



# Winthrop Public Schools



Achieving Excellence

**William P. Gorman Fort Banks Elementary**

**101 Kennedy Drive, Winthrop, MA 02152**

[William P. Gorman Fort Banks Elementary School / Homepage \(winthrop.k12.ma.us\)](http://William.P.Gorman.Fort.Banks.Elementary.School/Homepage(winthrop.k12.ma.us))

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[Espanol](#)

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Hello Fort Banks Families!



I hope this End-of-Summer Update finds you and yours well. As you take advantage of the closing weeks of summer, know that the Fort staff and custodians have been in the building preparing for the upcoming 2023-24 school year. Many staff have recently wrapped up our summer programming, have taken a few days off, and are now in full swing setting up classrooms as they anticipate receiving our students on Wednesday, August 30th!

## Important Dates to Note:

Wednesday, August 30th	1st Day of School!
Thursday, August 31st	2nd Day of School
Friday, September 1st	ALL WPS Closed - LABOR DAY
Monday, September 4th	ALL WPS Closed - LABOR DAY
Tuesday, September 5th	School Resumes! All WPS OPEN!
Tuesday, September 19th	GFB Curriculum Night 6:30pm-8:00pm
Wednesday, October 4th	District-Wide Half Day - Teacher PD
Monday, October 9th	ALL WPS Closed - Columbus Day



= SCHOOL OPEN



= SCHOOL CLOSED



= Modified Schedule



A big shout out to our custodial crew, led by John English, for their tireless work this summer, stripping and waxing floors, relocating classrooms and furniture, while updating the Fort's systems and structures. Please join me as a sign of appreciation for all of the work and care Sam Toro (Sammy), Paul Soares, and Gloria Pineda have put into our beautiful building!



The summer months have also been filled with new staff hired to fill vacant positions. There has been a lot of movement and attention as the Fort administration has come very close to bringing our staff to capacity. Other than a couple of key positions still needed at the Fort, I'm confident that we will be fully staffed and ready to hit the ground running!



#### **Fort Banks New Staff and Positions**

Mark McAneny - Principal  
TBD - Assistant Principal  
Kayleigh Doucette - Head Administrative Assistant  
Susie Doyoutas - CET - Special Education Chair  
Mark Amatucci - Pre-K Teacher  
Tyler Strawhecker - ESP  
Stacey Lamiaux - ESP  
Sophie Leray - ESP  
Katelyn Poirier - Classroom Teacher - Grade 1  
Madeline Durkin - Classroom Teacher - Grade 1  
Whitney DeSantis Classroom Teacher - Grade 2  
Taylor Murphy - Classroom Teacher - Grade 2  
Julie Fotiades - Reading Specialist  
Sarah O'Brien - English Language Learner Teacher  
Rachel Stout - [New England Center for Children](#) ABA Lead Teacher  
Grace Wodarczyk - Music Teacher  
Instructional Technology Teacher - TBD  
Brianna Bottaro - full-time Speech and Language Pathologist  
Murshida Nishat-Half-time Speech and Language Pathologist



## **Fort Banks Programming Hours and Important Dates**

Please reference the program dates and times below for your consideration as you plan for your family's logistics during the year.

The first day of school for **ALL Students PreK-2** is Wednesday, August 30th

- Preschool Student Hours - 8:00am - 1:00pm
- **Kindergarten students will attend school daily from 7:40 am-1:40pm**
- **1st and 2nd grade student hours are 7:50 am-2:10 pm Monday-Friday, with the Early release day programming going from 7:50 am -11:00 am**

**District Early Release days fall on Wednesdays when scheduled - 10/4 - 12/13 - 1/31 - 3/6 - and 5/8 Please mark these dates on your calendar and plan for your child to be picked up on the appropriate date and time**

**Elementary half days for parent conferences - October 11th, 18th, 25th- March 27th April 3rd, April 10th**

**First day school Logistics - Grades 1 and 2 first days of school**, Aug 30-31, Family members are encouraged to walk to school, if in a close proximity, where staff will be waiting to receive your child. It is at this hand-off point where adults will say goodbye to their child, outside, as they are escorted into the building. For those families who will be driving, you will use the 'Loop' and will follow the traditional loop procedure. If you are unclear of the loop procedure, I ask that you type this address

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s5AXVoNh\\_Hg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s5AXVoNh_Hg) into your computer browser. for viewing purposes. This procedural video can also be accessed on the Fort Banks

website at [William P. Gorman Fort Banks Elementary School / Homepage](http://William.P.Gorman.Fort.Banks.Elementary.School/Homepage) ([winthrop.k12.ma.us](http://winthrop.k12.ma.us)) under the Parents tab.

**Kindergarten First days of school Logistics Logistics****The first day for Kindergarten is Wednesday, August 30th** - On this day, kindergarten students, ONLY, will attend school for an abbreviated transition with one family adult. This visit is intended to provide you and your child the opportunity to meet your teacher in a low-stress environment and to become acquainted with the Fort's arrival and departure protocols. Please plan to park at the cemetery parking lot. walk your child down the sidewalk. onto campus. where you will be directed by Fort staff to assemble outside the school in a marked designated area.

**It is important to note that adults will not access the inside of the school to say goodbye to their child. The hand off of your child will take place outside; thank you so much**

## **Winthrop Public Schools Food service Welcome Letter**

[LINK](#)

**Breakfast Option at The Fort** - The Fort banks and food service staff will serve breakfast starting at 720 AM in the cafeteria, daily. Students who want to participate in our morning breakfast program should enter through the front door of the Fort Banks, where they will be greeted and welcomed into the building. View Breakfast Menu [HERE](#) for your reference.

**School Provided Meals** - All school meals (lunch and breakfast) will continue to be served free of charge again this year for all students. Snacks should be brought from home. Students are usually hungry by recess, so a healthy snack is important. Your teacher can give you guidance on this. Please do not send candy or soda and respect any notice further restricting snack items due to food allergies or other state guidelines. View September's lunch Menu [HERE](#) for your reference.

### **Free and Reduced Lunch Application**

Any/all families in need should fill out a free/reduced lunch form provided by the business office online or pick up one at the Fort Banks, If a family qualifies, there are other benefits available.

### **Daily Student Wrap-Around Support**

Kindergarten students will attend school from 7:40 a.m.-1:40 p.m. Students that have siblings in multiple grades that are impacted by the difference in kindergarten and first/second grade start/end times, and only those students, are eligible to attend the morning and afternoon wrap-around program. This program provides student supervision to ease the arrival/dismissal challenges of these families. Please contact the school's Administrative Assistant, to enroll in this option.

### **Label Students' Belongings - Please**

Please take a few moments to label your child's belongings. For example, backpacks, coats, lunch boxes, even shoes should be clearly labeled. We will designate an area for lost and found early in the year, but it is much easier to return it to the child that day.

### **Fort Security**

For security purposes when school is in session, everybody (parent/caregivers and other visitors) MUST check-in at the office and obtain a Visitor's Pass. Please have an ID ready as well. If you plan to volunteer at the Fort, a CORI (criminal record check) is required. You can access a CORI form in the main office or on the [GFB website](#), under the , '[For Parents](#)'. link. We will no longer require proof of vaccination for our visitors.

### **Gorman Fort Banks Website**

The [GFB website](#) is a great place to find resources and answers to frequently asked questions. You can also find information about our staff and APS curriculum.

### **GFB Parent Information/Curriculum Night. - 6:30-8:00pm**

***PK-2 families are invited to join us on Tuesday, September 19th***

One of the most important events of the year is our **Parent Information/Curriculum Night**. This event will primarily focus on new curriculum initiatives and briefly touch on important school practices. The majority of the evening will be spent with your child's classroom teacher. To minimize the parking and pedestrian traffic in and around our school, we will hold this event from **6:30-8:00pm. We will ask adults who are able, to walk or carpool on your way to campus.**

*Because of the technical content of the evening, we request this be considered an adult-only event. We hope you will make every effort to come.*



Winthrop Public Schools [2023-24 Calendar](#) - All school holidays, early release dates, and other important dates can be found [here](#)



**Dog Free Zone** - The GFB Administration strives to maintain a safe and accountable community while on school grounds. We ask that you leave your dog at home in the morning and afternoon when you come to pick up your child. Thank you so much for your understanding and cooperation!

**Weekly Fort Updates** - You can expect to receive weekly Fort updates on Thursdays. Within said Update, you will find important programming dates and information related to events scheduled at the Fort, along with updated **Parent/Teacher Organization (PTO)** news. The Fort Update will be delivered through BlackBoard Connect; It is imperative that you update your family's information within the system to ensure you receive all communication coming from this office.

I truly appreciate you and your efforts as the GFB's administration is committed to clear and timely communication, with the intent to embrace Diversity, Equitable approaches, outcomes, and Inclusive practices.

I'm very excited to get started on the 30th!

My Best,

Mark