

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://winthrop.k12.ma.us)

Mark McAneny, Principal

mmcaneny@winthrop.k12.ma.us

617-846-5509 ext. 3511

Kristen Reynolds, Assistant Principal

kreynolds@winthrop.k1.ma.us

617-846-5509 ext. 3562

Important Dates to Note -MARCH/APRIL

Wednesday, April 10th	HALF-DAY Schedule for students Parent/Teacher Conferences Dismissal times Pre-K 10:30am K- 10:40am Grades 1 and 2 11:00am
April 15th-19th	WPS SPRING BREAK SCHOOLS CLOSED
Monday, April 22nd	School Resumes
Monday April 22nd	GFB Kindergarten Registration Opens (New Online Portal details found below)

Hello GFB Families!

Teacher Conference Season Approaches its Final week!

It was great to see all of the families who visited the Fort yesterday for the 2nd round of teacher conferences. Thank you for your collaboration with the GFB in support of your child's early education - It's the foundations that are most important within this work!

Please take note of the early release student dismissal schedule for the final round, to take place next Wednesday, the 10th of April.

NOTE - If you are interested in meeting with your child's specialist teacher (Music, Art, PE, Science, and Computers) please email the specialist to schedule a time, thank you.

Monday, April 8th - Solar Eclipse! On April 8, 2024, a total solar eclipse will occur across the United States and will be visible in Massachusetts between 2:00 pm and 4:30 pm. This rare phenomenon will manifest as a partial eclipse - While no location in Massachusetts will experience totality, some parts of the state will see over 95% coverage of the sun if weather permits.

This is a significant learning opportunity – with the proper safety precautions for your children.

If families choose to allow their child to participate in the viewing event, parents are encouraged to go over safety guidelines with their child in advance. Eclipse glasses must be kept on at all times during viewing and removing glasses, even temporarily, may have serious effects on the participant's eyes. Children should be encouraged to take breaks and look away from the sun to give their eyes a rest. Even with eclipse glasses, children should not stare continuously at the sun.

The GFB will not be participating in this event due to the unique nature of the conflicting timing and dismissal window, however, we still want parents to talk to their children about safety precautions regarding the eclipse.

The duration of the eclipse will begin about 2:00 pm and end around 4:30 pm. Even if a parent does not want their child to participate in a viewing event, Parents should review safety procedures with their children and remind them to never look at the sun without special eye protection.

Finally, Families may want their child to be absent for the entire day on April 8th because of the eclipse viewing. If you plan for your child to miss the entire school day, please provide a parent note regarding the absence so your child can be excused for an "educational experience".

Normal absentee procedures will take place on April 8th. •

The eclipse will be a historic occasion, and we want you to have as many options as possible regarding how you want your child to experience this event.

For more information relating to overall safety viewing during an eclipse, visit

<https://science.nasa.gov/eclipses/future-eclipses/eclipse-2024/safety/>

Kindergarten Registration Opens - Monday, April 22nd - PowerSchool Online Format

The Winthrop Public School District is moving to PowerSchool, a new electronic (web-based) Student information System for the 2024-25 school year.

As the GFB prepares for the 2024-25 Kindergarten registration process, our Central Office has been working to implement this new system. With this said, on or before April 22, 2024, a link with instructions and request for pending kindergarten student information will be posted on the GFB Website, Town of Winthrop website, and parent Facebook pages.

Be on the lookout for this link - this will be families entry points towards establishing their unique family/parent portals within PowerSchool.

GFB Kindergarten registration will OPEN Monday, April 22, 2024, with Kindergarten screenings taking place during the week of May 13th, 2024.

GFB Kindergarten Family Orientation and school visits are TBD and will be posted in the coming weeks.

NOTE: Children must be 5 years of age on or before September 1st, 2024 to qualify for kindergarten placement - WPS Policy

The Gorman Fort Bank's annual Open House has been scheduled - Please mark your calendars for Thursday, May 30th @ **5:30pm-7:15pm** for this exciting family/student event when you will be able to visit classrooms and specialists to observe and review work that your child has completed this year! I will be sending out more information in the coming weeks as we come closer to the 30th of May!

Updated Health Guidelines

As of 3/25/24, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health has aligned with the updated CDC guidance [updated recommendations for respiratory viruses](#), including COVID-19. This new guidance is for respiratory viruses like [Influenza](#), [RSV](#), and [Covid-19](#) as they share similar transmission methods, symptoms, and prevention strategies.

The new CDC guidance for respiratory virus:

- When you have ANY respiratory virus - stay home and away from others
- Return to normal activities when, for at least 24 hours, both are true:
 - Your symptoms are getting better overall, and
 - You have not had a fever (and are not using fever-reducing medication)
- When you go back to your normal activities, take added precautions over the next 5 days, such as taking additional steps for [cleaner air](#), [hygiene](#), [masks](#), [physical distancing](#), and/or [testing](#) when you will be around other people indoors.

The full [Massachusetts guidance](#) can be accessed in the hyperlink.

Winthrop Parents Network Presents - Family Nights 2023 - 2024

WHEN: 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm Thursdays

WHERE: Gorman Fort Banks Cafeteria

4/25/24 – Money Wise – teaching your kids about money

*5/16/24 – Summer Safety (learning how to be safe and still have fun!)

VIKINGS CHEER CAMP!!

Registration [LINK](#)

GFB April Curriculum Previews by Grade

[Kindergarten](#)

[1st Grade](#)

[2nd Grade](#)

GFB PARENT/TEACHER ORGANIZATION NEWS!

Get Involved: Volunteer for Exciting PTO Events!

Save the date!!

- Spring Social – April 26
- La Siesta Fundraising Night – May 29
- Spring Ice Cream Social – June 7

Next PTO Meeting – Thursday, April 11th at 6:30 PM in the GFB Cafeteria.

Please join us for our April Featured Organization of the Month – Winthrop SEPAC (Winthrop Special Education Parent Advisory Council) - <https://www.facebook.com/WinthropMASEPAC/>

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

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.

My Best,
Mark

