



William Gould Vinal Elementary School

Nathan Thorsteinson, Principal - nathan.thorsteinson@norwellschools.org

Catherine Egan, Assistant Principal - catherine.egan@norwellschools.org

William Gould Vinal Elementary School • Norwell Public Schools • 102 Old Oaken Bucket Road • Norwell, MA 02061 • v:781.659.8820 • f:781.659.8812

August 24, 2020

Dear Vinal School Families:

Mrs. Egan and I hope this letter finds you enjoying the last few weeks of summer with family and friends as the start of school will soon be upon us! The past six months have been unprecedented and at times unsettling in all of our lives. On behalf of the entire Vinal staff, we would like to welcome you to the 2020-2021 school year. The first day of school for students in K-5 is on Wednesday, September 16, 2020. Please note that the first day of school will not be a remote day for those participating in the hybrid model. The AM cohort will attend school from 8:55-11:30 and the PM cohort will attend from 12:45-3:20.

New This Year:

This year, Norwell Public Schools will continue using the learning management system (LMS) called Schoology. However, the elementary schools will be utilizing additional functions within Schoology previously only available at the middle and high school. A learning management system (LMS) is a software program that allows teachers and students to more easily communicate, access, and maximize digital instructional materials and electronic resources.

Arrival & Dismissal Procedures:

Students who walk to school or who are transported privately should not arrive prior to 8:45 a.m. We are unable to provide supervision for children before 8:45. Students will enter the building and follow their assigned path straight to their classrooms without lingering to avoid clustering in the hallways. Students riding the bus will follow the procedures outlined in the COVID-19 insert in the Student/Parent Handbook.

Teacher and Session Assignments:

We are only able to share AM and PM cohort information today. Classroom teacher assignments will not be available until Thursday. Families will receive an email on Thursday letting you know that you can log in to Aspen to see teacher assignments. Kindergarten families and families new to Vinal School will receive directions for Aspen and password information on Thursday as well.

Recognition for Vinal's Finest:

We have been diligently working to prepare for the first day of school for students on September 16th. A huge thank you goes out to our custodial staff for getting this building in pristine condition. Mr. Healey, Mr. Nault, Mr. Guerra, and the other district custodians worked tirelessly to clean and paint the Vinal School. I am truly impressed with their work ethic. The building looks amazing! Our school secretary extraordinaire, Mrs. DeBaggis, has put in countless hours inputting data into our system, registering students, ordering materials, and getting Vinal School

ready for opening day. It is going to be an awesome year in spite of COVID-19!

Staffing:

Our staffing for the 2020-2021 school year is as follows:

William G. Vinal Elementary School
Staffing for 2020 - 2021 School Year

Pre-Kindergarten - Mrs. Flynn	Kindergarten - Mrs. Ryan - Mrs. Keefe - Mrs. Mulkerrin	First Grade - Mrs. Campbell - Mrs. Cattaneo - Mrs. Barbour - Ms. Coggeshall
Second Grade - Mrs. Fitzgerald - Mrs. Harper - Ms. Harrington	Third Grade - Ms. O'Connor - Mrs. Schepman - Mrs. Hayes - Mrs. Carter	Fourth Grade - Mrs. Meade - Mrs. Doran - Ms. McQuade - Mr. Fennessy
Fifth Grade - Ms. Peckham - Mrs. Fitzgerald - Mrs. Abbott - Mrs. Story Principal - Dr. Thorsteinson Assistant Principal - Mrs. Egan	Specialists/Coordinators - Math - Mrs. Simmons - Reading - Mrs. Carpenito School Psychologist - Mrs. LaSalle District Social Worker - Michelle Henderson Vision Specialist - Mrs. Sadler	Specialists - Music - Mrs. Medairos - Art - Ms. Holmes - P.E. - Mr. Leonard - Instructional Technology - Mr. Tinker - Band - Mrs. Medairos/Dr. McCann - Library/Media - Ms. Howard
Special Educators - Mrs. Casagrande - Ms. McCarthy - Mrs. Weiler - Mrs. Johnson - Mrs. Blumberg-McSweeney	Speech/Language - Mrs. Chiano - Ms. O'Brien Guidance Counselor - Mr. Lewis	OT - Mrs. Kingsbury PT - Ms. Ryan School Nurse - Mrs. Isola

Bus Information:

Bus routes have been carefully planned, accounting for all families that indicated they would be bus riders this year. With that being said, no student is allowed to ride a bus other than the one

they've been assigned to without prior permission. As a reminder, students requiring pickup and drop off at daycare or employment in Norwell must seek approval from the principal with a written request; these arrangements must be permanent, prearranged, and the same for all days. There must be bus capacity and the bus stop must be a predefined stop for the request to be approved. Please contact me directly if you have any questions regarding this policy.

Students will have individually assigned seats on the bus, and be required to wear a mask for the duration of the bus ride. Students riding with a sibling will be asked to sit together with a maximum of two siblings per seat.

Bus numbers, route times, and bus seat information can be found on Aspen. We will alert families by email when that information becomes available. This information is not expected to be available until after Labor Day.

Parent/Student Handbook:

The Parent/Student Handbook will be online the last week of August at www.norwellschools.org. There have been changes to this year's Parent/Student Handbook. Please take a moment to review it before school starts. You will be asked to sign off that you reviewed this handbook during the first week of school. It is an excellent resource for parents and will answer many of the questions you might have as we begin the year.

Breakfast/Lunch Information:

Food will not be served during the hybrid model of instruction. Grab-and-go breakfasts and lunches will be made available to families requesting them. Additional information will come directly from our Food Services Department.

School Supplies:

A [list of school supplies](#) was emailed to families in early August requesting supplies that can be used at home and in school. Teachers may ask for additional supplies that are specific to that classroom or grade level in their welcome letter/email to families. Please reach out to Vinal administration if you need any support in gathering supplies.

Communication Mode and Important Dates:

We apologize for the length of this welcome back letter. Fortunately, the majority of our communication from this point on will be electronic. We will send out grade specific emails through our student database system and school wide notices through the School Messenger system. A weekly newsletter, *The Vinal Voice*, will be sent home via email and it is also posted on the Vinal School website.

Please mark your calendar with these important dates to start the year:

August 24 and 26	New Family Tours
August 31	Kindergarten Read Aloud with Mr. T and Mrs. Egan
September 7	No School – Labor Day

September 1-15	No School-Professional Development Days
September 16	First Day of School for grades K-5 <ul style="list-style-type: none">● AM Cohort 8:55-11:30● PM Cohort 12:45-3:20
September 25	School Picture Day

Enjoy the remaining days of summer with your precious children, and let them know that all of us at Vinal cannot wait for their arrival!

Sincerely,

Nathan Thorsteinson, Principal

Catherine Egan, Assistant Principal