Dear Wakefield Families,

The Wakefield staff and I are excited to welcome students to the 2021-22 school year on Monday, August 30. It is so exciting to see students beginning to return to the building after 18 months. We know this transition is a process and look forward to collaborating with our parents and community as we support our students.

Below you will find information that may be helpful as we begin this new school year:

**What does the 1-Day/2-Day Schedule mean? How do I know which day is which?** Wakefield operates on an alternating day block schedule for most of its classes, which means that some classes meet for 88 minutes every other day. The only classes that do not follow this pattern are 3rd period and Warriors Period. The 3rd period classes meet every day for 44 minutes, and Warriors Period meets every day for 33 minutes. On a 1-Day students attend 1st, 3rd, Warriors Period, 5th, and 7th periods. On a 2-day, students attend 2nd, 3rd, Warriors Period, 4th, and 6th periods. The school calendar shows the 1-Day/2-Day schedule for the year.

**What time do classes start and end and what is the bell schedule?** Classes start at 8:19 and end at 3:01. For safety reasons, we do not post the bell schedule on the website. A copy of the bell schedule will be included in the opening packet information students will receive on Monday.

Please note that on the first day of school, 9th graders will report at the regular time. Upper grade students will report 2 hours later. Students who walk/drive to school should arrive by 10:10 and bus riders should be at their assigned stop 2 hours later than the normal time.

**Where can I see my student’s class schedule?** Students’ schedules were uploaded to Parent Vue and Student Vue last week. Bus transportation information has also been uploaded. ParentVUE also allows you to complete the Annual Online Verification Process, update contact information, and provides you with up-to-date information about your student’s grades, assignments, scores, and attendance.

If you are receiving an error message when trying to access Parent Vue, please follow the directions on this page to learn how to update to the new URL: <https://www.apsva.us/family-access-center/>

If you need help with passwords or other login information, please contact the Wakefield at 703-228-6700.

**Where do I drop my child off/pick my child up?** Parent drop-off and pick-up is directly in front of the school on S. Dinwiddie Street (entrances 4 and 5). For the safety of students, we ask that parents pull up in front of the school to allow your child to get out of/into the car and not enter the parking lot/bus loop. Please do not drop students off on the other side of the street.

**What do I do if my child misses school?** For planned absences, a written note with parent signature must be submitted to the attendance office (C-126) prior to the date of the absence. For unplanned absences, such as in cases of student illness, a parent should call the attendance office (703-228-6730 or 703-228-6731) and notify the attendance secretary. A written note with parent signature should be submitted to the attendance office within 2 school-days of the student returning to class.

**What are the food options for breakfast and lunch?** Students are welcome to get breakfast and lunch in the cafeteria at no cost or bring lunch with them. There are microwave ovens in the cafeteria for student use. Food delivery (such as pizza) will not be available. Seniors who return the Parental Off-Campus Lunch form may leave campus for lunch. Seniors will be receiving the form during the first week of classes. Students do not need to complete the Free and Reduce Price Lunch Application to receive free meals, however, families are encouraged to fill out the form if needed as other cost reductions are connected to be approved for free or reduced lunch costs, including fee waivers for the SAT and ACT.

**What is Warriors Period?**  Again this year we will have Warriors Period each day. Students should use this time to complete work, collaborate with classmates, and get help from teachers. We will also use this time for social-emotion learning activities and to help students transition from virtual to in-person instruction. This time can also be used for students to meet with teachers.

**Where can I park if I drive to school?** There is no student parking available in the main parking lot. Students who drive to school may park on Dinwiddie St by the baseball field. They may also use the auxiliary parking lot located by the upper field across from Claremont Elementary on Chesterfield Rd. Two-hour on-street parking is available between 10:0AM-2:00PM in front of the building on Dinwiddie St.

**Who is my child’s administrator?** Wakefield has 4 assistant principals, and each is responsible for one grade level. This year’s assignments are as follows:

Ms. Jasneen Sahni (703-228-6683): 9th Grade Dr. Betty Sanders (703-228-6702): 10th Grade

Ms. Maggie Hsu (703-228-6660): 11th Grade TBA at 8/26 Board Meeting (703-228-6715): 12th Grade

**When are the PTSA meetings and how do I join?** The PTSA is an excellent way for parents to stay connected with Wakefield. The PTSA actively supports our students and teachers and strives to provide timely information to parents. The dates for the monthly meetings are posted on the PTSA webpage. Membership forms will be included in the First Day Packet and can be downloaded from the PTSA website: <https://wakefield.apsva.us/ptsa/>

**When will my student receive their MacBook?** Ninth grade students who were enrolled before early August will receive their MacBooks during 9th grade orientation on Monday morning. New upper grade students who enrolled prior to early August will receive their device later next week. All students who enrolled after early August will receive their MacBooks in early September.

**How and when does my child sign up for clubs and activities?** Wakefield will have a Student Activities Fair in Town Hall on September 23 at all lunch periods.  Students are encouraged to walk around and visit various tables to sign-up for a club. Morning announcements are also made to remind students when clubs will be meeting.  Wakefield is currently in the fall sports season.  Athletic schedules, sports physicals and insurance forms, and try-out information can be found at: <https://wakefieldhs.rschoolteams.com/>

**What types of supports and resources are available for students?** In addition to having Warriors’ Period as a time to get extra help from teachers, many departments offer lunch labs during which time students can receive tutoring from teachers. Wakefield also offers Saturday Academy from 9:00AM-Noon on many Saturday mornings. Teachers and tutors are available to assist students. A calendar of the dates of Saturday Academy and a list of all other supports will be posted on the Wakefield website shortly.

**What do students and families need to know about policies and practices related to COVID-19 Health and Safety Measures:**

Student and staff safety is our primary concern as we welcome students back next week. Here are important things to know:

* Face masks are required at all times except when actively eating and drinking. We will have masks available to any student who needs one.
* Hand sanitizer and wipes will be available throughout the building. Students are encouraged to wash their hands or use the hand sanitizer frequently and to wipe down their chair/desk before sitting down. The custodial team will disinfect frequently touched surfaces repeatedly throughout the day.
* For meals, students are strongly encouraged to eat outside. Seating is available in the Town Hall courtyard, the auditorium courtyard, and outside the cafeteria at the George Mason Blvd Plaza.
* While the water fountains have been turned out, students are encouraged to bring water bottles and fill them up at the water bottle filling stations that are located in several areas of the building.
* Parents should complete the daily Qualtrics screener, but we will not be checking it at arrival nor will we be doing temperature checks.
* As much as possible, we will practice social distancing of at least 3 feet, but in some cases that may not be possible.
* In collaboration with APS, Wakefield is pleased to provide both symptomatic and asymptomatic testing for students. Testing at Wakefield takes places daily immediately following the end of the school day at 3:01. Testing is located at door 10, outside of the cafeteria. In order for your student to receive weekly COVID-19 testing, parents/guardians must opt-in by filling out an online consent form. Families who completed the consent form last school year do not need to opt-in again. [Details are available online](http://track.spe.schoolmessenger.com/f/a/596CuZ4YyYWjhgcubIjvaA~~/AAAAAQA~/RgRjB76sP0RUaHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuYXBzdmEudXMvc2Nob29sLXllYXItMjAyMS0yMi9oZWFsdGgtc2FmZXR5LWluZm9ybWF0aW9uL2NvdmlkLTE5LXRlc3RpbmcvVwdzY2hvb2xtQgphJiyLJmFnWoaNUhJCZXRoQGRlbWFyY29pcC5jb21YBAAAAAE~).
* Certified Air Cleaning Devices (CACDs) are located in all classroom spaces, many offices, and the cafeteria.
* **How can I stay up-to-date on everything that is happening at Wakefield?** Most announcements and a calendar of events are posted on the Wakefield webpage (<https://wakefield.apsva.us/> ). Many clubs, teams, and staff members use Twitter to share news. To get started, you may want to follow: @WHSHappenings @WakeCounselors @WakeAthletics @principalWHS

Please feel free to contact Wakefield at 703-228-6700 if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

Chris Willmore, Ed.D.

Principal