



West Niagara

Secondary School

7 October 2024

Wolfpack and Families,

Please see below for a few information items and updates.

1) PD Day Friday 11 October

- a) Students are not at school on Friday.

2) SafeArrival/School Messenger and Signing Out

- a) I wanted to give everyone some information around signing students in/out of school and the SafeArrival/SchoolMessenger app
- b) Parents/Guardians are currently able to sign students out electronically using this app at any time. Please note, though, that signing a student out using the app does not automatically trigger a notification for teachers or office staff that this has been done.
- c) Example: A parent pulls up to the school at 1:50pm to excuse their child for an appointment. They enter the absence into the app, and wait out front. This entry sits in the system until an attendance secretary is in that part of the system checking for notifications, which is only a small part of their job. They are not likely to see this entry right away.
- d) Unless this parent also calls the office to excuse their child, **there is no automatic notification to anyone of your intent to excuse your child or let them know you are expecting them.** Please also call the office so that we can work with you to get your child dismissed and ready to go. I recognize this is not a great feature of the system.
- e) **It is not possible to sign your child out of class (any class - including MSIP) and have them stay at school**
- f) If students are at school, they are expected to be following their timetables. If students are signed out of school, they are expected to leave as per their parent's/guardian's instructions

3) Parent/Guardian -Teacher Night - Wednesday October 16th, 2024

- a) The purpose of this night is to give families an opportunity to connect with their children's teachers and get a brief update on their progress
- b) Appointments can be booked starting tomorrow, Tuesday October 8th, at 10am using the following link: <https://wnss.schoolappointments.com/>
- c) The system will not be active until tomorrow at that time. The link is also found on the school website under "Parent-Teacher Interviews" in the right hand column
- d) Appointments times are between 4:00pm and 5:30pm, and between 6:00pm and 7:30pm on Wednesday, October 16th
- e) Can't make it that night, or the teacher is fully booked? No problem! Please reach out to your child's teacher by email and request a conversation. Teacher emails can all be found on the WNSS website, on the right hand side, under "Contact Teacher@" <https://westniagara.dsbm.org/home/teaching-staff>

Have a great evening

Mat Miller
Principal, WNSS