

Dear Wines Families,

I hope this message finds you well and finds you enjoying the last days of summer before school begins. I apologize in advance that some of you may be receiving this message more than once. I use an email system called SchoolMessenger that syncs with our online registration system. At this time of year, it is possible that not every new family is in our system yet. Therefore, I'm sending this note using both SchoolMessenger and a more local email contacts list. This will all be cleared up prior to school starting, but for now I just want to make sure everyone is receiving my messages.

Our family's summer was very enjoyable and we spent most of our time in Northport, Mi which is up north on the tip of the "pinky" in Leelanau County. My father is a full time resident up there and our summers generally consist of our family moving in and staying as long as we can in one of the most beautiful spots I know. But we've recently moved back home to Ann Arbor and our twin boys are gearing up for their sophomore year at Skyline, Trish is back to work in person (fortunately, she was able to work primarily remotely this summer), and I'm ready to start year 14 here at Wines! While I can always spend more time up north, I find myself as ready and as excited as I've ever been for school to start.

Staff Changes

As our returning families know, two of our veteran Wines teachers, Marcia Gibbs and Janet Heaton, retired at the end of last year. While we will most certainly miss these wonderful educators, I am thrilled to announce our new staff changes for 2023-2024.

After many years teaching 4th grade at Wines, Nick Mosher will be moving to 5th grade this fall. Nick came to Wines nearly 10 years ago after he taught 5th grade at Northside for many years. Nick has long expressed interest in returning to 5th grade and with an opening this fall, it just seemed to be the perfect time and Nick is thrilled to be in 5th grade! Nick's classroom will certainly have students from his 4th grade room last year, but we are not doing a full class "loop" meaning not all of his students from last year will be joining him in 5th grade.

In 2nd grade, I'm pleased to introduce Leah Sulecki to our community. Leah has a B. A. in English and Educational Studies from Allegheny College and M.A. in Elementary Education from the University of Michigan. For the past two years, Leah has taught 1st and 2nd grade in Dover, New Hampshire. Welcome Leah!

Joining our 4th grade this year is Annabel Kim. Annabel will be a familiar face to all returning Wines students and families as she has been in our school for some time. Annabel has a B.A. from the University of Michigan and completed her internship at Wines during the 2021-22

school year. She then spent the last part of that school year and all of last year as a building substitute where she literally taught in every classroom in our school! We are excited to have Annabel here in a permanent position.

Back to School Events

Our annual Meet the Teacher events are listed below:

Young 5's/Kindergarten: Wednesday, August 23rd. 6:15 PM. Students will meet on the lower elementary playground near the Kindergarten classrooms and then enter the building with their teacher to spend some time in the classroom getting acquainted. Once students are in class, I will then meet with our Y5/Kindergarten families as part of our New Family Orientation (more on that below).

1st-5th Grades: Thursday, August 24th. 4:00 PM. We will meet our students and families on the playground behind school. I'll have popsicles for the kids and teachers will be there to meet everyone as well. This event is only on the playground, not inside school.

We certainly understand and appreciate that not everyone can make these events. If you are not able to attend, everyone will receive an email on those same days with classroom placement information.

New Family Orientation

As I indicated above, on August 23rd I will be hosting a New Family Orientation in the Multi Purpose Room. This will start at 6:30 PM. Our Young 5's and Kindergarten families will already be at school for the meet the teacher event and I welcome all new families to join us that evening as well. Returning families are more than welcome too! This is an opportunity to get to know each other a bit and for families to learn about the various logistical items that will help for a smooth first week of school (i.e. drop off/pick up information, lunch, etc.). There will be time for parents to ask questions as well. This is an event designed for adults, but if childcare is not available to you, students can join.

Important Changes for Breakfast and Lunch

As you may have heard, the Michigan Legislature has recently approved a bill allowing all Michigan students to receive free breakfast and lunch at school. This is a great move for our children, but also means some logistical changes to how we serve and some items for parents to complete. As part of our participation in this program, it is necessary for **EVERY** family to fill out what has previously been known as the Free and Reduced Lunch Application. Even if your family does not qualify for Free/Reduced lunch and even if you do not plan on having your child eat

school provided lunch or breakfast, it is crucial that every family fill out this form. Below is a link to a letter with more information and directions for completing this application.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/17bdafb6UMmPr-OkSKDSNpKggiwomen9UhWw_KeXOIs/edit?usp=sharing

Please note that students are not required to eat school provided meals and can continue to bring lunch from home if your family prefers. Also, while complete school breakfasts and lunches include milk, if your child only chooses milk and not a meal, there is a charge for milk served a-la-carte.

Interested in Helping at Lunch?

Speaking of lunch, we have been so fortunate here to have a strong core of lunch supervisors. We have also been incredibly lucky to have many parents who are willing to volunteer their time to support our lunch program. We always welcome new and returning volunteers to our program and we also have openings if people are interested in the paid position. If you are interested in volunteering (or returning to volunteer) please send me an email and we can connect on specifics. If you or someone you know is interested in the paid position, please contact me and I can give you all the information to begin the hiring process.

School Hours

First Bell: 8:42.

Second Bell/Instruction Begins: 8:45

Dismissal 3:48

Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

Again this year we will utilize two lots and two entrances to our school. Families with students in Young 5's, Kindergarten, and 5th Grade will enter and exit Wines from Cooley Ave., not Newport. Families with students in grades 1-4 will enter from Newport. The traffic flow is the same as last year and we are asking that those using the Newport entrance to please exit via the Forsythe turn rather than going back to Newport. This is particularly important during afternoon pick up. Please use the entrance for your youngest student. For example, if you have a fourth grader and a Kindergartener or Young 5's student, please use the Cooley lot. If you have a 5th grader and a 1st-4th grader, please use the Newport entrance. It is an important safety issue that families utilize the appropriate entrance/exit to Wines. This means many of our 5th grade families who are used to the Newport entrance will need to learn the Cooley entrance and many of our 1st grade families who used the Cooley entrance in Kindergarten will need to learn the Newport procedures.

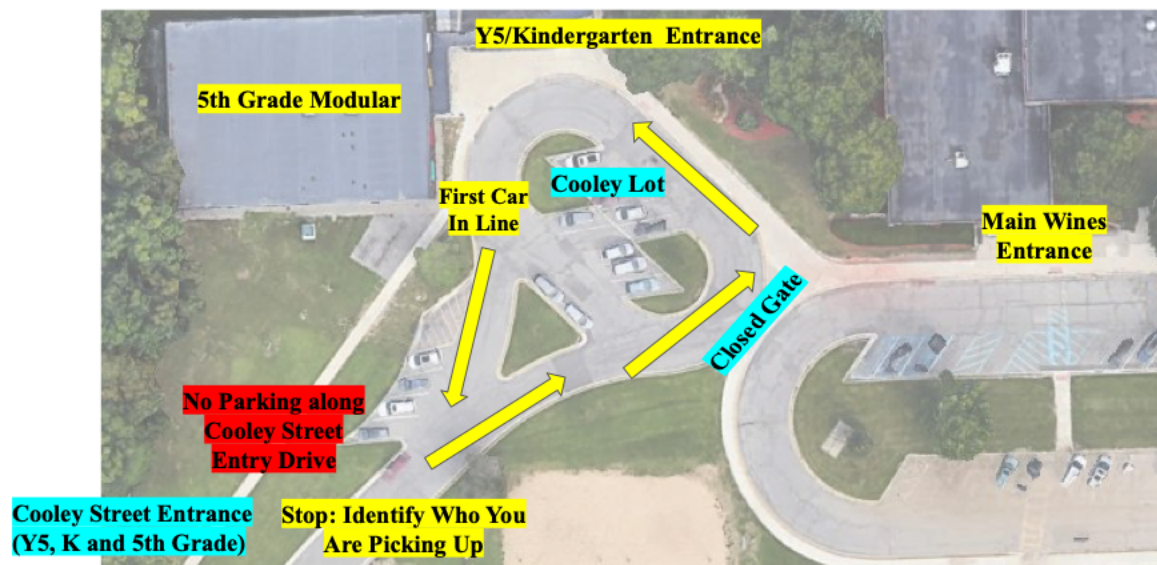
For afternoon pick up, families will need to display your Driveline family number. This should be displayed in your car if you are using the pick up lane. If you are parking and coming to our entrances to meet your child in person, please bring your number to show to our staff member checking in numbers.

Prior to school starting, I will be emailing everyone your family Driveline number. For returning families, your number is the same each year so you can use last year's signs if you still have them. If you are new or have lost your sign, on the first day of school, please write this number on a piece of paper from home. We will then be sending home copies of your number during the first week of school for you to use. We hope also to have Driveline number tags available at our meet the teacher events.

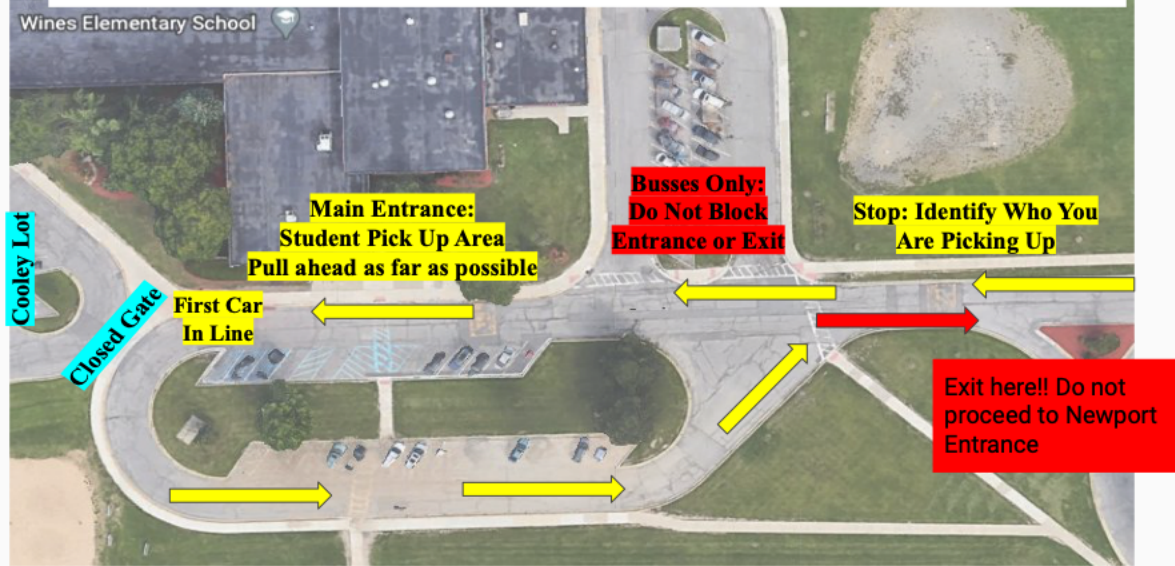
Please note: you do not need to display your Driveline number at morning drop off.

Below are two pictures of our parking lot routes. I will be going over this in more detail at our new family orientation and I will send out information again before school starts. It may seem complicated but it is actually quite simple and efficient!

Y5, Kindergarten and 5th Grade Car Rider Flow Entry From Cooley Street



1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Grade Car Rider Flow Entry From Newport Road



Parking

Parking is very limited at Wines. If you choose to park and escort your child to the school entrance or pick them (not in your car) you must park in a designated parking spot. There is absolutely no parking allowed along any of our curbs. There is nearly no parking in the Cooley lot and limited parking in the main lot. The best place to park is in the Forsythe overflow lot near the Newport entrance. This is only accessible from the Newport entrance.

School Supplies

We will provide everything your child needs for daily work in the classroom. There is no school supply list and you don't need to do any shopping! Your child will need a backpack and if they are bringing their own lunch, a lunch container. From time to time, teachers will send out wish lists for community items for the classroom, but this is optional and again, we will provide all materials for your child's school day.

Bus Information

Wines bus routes will be published on Monday, August 21st. Our routes will be found at <https://www.a2schools.org/Page/10472> (please note that last year's routes are currently found at that site so please wait until next week to access this year's routes).

My Stop Bus Arrival App

My Stop is a free desktop and mobile app that provides parents access to bus route information such as a child's assigned bus, bus stop location and updates on the estimated time of arrival at the bus stop. My Stop allows parents and students to plan for late or on-time arrival and prevent missed pick-ups. More information can be found at:

<https://www.a2schools.org/domain/2385>.

I hope this is enough information for everyone and hopefully you have some time to read this over and digest it. I will go over many of these items at our New Family Orientation meeting, and I will be sending out more messages to all as we approach the new school year with reminders, clarifications, and updates. Please feel free to email me at deyoung@aaps.k12.mi.us if you have any questions.

Best,
David