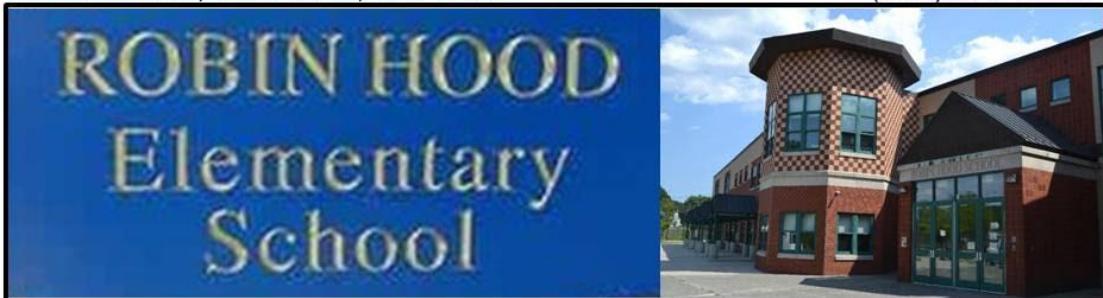


70 Oak Street, Stoneham, MA 02180

(781) 279-3870



**October 2020**

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**Principal's Message**

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As you know we have been experimenting with a variety of strategies to help make remote learning a valuable experience, particularly for our hybrid students who have minimal interaction with their classroom teacher on remote days.

We are very appreciative of all of the feedback we have received. Learning what is and is not working well for each family is very helpful. It is important for us all to remember that this is a moving target. The rigor of the academic content will continue to evolve and change. Our instruction model could change at any point. The needs of each child and family will likely also change. All of these factors mean that communication, patience and flexibility are going to be essential in making this work.

This past week we experimented with several changes to our remote learning delivery and structure. Some changes were overwhelmingly helpful, others were met with mixed reviews. I have asked the teachers to continue offering anticipated time frames for each content area. This is meant to help students and parents gauge how long the teacher expects the lesson and assignments will take, on average. We will also continue to incorporate "Exit Tickets" at the end of each content area or at the end of the day for students to document their actual time on task. This is a helpful accountability and planning tool for our teachers.

We are going to go back to releasing all assignments first thing in the morning. While the structure

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of staggering the release was beneficial to some, the need for flexibility is paramount. We recognize that some students are working in learning pods, at childcare centers and with parents that are working a host of shifts. Having the flexibility to access work as early as possible is essential for families in those situations.

We will keep tweaking things and working on our end to consistently improve upon our approach. Thank you again for your patience and cooperation.

Maura Donoghue  
Principal

### **Upcoming Events & Important Dates**

**October 12-** Columbus Day - No School  
**November 11** Veterans Day - No School

### **Safety First Q & A**



Q: What does outdoor recess look like this year?

A: Recess looks a bit different this year. The number of students and classes that participate in recess at any given time has been drastically reduced. Students wear their masks and remain as socially distant as possible 3-6 feet or more while playing. A sanitization station is set up outside each day for easy access to hand sanitizer and antibacterial baby wipes.

Classroom teachers remain with their students throughout recess and we avoid mixing cohorts of students. Each classroom is assigned an area to play in for the day. Some of the locations are:

**The playground** - students can play on the equipment. The Stoneham Recreation Department comes to Robin Hood and sanitizes the structure multiple times a day.

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**The Field** - students play non-contact games like "Shadow Tag" or "Noodle Tag". Mr. Halley is also working to incorporate recess game suggestions into his PE classes.

**The Basketball Court** - students play games like Connect 4, jump rope, chalk drawing and create your own obstacle course with mini field cones

**The Traffic Circle** - Mr. Halley has created two "obstacle courses" in our traffic circle for students to enjoy

Students can also choose to take a mask break and sit in a designated "mask break" area. In the mask break area students relax and enjoy each other company at a distance of at least 6 feet.

### Remote By Choice



We asked our "Remote by Choice teachers" to share a highlight of their school year so far. Here are a few of their answers. Can you guess which quote belongs to which teacher?

- 1) "It has been so nice watching the fourth graders from across town build connections with one another. To help us get to know one another better, students have been using FlipGrid to film videos about themselves and to share their writing. They are all naturals in front of the camera!!"
- 2) "We have been working hard to get to know one another by participating in different games, activities, and presentations! One way we got to know one another is through the "All About Me" project. Each student completed an "All About Me" poster and then shared their screen to present it to the class. It has been so wonderful getting to know all of my hard working students!"
- 3) "A highlight of my time as a remote teacher so far has been watching the students figure something out for the first time online. Unlike in a school setting where I may not see their face as they learn something new, I am staring at faces all day! When I see the struggle look go away and their expressive excited face appear, it makes me so happy! These faces have been popping up on my screen so much already! I am so proud of them!"

4) "One of my biggest highlights so far in remote preschool has been watching the joy on my students faces and hearing them intriguingly ooh and aah during our science experiments!"

1) Ms. Cutone      2) Mrs. Kinsky      3) Mrs. Isibor      4) Ms. Muolo



Across the district there is a great deal of confusion about Specialist classes. As with all of our current practices, we are listening carefully to the feedback and trying to find ways to better meet the needs of families while continuing to follow district and DESE mandates.

Our Specialists are working to provide instruction in "Units of Study" rather than a rotating schedule each day. Students will receive a series of Art classes, followed by a series of Music classes and so on over the course of several weeks. In addition each student will receive a minimum of one Physical Education class a week.

The teachers will be live for every session. We feel it is critical to offer students the opportunity to connect with their teachers as often as we can. We want them to have the ability to receive instruction first hand. That being said, the lessons are asynchronous, meaning your child can access the lessons without having to log into the live class at the assigned time. **There is no penalty or negative consequences for not attending the live session, as long as the assignments and/or project is completed in a timely manner.**

We recognize Wednesday afternoons are particularly challenging for some students. Since Robin Hood and Colonial Park share most of the Specialist teachers, our Wednesday classes have the potential to be quite large. This is not ideal for anyone and we are working to find alternatives. In the meantime if the large group is causing more problems for your child than it solves, you do have the flexibility not to log on to the live session.

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Please feel free to reach out to your Specialist teachers if you have any questions.

### **October Lunch Menu**



Please click on the link below for the October Lunch Menu:

<http://October Lunch Menu>



**2020-2021**

### **School Calendar**

The revised Stoneham Public School Calendar can be found at [www.stonehamschools.org](http://www.stonehamschools.org) or by clicking the link below:

<http://Revised School Calendar>



School, PTO Community Updates  
Please add us to your address book

**Our mailing address is:**  
70 Oak Street, Stoneham, MA 02180

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You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)

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