



755 E. VanBuren Street
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www.wanee.org/nes

Lead with Strength. Live with Integrity. Learn with Perseverance. Leave with Confidence.

August 6, 2021

Dear NES Families,

In less than one week we will be welcoming students back to school. What an exciting time of year! We hope you have had an enjoyable summer and are looking forward to the upcoming school year. It's amazing how much things can change in a year's time. Last year certainly provided its share of challenges, and we are looking forward to building upon the positive experiences while gradually getting back to many of our former practices and traditions which make NES such a special place. There are so many reasons to be excited about the journey ahead!

We often reflect on the changes last year with an expectation of returning to our previous practices. However, we were able to identify some new procedures we feel are safer for our students and will become part of our plan moving forward. Below you will see many topics we have received questions about in recent weeks. Please take time to read through the notes to see how each of these will be addressed as we start this school year. Be advised, these are subject to change based on CDC guidelines.

Mask Policy: The CDC is currently recommending masks be worn in schools. Wa-Nee Schools will follow those guidelines and recommend, **not require**, masks to be worn. Students and staff may choose to wear masks during the school day. Families may provide masks for their children. Please let your child's teacher or the office know if you need to have a mask provided for your child.

Return to Regular School Day (Early Release Wednesday): Wa-Nee Schools will be going back to a regular schedule for the 2021-22 school year. Our school hours are shown below. Early dismissal will take place every Wednesday.

• **Nappanee Elementary school hours:**

- M – Tu – Th – F 8:30 – 3:15
- Wednesday 8:30 – 2:45

Covid Cases / Close Contacts: Wa-Nee Schools will continue to track student and staff illnesses. Anyone who tests positive for Covid will be required to follow CDC quarantine guidelines. Families of close contacts will be contacted by the school; however, close contacts will not be required to quarantine unless they develop symptoms.

Birthday Treats: Families can provide birthday treats for students in your child's classroom. We do require all treats to be prepackaged. This is important in helping us accommodate for all food allergies. Please make arrangements in advance with your child's teacher if you plan to provide treats. Teachers will pass along other information to families regarding snacks in class.

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Learning Trips & School Events / Visitors & Volunteers (Background Checks):

- **Learning Trips and School Events:** It is our goal to return to a more normal schedule this school year which would include learning trips and many of the school events we have looked forward to each year. Adults who attend learning trips and those who visit the school during school hours will need to have background checks completed. Please plan ahead for these events by completing your application at least 72 hours in advance. Contact the school office if you have questions regarding this process.
- **Visitors and Volunteers:** We will continue to limit the number of visitors in the building. Due to limited seating in the cafeteria, we will not be able to allow visitors for lunch. Parents may choose to pick up their child during their lunch period to take them out to eat. Please call the school in advance so that your child can be ready when you arrive.

Teachers, however, will be able to arrange for a limited number of volunteers to help in the classroom as needed. These classroom volunteers must have a background check completed 72 hours in advance.

Arrival and Dismissal Procedures: This is an area in which we made many changes last year. There were many positive outcomes in terms of providing a safe environment for our students, and we plan to continue those procedures this year.

- **Arrival Procedures:** Students who walk to school or are dropped off may begin arriving at 8:15 if they eat breakfast. Breakfast doors will open at that time. Students who are not eating breakfast do not need to arrive until 8:30. Students will continue to walk around the north side of the building and line up on our playground when they arrive.
 - **Supervision Note:** Supervisors will not report to these areas until 8:15. Please do not drop off students or have students walk to school before this time. Students will not be allowed on the playground area until supervisors are on duty.
 - **Building Security:** We are no longer able to allow families into the building to escort their students to their class. We appreciate your understanding as we follow these safety procedures.
 - **Tardies:** Students that arrive to school after 8:40 **must** be signed into the building by an adult.
 - **[NES Drop-Off Procedures Powtoon Video](#)**
- **Dismissal Procedures / Car Tags:** We will follow the same procedures as last year for students that walk home and are picked up. Families who pick up their child(ren) will be assigned a tag number to hang on their car mirror. When families arrive to pick up their child(ren), your tag number is entered into our software system so that your child(ren) will meet you at our pick-up spot. We appreciate your patience the first few weeks of school as we take a few extra minutes to ensure students are matched correctly with car tag numbers. This process has worked well for us and will become much smoother as the weeks go by.
 - **Car Tag Distribution:** An email will be sent to families today explaining the car tag distribution process. **Car tags from last year have been invalidated for safety reasons and to reflect our current student roster. Numbers have been reassigned and the car tags are now blue.**
 - **[NES Pick-Up Procedures Powtoon Video](#)**



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Free Lunch / Breakfast: We are happy to announce all Wa-Nee Schools will continue to provide free lunch and breakfast to all students. Students who wish to buy milk separately or buy extra items will need to have money in their account to make those purchases.

Textbook Rental Fees: Textbook fees for the 2021-2022 school year have not been uploaded into Skyward yet. You are welcome to send cash or check payments to the office, however, we cannot process credit cards. As soon as credit card payments can be accepted online in Skyward, we will notify you by email. Here are the fees for this year:

Kindergarten	\$117.00	3rd Grade	\$120.00	Lifeskills	\$95.00
1st Grade	\$117.00	4th Grade	\$120.00		
2nd Grade	\$120.00	5th Grade	\$120.00		

Device Insurance: While device insurance is completely optional, we strongly encourage families to purchase device insurance for each student. The cost is only \$15 for the entire school year and can be paid through Skyward or you can send in cash/check to the office. A simple drop of a device can result in a \$200+ fee if your device is not insured. We had several families last year that regretted not taking advantage of the device insurance that was offered.

E-Learning Days (Updated Plan for 2021-22): It is no secret the best learning environment for our students is in-person instruction. However, we know the weather in our area does not always cooperate with those plans, and it becomes increasingly difficult to add days to the end of the calendar.

This year we will be making a slight change to our E-learning plan. Any school cancellation day prior to our scheduled make-up days, listed below, will be made up on those assigned dates. If we exceed (2) cancellation dates, or if the cancellations take place after the second scheduled makeup day, all remaining cancellations would be considered E-learning days.

- The two dates listed below are holidays in which students are not scheduled to be in session. These dates, however, will be used as in-session make-up days if we have cancellations leading up to that time.
 - Monday, January 17 No School (Make-Up Day if needed)
 - Monday, February 21 No School (Make-Up Day if needed)
- If we have more than two cancellations prior to these make up days, or if we have cancellations after February 21, E-learning days will be used to complete instructional activities on those days. We will do our best to keep you updated and communicate this plan if/when we have cancellations.

Looking forward to a great year!

Randy Cripe,
Principal

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