



Eli Whitney Elementary School
1130 Huntington Road
Stratford, CT 06614
(203) 385-4198



Victoria Florek, Principal

Robert Veteri, Assistant Principal

Summer 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Our children are always the focus of everything we do at Eli Whitney. With this being said, I would like to take this opportunity to thank both parents and educators who worked so collaboratively during Distance Learning this past school year. This unprecedented situation took place literally overnight and everyone rallied together to support all of our children.

We welcome some new educators to our building this year. Ms. Lynn Martin joins our learning community as a sixth grade teacher. Previous to joining our staff, Ms. Martin taught at Chapel Street School. Additionally, we welcome Ms. Sharon Maignan who will be our Reading Tutor. Most recently she was a Reading Interventionist in Norwalk. Our wonderful interns, Ms. Bergamasco and Ms. Leroy, are also returning to Eli Whitney this year. Finally, we are in the process of hiring our third building substitute.

With the coming of the new school year, standard health practices will include, but are not limited to the following:

- Social distancing
- Frequent hand washing
- The wearing of face masks
- Respiratory and cough etiquette
- Enhanced cleaning and disinfection of surfaces

Other measures will also be in place. Breakfasts and lunches will be “grab and go.” No visitors are allowed inside Stratford Public Schools. This also pertains to the first day of school. Parents, grandparents and guardians all need to say good-bye to their children outside. Please know that you will be contacted if there are any concerns regarding your child(ren). As you know, on August 7th, the Superintendent released a communication in regards to starting the school year with the hybrid model of instruction. With this revised plan, the first day of school is **September 9th**. The District is close to finalizing its plans for the reopening of our schools which will include details about the first week of school, cohort groupings and kindergarten orientation. We realize the importance of this information and know that as soon as it is completed you will receive the details. Due to the time sensitive nature of this information, we can't guarantee paper copies. It is extremely important that all families have an up-to-date email address so that this communication and all others can be sent electronically and received by everyone.

In the interest of safety, arrival will start at 8:30 a.m. which is when students are allowed to enter the building. Mr. Veteri and I also reorganized both our arrival and dismissal procedures to provide additional social distancing for our many students. We will be using a greater number of doorways across the building to do this. (See enclosed map of school.)

- Kindergarteners will enter and leave through the back cafeteria door.
- First graders will use the middle back door and its stairway.
- Second graders will use the door by the modular structure and its stairway.
- Third graders will use the garden area for both arrival and dismissal.
- Fourth graders will use the side door by PDLC and go straight up those stairs.
- Fifth graders will line up in the front on the flagpole side of the lawn.
- Sixth graders will line up in front of the third grade wing in the morning.

Staff will be stationed inside doorways at 8:30 a.m. and will open the various doorways and assist students as they use designated routes to their classrooms where they will be greeted by their classroom teachers at the classroom doorways. With the help of the P.T.S.A., we are recruiting 14 parents to organize (outside) students in the morning to ensure social distancing and the wearing of masks. If you are interested in helping with this process in the morning, please contact our P.T.S.A. President, Mrs. Sarah Rodrigues, at eliptsa@gmail.com. At dismissal students will use the same doors they used in the morning. We will identify these areas for all grades by using cones and signs.

In light of our current environment, we are taking additional measures in the interest of safety. If your child is being dismissed early, please call the office and make the appointment with Ms. McCallum. When you arrive at school, please call us from your car as we want to limit the number of people in our lobby. Please also note on this year's school calendar there are many scheduled early dismissal days when school is dismissed at 12:30 p.m. We can also have weather related early dismissal days when students leave at 12:30 p.m.

Our Head Secretary, Mrs. Remeika, is updating multiple files and records for the beginning of the school year while Mr. Mike, our Custodian, is working with his crew to get the school ready for the 2020 – 2021 school year. As a reminder, Eli Whitney is a nut-free school.

Enclosed please find the class placement for your son or daughter for the upcoming academic school year 2020 - 2021. Also enclosed is a daily dismissal form that must be returned on the first day of school. If you are new to Eli Whitney School, we welcome you and your son or daughter. I hope you enjoy the remainder of your summer vacation, and I look forward to meeting you at the start of the school year.

Our days continue to bring many unprecedented changes. Please know that we will continue to provide updates as soon as possible. In the interest of time, these notices will most likely be sent electronically.

Sincerely yours,

Victoria K. Florek

Victoria K. Florek
Principal

Enclosures

Stratford Board of Education - Proposed SCHOOL CALENDAR 2020-2021

First day of classes for students *
Holidays & School Breaks
Uniform Professional Development

Parenthesis display number of school days
in a given month

Note: State law requires a minimum 180
school days in a year – Stratford builds in 182.

() Early Dismissal = ED
Teacher PLC days are early dismissals (ED)

OCTOBER (22 days)

M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	(13)	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	(28)	29	30

(13) - Teacher PLC Day - ED
(28) - Teacher PLC Day - ED

JANUARY (19 days)

M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

1 - New Year's Day
18 - Martin Luther King Day

APRIL (16 days)

M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

2 - Good Friday
12-16 Spring Recess Break

AUGUST

M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31*				

31 - Teachers Convocation
Sept. 1-2 Teachers' Days (PD)
Sept 3, 4, and 8 - PD Days

NOVEMBER (18 days)

M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	(17)	18	(19)	20
23	24	25*	26	27
30				

Nov 17 K-6 Conferences - ED
Nov 19 K-6 Conferences - ED
3 - Election Day / PD Day
*25 - Early Dismissal
26 - Thanksgiving Day
27 - Day after Thanksgiving Day

FEBRUARY (18 days)

M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	(4)	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	(23)	24	25	26

(23) - Teacher PLC Day - ED
12-15 President's Weekend
Feb 4 K-6 Conferences - ED

MAY (20 days)

M	T	W	T	F
3	4	(5)	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

(5) - Teacher PLC Day - ED
31 - Memorial Day

SEPTEMBER (17 days)

M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	(9)	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

* First Day of School will be September 9, 2020

7 - Labor Day
18 - Rosh Hashanah
28 - Yom Kippur

DECEMBER (17 days)

M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	(3)	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

(3) - Teacher PLC Day - ED
*23 - Early Dismissal
24-31 Winter Break

MARCH (23 days)

M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	(17)	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

(17) - Teacher PLC Day - ED
26 - PD Day

JUNE (12 days)

M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
(14)	(15)	(*16)	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

(*16th) - Tentative Last Day of School



The Mission of the Stratford School Community is to ensure that all students acquire the knowledge, character and 21st century skills to succeed through high quality learning experiences and community partnerships within a culture of diversity and respect.

Board of Education Members

203-385-4210

- Allison DelBene, Board Chair
- Amy Wiltsie, Board Vice Chair
- Vinny Faggella, Board Secretary
- Andrea Corcoran
- Janice Cupee
- Bob DeLorenzo
- Karen Rodia

* Elementary & Secondary
Open House Dates
2020 - 2021 *Subject to Change

SEPTEMBER

September 9, 2020	Johnson House
September 10, 2020	Chapel Elementary
September 15, 2020	Victoria Soto School
September 16, 2020	Bunnell High School
September 17, 2020	Flood Middle School
September 22, 2020	Second Hill Lane Elem.
September 23, 2020	Eli Whitney Elementary*
September 24, 2020	Wooster Middle School
September 29, 2020	Lordship Elementary
September 30, 2020	Wilcoxson Elementary

OCTOBER

October 1, 2020	Stratford High School
October 6, 2020	Nichols Elementary
October 7, 2020	Franklin Elementary
October 8, 2020	ALPHA

**Parent / Teacher Conference
Dates for 2020-2021**

Elementary

November 17, 2020	Grades K-6
November 19, 2020	Grades K-6
February 4, 2021	Grades K-6

Middle School

November 12, 2020	Grades 7-8
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High School

November 11, 2020	Grades 9-12
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*School start and dismissal schedule is posted on the district website.

www.stratfordk12.org

Follow on Facebook & Twitter

Stratford Public Schools

Chapel Elementary	203-385-4192
Franklin Elementary	203-385-4190
Lordship Elementary	203-385-4170
Nichols Elementary	203-385-4294
Second Hill Lane Elementary	203-385-4292
Johnson House Elementary	203-385-4180
Victoria Soto School	203-375-2206
Eli Whitney Elementary	203-385-4198
Wilcoxson Elementary	203-385-4196
Flood Middle School	203-385-4280
Wooster Middle School	203-385-4275
Bunnell High School	203-385-4250
Stratford High School	203-385-4230
ALPHA	203-385-4298
Administration Center	203-385-4210

Stormy Weather

School closings and delayed openings** will be announced over radio stations (WICC) and Television (Local Channel 8). They will also be posted on the district website at:

www.stratfordk12.org

The Superintendent consults with the Police and Public Works Department, and Durham Bus Company, as well, by 5:30 a.m. with the goal of announcing the decision on the 6:00 a.m. news.

**Delayed Openings are 2 hours from the normal school start time.

*Note: All dates are Subject to Change

- Inclement weather or emergency school cancellations may necessitate changes in the Open House and Parent/Teacher Conference Schedules.
- All school cancellation days will be added to the end of the school year through the month of June. Should they exceed the number of days available; days will be deducted from the April recess, beginning with Monday, April 13, 2021.
- Schools must maintain at least 180 days of "actual school sessions" (Conn. Gen. Stat. 10-15).
- The statute defines the school year from July 1 through June 30 (Conn. Gen. Stat. 10-259)



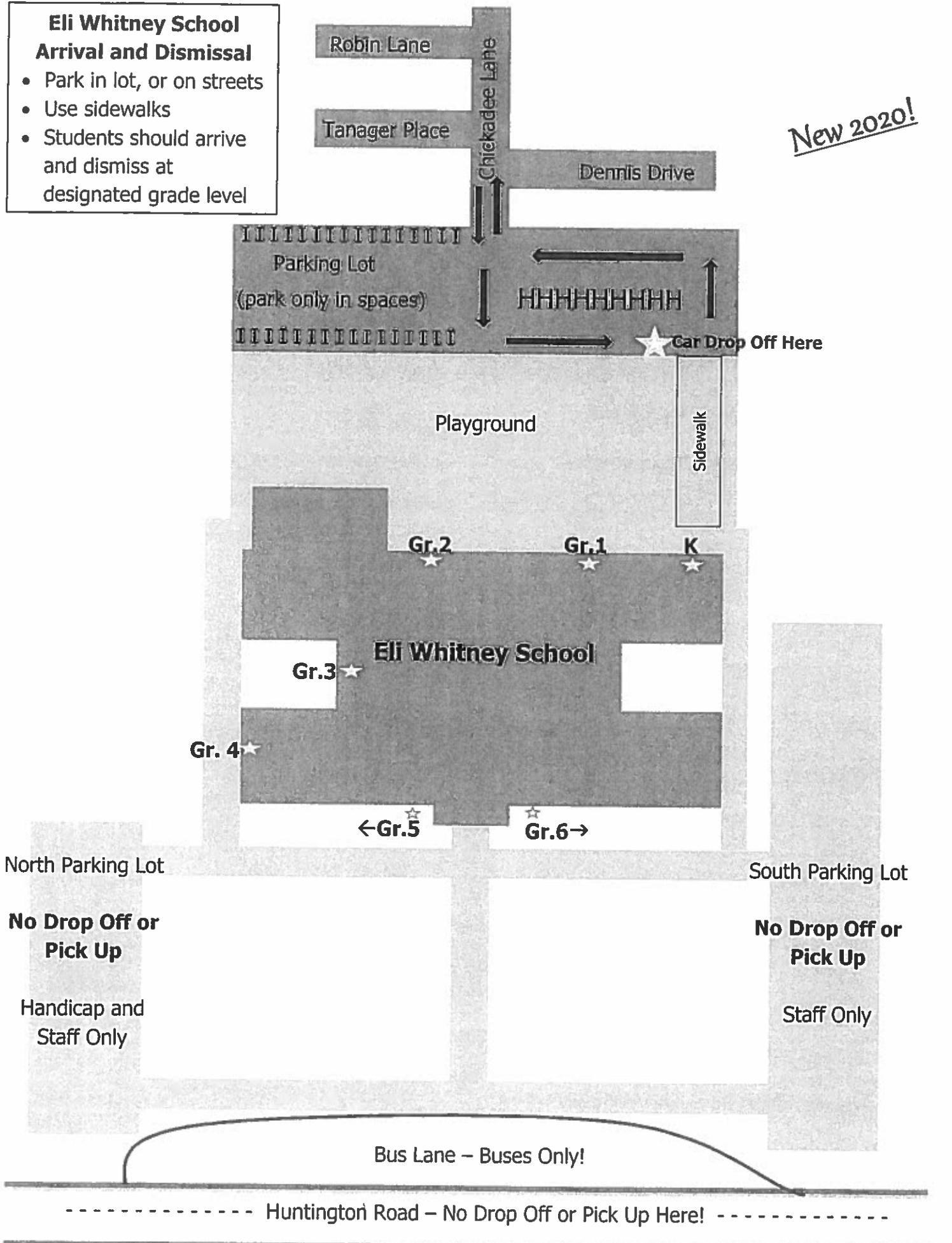
Eli Whitney Information Sheet 2020-21

- **School Hours:** 8:45 a.m. - 3:15 p.m. (Supervision begins at 8:30 a.m.)
Mondays and Tuesdays – Cohort A attends in school (distance learning Wednesday, Thursday & Friday)
Wednesdays – distance learning for all
Thursdays and Fridays – Cohort B attends in school (distance learning Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday)
- **Masks:** All students must wear a face mask.
- **Beginning of School Year Forms:** Please take note of all the forms that will go home the first few days of school. Read and complete any forms that need to be returned to school, i.e., Daily Dismissal Form, Emergency Form, Media Release, Lunch Application, Popsicle Permissions Slip, Lunch Survey, etc. Please keep the Family Handbook on hand to refer to throughout the year.
- **Arrival/Dismissal:** New procedures this year – see enclosed map
- **Breakfast/Lunch:** Don't forget to pack a healthy nut-free lunch, a nut-free snack and water bottle on the first day! Menus will go home the first day as well as a reduced/free lunch application. Breakfast is served every day. To purchase breakfast or lunch, send cash or check (payable to Cafeteria Fund) in an envelope clearly marked with your child's name and teacher on the envelope. Or pre-pay online at myschoolbucks.com.
- **Absentee/Tardy Line:** Please call and leave us a detailed message on our absentee line if your child will be absent or late to school. Call 203-385-4198 before 8:45 a.m. to report the absence/tardy. It is the parent/guardian's responsibility to let the school know why your child is not in school.
- **Early Dismissals:** All parents/guardians must present a valid ID before signing out a child. Please refer to the handbook for the new early dismissal procedures.
- **Visitors:** There will not be any visitors in the school this year. ☹
- **Eli Whitney Web Site:** eliwhitney/stratfordk12.org. On our website, you may find teachers' emails and our "virtual backpack" which contains important news and information from Eli Whitney throughout the year.
- **Bus Students:** Bus routes and bus stops change yearly. Check the www.stratfordk12.org website towards the end of August for the new listings. Please arrive at the closest bus stop at least 10 minutes earlier than scheduled for the first few weeks until the bus routes work themselves out.
- **Walkers:** You may drop your children off in the parking circle or you may park your car and walk to the designated grade level drop-off/pick-up spot.
- **Before/Afterschool Care:** YMCA at 203-375-5844. Sterling House at 203-378-2606.

**Eli Whitney School
Arrival and Dismissal**

- Park in lot, or on streets
- Use sidewalks
- Students should arrive and dismiss at designated grade level

New 2020!



North Parking Lot

South Parking Lot

**No Drop Off or
Pick Up**

**No Drop Off or
Pick Up**

Handicap and
Staff Only

Staff Only

Bus Lane – Buses Only!

Huntington Road – No Drop Off or Pick Up Here!

Over→