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Shelby Boisvert, Assistant Principal
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Wachusett Regional High School

*1401 Main Street
Holden, MA 01520
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August 2025

Dear Parents/Guardians and Members of the Class of 2029:

Welcome to Wachusett Regional High School! As your Principal, and on behalf of the entire Wachusett community, it is my distinct pleasure to extend a warm welcome to you. Entering high school is an exciting time and over the next four years you will experience opportunities for academic and social-emotional growth, as well as create lasting memories and friendships.

Your high school journey unofficially kicks off on **Thursday, August 21st at 8:00 AM** with our **New Student Orientation**. This is a great opportunity to meet fellow Class of 2029 students from all five Wachusett towns, tour the building, get access to PowerSchool, and ideally walk through your schedule prior to the first day of school. In addition, this year, we're super excited to welcome Ed Gerety as our guest speaker. Ed has spoken all over New England and brings an energetic and positive message that's a perfect way to start your high school career on the right foot. If you have not already done so and are interested in attending, please take a moment to RSVP for this event using this [link](#). Any questions can be directed to Mrs. Cornwell samantha.cornwell@wrsd.net or Mrs. Moisan becky.moisan@wrsd.net. In addition the administrative team would like to welcome parents/guardians to a "Coffee Break" sponsored by the WRHS Booster club from 8-8:30am on August 21st. Please join us in this meet and greet and use this as an opportunity to ask questions.

All Wachusett students will report to school on **Tuesday, August 26, 2025**. Freshmen, upon entering the building, can gather in the cafeteria, but will report directly to the **auditorium at 7:30 am**, for a brief Freshmen class meeting. Prior to coming to school, we ask that all Grade 9 students be aware of their homeroom assignment **before** they enter the auditorium. Homeroom assignments can be found in PowerSchool and will be posted in the cafeteria and the upper gym hallway for reference. In order to facilitate a smooth first day of school, Grade 9 will follow a special bell schedule so that they can pass from class to class without the confusion of having the whole student body in the halls. Faculty, staff, and student leaders will be available to assist students in locating their classrooms throughout the day.

The following is some information that will be helpful to you in understanding some of the procedures that we have at Wachusett. These excerpts are taken from the Student Handbook, as well as the Educational Guide, both of which can be found on our new [webpage](#). Please read all of this information, as well as any information distributed on the first day, and discuss it with your student. The emergence into high school is truly a collaborative effort, and we cannot emphasize enough the importance of the school/home connection. Please be sure to reach out to your student's administrator and/or counselor if you have any questions. This year's Grade 9 administrator will be Mr. Josue Delgado, josh.delgado@wrsd.net. The Main Office and Counseling Office are open daily from 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The Wachusett faculty and staff are eagerly looking forward to another outstanding school year built on our values of mutual respect, responsibility, and collaboration. This year's theme is "Better Together - Mountaineer Pride" which will be talked about numerous times throughout the year as we continue to work at building a community that supports and uplifts one another. It is essential that positive relationships are formed with all stakeholders as we navigate through the challenges of high school together. By working together, maintaining open lines of communication, and understanding that we all have the best interest of our students in our sights, valuable partnerships can help ensure that every student has the opportunity to reach their full potential.

At this time, parental access to PowerSchool should be available via the high school website to sign off on the student handbook and check bus schedules. Access to schedules will be available to all on August 19th. Please see the [WRHS Policy on Schedule Changes](#). Parents can use the PowerSchool Parent Portal to view their student's schedule and monitor their student's assignments and grades throughout the school year. *Note: Students are not able to access their schedule via their student PowerSchool account until parent/guardian sign off on the Student Handbook has been completed.* Please refer to the website for an explanation of what parents can expect teachers to post on PowerSchool, as well as protocol to address any difficulties. If you do not have a Parent/Guardian account, or you need your password reset, please contact the School Counseling Department at (508) 829-6771, ext. 1614 or ext. 1615.

We strongly encourage students to ride the bus whenever possible, as it helps reduce campus traffic and the buses are a safe and reliable method of transportation. However, if you choose to drive your student to school in the morning, please follow the designated drop-off procedures to ensure safety for all and efficiency. Please enter the campus through the main entrance, across from Wilde Irrigation, continue up the hill, take a left at the flagpole, and proceed down the driveway toward the main entrance doors. Stay to the right, drop your student off at the curb, and continue forward through the rotary to exit the campus the same way you entered.

It is important that you do not use the service entrance located across from the Holden Fire Department for drop-off or pick-up. This entrance is designated for buses, vans, and student drivers only. Dropping students off behind the building or at any unauthorized location disrupts the flow of traffic and creates significant safety concerns. We appreciate your cooperation in helping us maintain a safe and orderly arrival process.

During afternoon pick-up, all vehicles must enter through the main entrance, proceed up the hill to the flagpole, take a left, and continue down the right side of the driveway, pulling as far forward as possible along the building.

To maintain a clear lane for emergency vehicles, parking is **only permitted on one side of the driveway**—along the side closest to the building. Vehicles may not park or wait on the opposite side. Once the designated pick-up area is full, our security officer will direct overflow traffic up the hill. Drivers should follow the traffic flow, which will loop around to the athletic side of the building. After buses have been dismissed, you will be allowed to take a right turn and proceed down the front driveway to pick up your student.

Finally, below are a few miscellaneous items from the handbook that I ask you to review. In addition I invite you to check out the new [webpage](#) which is much easier to maneuver and full of information. On behalf of the administrative team and WRHS faculty, we look forward to a wonderful 2025/2026 school year.

Sincerely,

Mr. Michael Pratt - WRHS Principal

Administrative Team

Michael J. Pratt, Principal

michael_pratt@wrsd.net

Administrators Assigned To Each Class

Josue Delgado, Assistant Principal, Grade 9 – Class of 2029

josue_delgado@wrsd.net

Lori Stattenfield, Assistant Principal, Grade 10 – Class of 2028

lori_stattenfield@wrsd.net

Shelby Boisvert, Assistant Principal, Grade 11 – Class of 2027

shelby_boisvert@wrsd.net

Matthew Lane Assistant Principal, Grade 12 – Class of 2026

matt_lane@wrsd.net

Special Education Specialist

Shanna Hauver

shanna_hauver@wrsd.net

School Counseling Office

Kendra Cantrell, Director of School Counseling

kendra_cantrell@wrsd.net

School Counselors

Allison Connors - ext 1617

allison_connors@wrsd.net

Michael Dubzinski - ext 1622

michael_dubzinski@wrsd.net

Lauren Freeman - ext 1621

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Brittany Hanna - ext 1620

brittany_hanna@wrsd.net

Kerri Knorring - ext 1640

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Christina Lee - ext 1616

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Jennifer Reilly - ext 1638

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CORE VALUES

Critical Thinking/Problem Solving

Creativity/Innovation

Citizenship/Responsibility

Communication

Collaboration

FAQ's About Daily Life at WRHS

• **ATTENDANCE** at school is very important to your student's academic record. Please help the school do its job by insisting on an excellent attendance record for your child.

The preferred and most efficient way to report a student absence or tardy at WRHS is via the PowerSchool Parent Portal and should be done by 8:00 a.m. of the day in question. Parents and guardians can log into the PowerSchool Parent Portal through a web browser (<https://wrsd.powerschool.com>) or the PowerSchool Mobile App.

Additionally, parents or guardians can call (508) 829-6771, before 8:00 a.m. to report the student's absence or tardy and the reason for it. To report an absence upon the student's return to school, a note from the parent/guardian explaining the absence should be brought to the main office. A call will be made to each absent student's home if we are not contacted by a parent or guardian. Parents/guardians who have questions or need assistance with reporting an absence or late arrival through the PowerSchool Parent Portal can call the attendance secretary at (508) 829-6771 extension 5070 for assistance.

When a student misses 5 days during the school year due to unexcused absences, the parent/guardian will be contacted and a meeting will be held with the Principal or Principal's designee to develop action steps to address the student's attendance.

ABSENT NOTES should be written and signed by a parent/guardian and returned to the Administrative Office by the student when they return to school from an absence. These notes should also have the *student's grade* and *student's ID number* on the top, as well as the student's *full name*.

• **TARDY TO SCHOOL** – Students are expected to be in first-period class at 7:35 a.m. each school day and are not allowed to leave first-period class until after the pledge and/or announcements. Students arriving after 7:35 a.m. or designated start of school day, must sign in at the front door/main office and then report to their appropriate class. Students are allowed three tardies per quarter that must be verified by a note, phone call, or email to the student's administrator from a parent/guardian on that day or the next school day. All tardies beyond the three allowed per quarter will result in disciplinary action (see Student Management Code). All students in the building or on school grounds prior to the 7:35 a.m. bell, or designated start of school day, and who are late to period-one class will be sent to the Main Office to sign in and be considered tardy to school.

• **EMERGENCY CARDS** – We ask that parents complete the emergency card that will be given to your child on the first day of school and **have them returned to their homeroom teacher on the second day of school.**

• **STUDENT ACCIDENT MEDICAL INSURANCE PROTECTION** – Applications are available online at wrsd.net/wrhs for those families that are interested.

• **STUDENT IDS/PHOTOS** – O'Connor Studios will be here on August 27th, 28th, & September 2nd to take students' photos during their scheduled PE class. Students who do not have PE on their schedule in the first semester will receive a pass from the Main Office for their photo to be taken. O'Connor Studios will be sending order forms directly to your home so that you may order portraits if you choose. ALL students must be photographed for their student ID. There is no fee. However, students who lose their ID and need a replacement or students who **fail** to have their photo taken on one of the designated dates, will be charged a \$5 processing fee.

- **NUTRITION BREAK** - We will continue with mid-morning nutrition breaks beginning on Thursday, August 28th. An additional five minutes is added to period three each day for morning announcements and during this time students will be able to have a quick snack. We ask that students bring healthy snacks such as granola bars, fruit, etc. in order to maximize the desired effect of this snack break. Any student that wishes to have a snack must bring it with them to period three for they will not be allowed to leave class to get one. Also, some classrooms do not lend themselves to a safe eating environment such as science labs, physical education, etc. At any time, an individual class or school may lose this privilege entirely if high standards of cleanliness or order are not maintained.

- **CONFIDENTIALITY/RELEASE OF STUDENT RECORDS** - The Wachusett Regional School District takes all reasonable precautions to preserve the confidentiality of student records. According to federal law, the District is required to release the names, addresses and telephone listings of students to military recruiters and institutions of higher learning for recruitment and scholarship purposes upon their request and without prior consent. Parents and eligible students have the right to request that this information not be released without their consent. If you wish to exercise your right to "opt out," please complete the Higher-Ed / Military Recruiting Opt-Out Form in the PowerSchool parent portal under Forms.

- **DISMISSAL** from school requires that the student bring a note from their parent/guardian indicating their **full** name (particularly if the last name is different from that of the parent or guardian), grade, the date/time, phone number and reason for dismissal to the main office **before school**. **Phone dismissals are not allowed.** We will continue to limit dismissals to emergencies that students and families need to attend to or for appointments that cannot be made at any other time but during school hours. Students being dismissed during long block study must seek approval from their administrator. Please note that the attendance code will be strictly enforced and the only absences that are excused from class are bereavement, religious holidays, documented chronic medical conditions, documented college visits, court dates and school-sponsored field trips and events.

- **DETENTION HALLS** – Detention halls run Monday through Thursday at Wachusett from 2:20 p.m. to 3:20 p.m. Students are usually given a day of grace to make personal arrangements so that they can attend detention halls but no excuses for missing them after that one-day period is allowed unless it is an emergency. There are no late buses, see "Late Buses" below.

- **SATURDAY DETENTIONS** – Saturday detentions are usually held twice each month from 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. from late September through May. Students whose behavior has reached an inappropriate level, as determined by their class administrator, will be assigned Saturday detention(s). Students are responsible for providing their own transportation.

- **LATE BUSES** – There is no late bus transportation. Students will still be responsible for meeting their after-school obligations such as practice, detentions, clubs, extra help, etc.; however, they are also responsible for their own transportation home. While waiting for a ride, students should wait in either the cafeteria or outside of the building near the gym entrance or main office entrance. **Any students found loitering elsewhere or hanging around without reason will be asked to leave the building and further consequences may be issued by administration.**

- **TELEPHONE CALLS** to students are discouraged and the school will not give messages to students except in extreme emergencies.

- **LOCKERS** - All students will have the opportunity to request a locker and a lock, and should use only the locker subsequently assigned to them. Freshmen and new students will be assessed a \$5 locker fee should they choose to use a locker. Students are responsible for the condition of their locker and for its contents. Students will be assessed for any damage that is done to their locker. All belongings must be removed by the last day of school. If the lock is missing from the locker at any time, the student will be charged a \$10 replacement fee. Writing on lockers is strictly prohibited. Students are reminded that administrators have the legal right to search lockers and their contents, given reasonable suspicion (see Searches).

- **ELECTRONIC DEVICES** – Student use of personal electronic devices (including but not limited to: cell phones, headphones/earbuds, wearable technology, etc.) will be allowed with specific limits during the school day.

Students will be allowed to use electronic devices and make phone calls prior to the start of school at 7:27 a.m. Once the 7:27 a.m. bell rings, phone calls can no longer be made or accepted on cell phones. Any phone calls after 7:27 a.m. must go through the main

office or through the student's administrator. If a student has an emergency and needs to access a cell phone, that student should see their administrator.

Once the bell rings to begin class, all personal electronic devices (including but not limited to: cell phones, headphones/earbuds, wearable technology, etc.) must be silenced (not on vibrate) and cell phones will be put in a space provided by the classroom teacher. Headphones, earbuds, etc need to be put out of sight and not worn. Unless otherwise directed by the teacher, cell phones will remain in this predetermined area throughout the entirety of the class period. Students will not be able to take their cell phones with them if they leave class to go to the bathroom, locker, etc.

Students are allowed to use personal electronic equipment in a non-disruptive manner (texting, etc.) before and after school, during lunch, study hall, and passing periods. Cell phones and other personal electronic devices are prohibited from being used during class (unless teacher directed) and in the school bathrooms.

Personal electronic device use should not cause disruption, infringe on the rights of other students or cause students to be late to class. Examples of such disruptive behaviors include but are not limited to loud music, photos, videos, etc.

- **NUTRITIONAL SCHOOL LUNCHES** - This school year each student will be allowed one free lunch per school day. However, any additional purchases will be at the daily lunch price of \$4.50. Extra milk can be purchased for \$0.75 per carton and the WRHS cafeteria also offers a number of à la carte items. The cafeteria offers a pre-pay plan for students. More detailed information can be found on the [school district food service website](#).

- **WRSD DRESS / PERSONAL ATTIRE** – Neatness, cleanliness, and appropriateness are the keystones of school dress and appearance in the Wachusett Regional School District. Personal dress and appearance may not violate reasonable standards of health, safety, cleanliness, and may not result in disruption or disorder within the school.

The WRSD Dress Code for school and school functions hopes to achieve three goals:

- 1. Promote a respectful learning environment.*
- 2. Promote a safe learning environment where dress does not interfere with the successful and safe completion of learning activities.*
- 3. Promote an equitable and inclusive learning environment in which the dress code does not negatively impact any group based on race, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, ethnicity, religion, disability, socio-economic status, and/or body type/size.*

The responsibility of proper dress and grooming rests primarily with the student and his/her/their parents or guardians. We ask that students and parents/guardians work to ensure that the goals outlined above are being met with the student's school dress attire. Hoods, except those worn in relation to required religious practice or with prior administrative approval due to a disabling condition, may not be worn within the school building as such headwear interferes with the identification of students and presents safety concerns. Sunglasses are not to be worn inside the building except with medical authorization and prior approval of the school administration.

Offensive clothing can sometimes be subjective to the individual; however, students should be aware that if symbols, words, or pictures on clothing cause, or are reasonably forecast to cause, a substantial disruption of the school environment, they will be asked to remove and replace the offensive clothing. Offenders may be subject to other disciplinary action as well. To this end, we ask that students and parents be considerate of how dress choices affect the safety and comfort of others. Clothing may not depict, advertise, or advocate the use of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana or other controlled substances, and weapons.

In addition, a student's personal dress and appearance must comply with any and all applicable state and federal health and safety regulations, especially while attending a lab or shop.

• **BULLYING/HARASSMENT** – The responsibility of the school to provide a safe environment for all students is one that we take very seriously. We will continue to address all cases of bullying and harassment as prescribed by Wachusett Regional School District Policy. We ask that parents and students report to administration any incident where a child has felt bullied or harassed. We will investigate all complaints and when appropriate will issue consequences prescribed by the Student Management Code to any and all offenders.

Please communicate with us about any problems or concerns you have about Wachusett, as well as the progress of your child. Feel free to contact your child's school counselor, teacher, or administrator as needed throughout the year. I can personally be reached via email at michael_pratt@wrsd.net and I encourage you to follow me on my Twitter (X) account [@WachusettPratt](https://twitter.com/WachusettPratt) for updates on school events.

There are many opportunities for parents to assist directly in the life of Wachusett. The **Mountaineer Booster Club** [Mountaineer Booster Club](#) is extremely active in supporting Wachusett's extracurricular activities and interscholastic athletic programs and can use your talents, time, and contributions to further their endeavors. **TEMPO** is the parent group that actively supports Wachusett's exemplary Music Education Program. These are but a couple ways that you can involve yourself in the life of your child's school and I urge you to take these, and many other opportunities seriously.

Thank you for entrusting us with your child over the next four years. We look forward to partnering with you and will do all in our power to provide your student with a quality education in a safe and supportive environment that will open doors to the next phase of life following the high school years.

Very truly yours,



Michael Pratt
Principal WRHS

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