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Email Subject: WMA - First Weeks of School and Additional Updates

Dear Parent,

Exciting news! By tomorrow night, your child(ren) will know who their classroom teacher is for the 2020-2021 school year! Look forward to those emails hitting your inbox soon.

Our Middle School students will be assigned a mentor teacher this year instead of a homeroom teacher! Those students will report to their mentor teacher first thing every morning.

We are excited to announce that with the responses we received and a little magic on the part of our teachers, grades six, seven and eight will not need to use simulcast rooms to maintain six feet of distance for at least the first month of school. This may change if more students move to learning in the building. Fifth grade students who are learning in person full time will rotate into simulcast rooms. WMA alum Mr. David Brown will assist with the simulcast rooms. Many of you likely know him from coaching and substitute teaching for several years.

First Week of School

Students will be split into a Blue Group and a Gold Group alphabetically by last name. The Blue Group is students with last names A to L. The Gold Group is students with last names M to Z. Recognizing that classrooms are not formed alphabetically, we will be asking several families to switch color groups to accommodate 6' between students, social interactions among students, and equity of our students. Your child's homeroom teacher will be contacting you about these changes. Once you have been assigned a color group, your family will keep this color group for the remainder of the year as the groups may be necessary for other calendar changes or events.

Blue Group students, whether they are learning in person or hybrid, will have their first day of school on Tuesday, September 8, and will return Thursday, September 10. Blue Group students will not have school on Wednesday, September 9 or Friday, September 11.

Gold Group students, whether they are learning in person or hybrid, will have their first day of school on Wednesday, September 9 and Friday, September 11. These students will not have school on Tuesday, September 8 or Thursday, September 10.

All virtual students will join the Blue Group and have their first day of school on Thursday, September 10 and then join the Gold Group on Friday, September 11. If your child is learning virtually, you must pick up your child's devices and learning materials on Tuesday, September 8 or Wednesday, September 9 in order for your child to participate on their first day of school. Please sign

up [here](#). Unfortunately, we cannot offer device pick up at the beginning or end of the school days because of student pick-up and drop-off.

Here is a visual representation of the first week of school:

	Monday, 9/7	Tuesday, 9/8	Wednesday, 9/9	Thursday, 9/10	Friday, 9/11
Blue Group (in person and mixed model)	Labor Day, no school	In school	off	In school	off
Gold Group (in person and mixed model)	Labor Day, no school	off	In school	off	In school
All Distance Learners	Labor Day, no school	Off Device pick up	Off Device pick up	Virtually attend school	Virtually attend school

Second Week of School

On Monday, September 14, we will begin the schedule that will be used for the rest of the year:

- In-person learners - attend class on campus
- Distance learners - attend class via Zoom all week
- Mixed model learners - Blue Group students in the mixed model will attend class in-person on Monday and Tuesday, and attend classes virtually on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. The Gold Group mixed model students will attend classes in-person on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, and learn virtually on Monday and Tuesday.

We recognize that this may feel confusing at first. Your teachers will have a full grasp of your child's schedule and you can reach out to them with questions once the school year has begun. Additionally, the school calendar will be updated to reflect the Blue and Gold Fridays for our mixed model students. In general, the first two Fridays of the month will be Blue days and the next two will be Gold days. If there is a fifth Friday, it will be used to make sure both Blue and Gold have an equal number of Fridays in the building.

Here is a visual look at the second week of school:

	Monday, 9/14	Tuesday, 9/15	Wednesday, 9/16	Thursday, 9/17	Friday, 9/18
Blue Group (mixed model)	In school	In school	Attend virtually	Attend virtually	Attend Virtually
Gold Group (mixed model)	Attend virtually	Attend virtually	In school	In school	In school
All Distance Learners	Attend virtually	Attend virtually	Attend virtually	Attend virtually	Attend virtually

All In-Person Learners	In school	In school	In school	In school	In school
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Staffing Updates

If you were part of our most recent Town Hall Meeting, you heard that parent of three WMA alums, Joanne Ferdinard, will join Candace Flowers as a second nurse.

Mrs. Anne Wellman is moving from our Preschool Plus program to lead our third kindergarten classroom. Mrs. Mary Pat Miner is moving from pre-k to teach a second preschool class.

As our Montessori parents know, Mrs. Theresa Lipinski is taking over as lead teacher while Ms. Mary Augustine takes a leave of absence. Mrs. Lipinski comes to us with a degree in Elementary Education from Cabrini College and Montessori credentials from Chestnut Hill College.

As many of you know, Mrs. Kristine Maletta and Mrs. Jacki Pawlowski began maternity leave in the spring that will continue into the fall. Experienced teacher, Mrs. Krista Fitzpatrick, who happens to be our librarian, will fill in for Mrs. Maletta until her return in mid-October. Ms. Christine Reed will sub for Mrs. Pawlowski until October 30. Ms. Reed has more than 20 years of classroom experience and most recently taught first and second grade. Mrs. Maletta and Mrs. Pawlowski have been working closely with their substitutes to set up their classroom and curriculum for the year.

Look forward to more updates from the school as a whole, and your child's homeroom teacher, as we get closer and closer to the first day of school! We can't wait to see all our students again, whether they are smiling at us through a screen or from their desk.

In Mercy,
Ann Marie