's parent/guardian is to phone the school attendance administrative assistant (926-3395) before 8:30 A.M. to inform the school of the expected absence.

Upon receipt of a parent/guardian's notification, the attendance administrative assistant will record the absence as verified by the parent/guardian. Students are responsible for meeting with teachers within 24 hours of their return to school to determine a plan to make up missed work in a timely fashion.

Students are not permitted to write or sign a tardy, a dismissal, or an absent note. Forging a note and/or a false telephone report is a serious violation of the policies within the Parent/Student Handbook and consequences will be administered.

Cell Phones

Students may possess a cell phone, but they must remain off and out of sight while in a class, study halls, during assemblies or other school activities.

Students may only use their phones when in the hallway between classes, during break or during lunch and in the dining hall. At these times, cell phones must be kept on "vibrate" or "quiet" mode to avoid disturbing others.

Sign-ups for Athletics and Clubs

Students interested in fall sports can sign-up by stopping by the Athletic Director's office in the Physical Education facility before or after school. Athletic schedules and updates will be posted on the daily announcements or on the website at www.winnacunnet.org/athletics/.

Students interested in joining a club should stop by the Activities Office (B101) before or after school. All freshmen will participate in an activity fair on the first day of school.

Parking Privileges

Seniors, juniors, and students who receive school-day internships will be allowed to park this year if they maintain “good academic and behavioral standing.” The handbook provides more information about what constitutes “good standing.” The yearly parking fee is \$50.00. Student motor vehicles without stickers or vehicles parked in the staff spaces will be towed at their owner’s expense.

PowerSchool

The parent portal is a valuable tool that allows parents to view their child’s grades and attendance. Previous parent passwords are still active, and parents can log into PowerSchool at winnacunnet.powerschool.com

Upperclassmen and/or transfer student parents who did not receive passwords last year can obtain one by contacting the Guidance Office. Parents of incoming freshmen will be receiving the password within the first two weeks of school upon completing the Parent/Guardian Verification Form.

Student's schedules will be available on the PowerSchool portal prior to the first day of school. Please use the schedule on PowerSchool as it is the most up to date schedule. Freshmen will receive their schedules during Fresh Start. Freshmen who do not attend Fresh Start will receive their schedules in the mail.

PowerSchool Required Student Updates

Winnacunnet has transitioned to an online platform for student updates. The WHS online Required Student Updates forms for 2024-25 will be available directly via the WHS Parent Portal. This process replaces the paper forms sent home at the beginning of each school year. Parents will use the PowerSchool Parent Portal account to access the required forms.

Please note that these forms are currently being updated and are not yet available.. An additional email will be sent when the forms are available with instructions and frequently asked questions.

**** Please remember to enter the parent/guardian email address(es) in the Contact 1 and Contact 2 email address fields. These will be the emails we use for all future correspondence. If you leave the email address field(s) blank when submitting the form, the system reads this as a change and will remove the email address(es) from our records. ****

School Calendar

There are two calendars available for viewing on the website. One is the event calendar that lists the daily activities and events: [Events Calendar](#)

The second calendar is an academic calendar that provides a monthly view of the school year: [Academic Calendar](#)

Friends of Winnacunnet Foundation

Parents looking for ways to get involved in your child's education, can consider getting involved with the Friends of Winnacunnet Foundation. This non-profit organization was formed in 2005 and awards grants bi-annually to enrich the educational experience of Winnacunnet students. This dedicated group of volunteers has dispersed over \$100,000 in educational grants and raised nearly \$125,000 toward an endowment. They meet regularly on the second Monday of each month at 6:30 pm in the Principal's Conference room, (B108) near the Front Office. Winnacunnet is very fortunate to have this organization and would welcome any new volunteers.

In closing, I want to say how excited we are to meet our new students and greet our upperclassmen returning from summer break. If students or parents have any questions, please contact us at 926-3395 or one of the numbers listed in this letter.

Sincerely,



William F. McGowan
Principal