



# HAMILTON-WENHAM

## REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

5 SCHOOL STREET, WENHAM, MA 01984 · TEL. 978-468-5310

August 13, 2021

Dear Hamilton-Wenham Community,

As we approach mid-August, thoughts of school begin to permeate our summer brains! It is my sincere hope that everyone is continuing to have opportunities to reflect, rejuvenate, and enjoy all of the extraordinary things summertime has to offer.

The faculty and staff of HWRSD have been hard at work preparing to open our doors on 9/1/21 for the 2021-2022 school year. This communication is intended as a preliminary outreach, with more detailed information about the school opening coming over the next several weeks.

### Masking Requirements

As you know, there have been national, state, and local conversations regarding masking guidelines in response to the COVID-19 Delta variant. This upcoming Thursday, August 19, the School Committee will vote on a policy for masking that will be in place for the start of the school year. We have provided a recommendation to the Committee that is [linked here](#). In brief, **we are recommending that the district institute a universal masking policy when individuals are inside our facilities, regardless of vaccination status.** This recommendation was crafted in consultation with the district's Lead Nurse, the Public Health Nurses of Hamilton and Wenham, the District Leadership Team, and the Hamilton-Wenham Education Association (HWEA). If you would like to share your perspective on this issue with the Committee before they vote on a mask policy, there is a public comment opportunity at the outset of the meeting. Please find the 8/19/21 School Committee Meeting agenda [here](#).

### Interim Superintendent Search

The School Committee will be interviewing two candidates for the Interim Superintendent on Wednesday, August 18: Eric Tracy, Principal of HWRHS, and William McAlduff, Retired Superintendent. The Committee had voted to move three candidates forward, but one withdrew after accepting another position. Candidates' resumes and interview times can be found on the [8/18/21 School Committee agenda](#), posted on our district website. The Committee is anticipating voting on the Interim Superintendent at their 8/19/21 meeting.

### Time to Sign Up for Bussing

As you may be aware, the district contracts with Salter Transportation for our bus service. This year, Salter will be utilizing a new routing software that requires us to collect baseline ridership information. Would you please use this [FORM](#) and fill out ONE form for EACH student in your

family? If you have transportation through Special Education you do NOT need to fill it out. It should be noted that nobody that falls within the eligible distances for bus transportation will be turned away.

The Federal order requiring masks on public transportation remains in effect. ALL passengers and drivers must wear a mask on school buses. In addition, all HWRSD buses must have windows open at least 4 inches at all times. For more information, here is the [CDC's Order](#).

Bus routes are documented in our records in [Aspen](#), so please be sure to update your address or contact information if necessary. The district will have routes complete one week before school opening. We request that you complete the registration by **August 18, 2021** to help us hit this target. In the meantime, any questions regarding bus transportation can be directed to [Jen Caufield](#), 978-626-0914.

Enjoy the remaining days of summer and be on the lookout for additional communications and updates as we get ready to launch the new year.

Warm Regards,  
Mary Beth Banios  
Superintendent, HWRSD