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January 17, 2022

Happy Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day,

Today we celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Please take time to reflect upon the important messages shared by Dr. King during his lifetime. An excellent way to commemorate this important day would be to join virtually [The 38th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration](#) at which Woodlands' own, Jacen Arrington, a eighth grader at our Bluemound campus, will deliver his first place award winning speech. The theme of this virtual birthday celebration is "We Must Speak". Congratulations Jacen!

#### COVID Update

As we have continued to watch the impact of COVID-19 on our city, we have decided to continue to put a hold on our after school extracurricular activities. **Therefore, extracurricular activities, (such as sports), will remain suspended through Sunday, January 23, 2022.** This excludes the Extension program. Our goal is to continue to provide in-person instruction for our students. We believe suspending extracurricular activities at this time will help us be able to do this.

#### COVID-19 Testing

**We are asking all families to consider having their students tested for COVID-19 at least weekly. You can do this testing on your own or consider registering your students for onsite COVID-19 testing that is available at each of our campuses.** Please complete the registration for each child separately using the link below for your child to be eligible for testing. Testing occurs everyday in the morning at each campus. Once the student is registered, on any day, parents can send a written note to the school to ask that their child be tested. If the child is registered, the child will be tested.

[Link to Register Students for diagnostic COVID-19 \(SARS-CoV2\) Testing at School](#)

**Bluemound families please use org code [5510](#)** when filling out the registration form  
**State Street families, please use org code [3121](#)** when filling out the registration form

**Please remember to notify the school through the classroom teacher if you would like to have your student tested at school.**

#### Vaccination

As a part of our layered prevention strategies, we encourage all parents to get their students vaccinated for COVID-19. Students as young as age five are now eligible to be vaccinated for COVID-19. We have learned that only 9% of children aged 5-11 in Milwaukee are vaccinated. Remember, vaccinated students, (without symptoms), can remain in in-person learning if a classroom is quarantined.



Bluemound Campus | State Street Campus

### Woodlands Student Expectations

The Woodlands staff have been working diligently to develop common student expectations to be used with our students. These expectations have been completed and will be shared with students this week. Here is a copy of the student expectations. We are asking parents to review these expectations with their students, print this document, sign the form and have your student also sign the form. [Form](#) We ask that you return the signed expectations document to school with your student. (Teachers will provide paper copies for any family that requests one.) Thank you for your support in helping our students understand and embrace these expectations.

### Student Behavioral Support Documents

The staff has been working to develop documents that allow us to better support student behaviors during this time as well as help students be more reflective on the impact of their behavioral choices. We have also been looking at ways to have a consistent manner of responding to student behaviors that fall outside of the expectations. Here are a few documents that we will be using beginning next week.

[Student Behavior Interventions](#)

[Reflection Form](#)

### Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) Curriculum for Students

Social and emotional learning (SEL) is an integral part of education and human development. SEL is the process through which all young people and adults acquire and apply the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to develop healthy identities, manage emotions and achieve personal and collective goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain supportive relationships, and make responsible and caring decisions.

Woodlands has selected a new Social and Emotional Learning Curriculum for our students. We will begin using the **Character Strong** program with our students. **Character Strong** is a program that connects character education and social emotional learning that fosters whole-child growth and development. We found that not only is this a program that is endorsed by the LACCS program in which we are involved with Alverno but it also aligns with the Woodlands character education program. Students will be introduced to this program within the next two weeks.

### Website

The new Woodlands website is live! We are still working to update some of the information on a few of the pages as well as upload documents, such as the Family Updates to the site. In the future, this letter as well as many other documents will be posted on the website for easier access. [Click here to see the website.](#)

### Staff Changes

We are saddened to announce **Mrs. Mary Jane Latona**, Director of Special Education and Pupil Services has decided to move on from Woodlands. We recognize and appreciated the over five years of dedication of Mrs. Latona to the Woodlands community and wish her all the best. We are working with our human resources department to bring in someone to support our special education and pupil services work. If you have any questions, please reach out to your principal.



Bluemound Campus | State Street Campus

There have been some recent changes in the art classroom at the Bluemound campus. **Ms. Patricia Gausmann** has decided to make a change in her career outside of Woodlands School. We wish her all the best in her future endeavors. We are pleased to announce that **Mr. Scott Meier** has agreed to be our new art teacher. Mr. Meier brings to the position a wealth of experience working with children, teaching art and being an artisan himself. Mr. Meier studied art education at Cardinal Stritch University where he received his art teaching license and graduated with high honors. While Mr. Meier has been a member of the Woodlands community since August 2021, we welcome him into this new role.

Thank you for choosing to be a part of the Woodlands School community. We have a strong and proud past and a bright and exciting future!

Vickie Brown-Gurley  
Executive Director

[vickie.brown-gurley@woodlands-school.org](mailto:vickie.brown-gurley@woodlands-school.org)

Amy Fare  
Principal, State Street Campus

[amy.fare@woodlands-school.org](mailto:amy.fare@woodlands-school.org)

Michael Pointer Mace  
Principal, Bluemound Campus

[michael.pointer.mace@woodlands-school.org](mailto:michael.pointer.mace@woodlands-school.org)