



SPECIAL SERVICES
94 North Elm Street
Suite 201
Westfield, MA 01085
Tel: (413) 572-6556
Fax: (413) 564-0300

September 16, 2020

Dear Westfield Parents of Special Education students,

On behalf of the special education department, I would like to provide you with some updates as we enter the opening of the 2020-2021 school year.

Special education students will return to school in the following manner:

PHASE 1b: September 28, 2020 start date (upon approval at the September 21 School Committee Meeting) - Special Education Programs (**ASD, Essential Life Skills, Developmental Learning Program**) and **Preschool**. *These groups will return to school (in person) every day.*

PHASE 2: October 13, 2020 start date (upon approval at the October 5 School Committee Meeting) - Special Education Programs (**RISE, LLD, Quest, and Transition Program**). *These groups will return to school (in person) every day. Grades: Kindergarten, 1, 5, 7, 9. These students will return to school (in person) every other week (A & B week)*

PHASE 3: October 26, 2020 start date (upon approval at the October 19 School Committee Meeting) - All students in **grades 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12** *These students will return to school (in person) every other week (A & B week)*

PHASE 4: TBD (implemented when a vaccine or treatment is developed) - All students return to (in-person) learning.

Special education services, including specialized instruction and related services, will be provided remotely in both synchronous and asynchronous formats as WPS moves through the phased reopening of in-person learning. Paraprofessionals will work online with students in google classrooms, small groups or individually as directed by the classroom teacher. Parent/guardian communication will be directed to and conducted by the classroom teacher.

IEP Team meetings will continue to be held remotely. Evaluation Team Leaders will be contacting families to schedule Team meetings based on timelines. WPS evaluators will administer assessments in a face-to-face format by adhering to safety guidelines and protocol. Evaluators will contact parents to schedule a time to bring the student to be assessed at a school building in a 1:1 setting.

A Parent Support Group, funded through grants by the Westfield Public Schools and SEPAC is a small, intimate online group where all parents and caregivers will find support in the challenges and joys of raising a child with special needs. This year's topics are centered on the theme: Parenting in a Pandemic. Groups take place from 6:00-7:30 PM on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. westfieldsepac@gmail.com

As always, I continue to thank you for all of your support you have given to the special education department and to the Westfield Public School district.

Sincerely,

Deb Ecker