



Superintendent of Schools
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Mr. Stefan Czaporowski
Superintendent of Schools

August 14, 2020

Dear Westfield Families,

On Monday, August 10, 2020, at a Special School Committee Meeting at 5:30 p.m., the final Westfield Public Schools (WPS) Return to School Plan and a revised 2020-2021 calendar were approved. This document will include our revised reopening plan, highlights instructional options, and provides important information including the revised school calendar, food service procedures, and transportation protocols.

The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's Reopening Guidance was released on June 25, 2020, and since that time, our district has worked with members of our Back to School Committees and the City of Westfield Health department to create a specific school reopening plan for the 2020-2021 school year. The WPS Return to School Plan provides specific actions the district and schools will implement in the areas of health and safety strategies, social-emotional learning, daily operations within schools, teaching and learning models, professional learning, and school services. School-specific plans will be shared in the next few weeks. As you look over our plan, please keep in mind that much can change in a short period of time. Flexibility will be needed throughout the school year as we adjust to the impact of COVID-19 on our region and community.

WPS students will start the 2020-2021 school year for students in grades 1-12 on Monday, September 14, 2020. Preschool and Kindergarten students will start school on Monday, September 21, 2020. Parents and students have the choice of two options for the upcoming school year: Option 1, the Hybrid Learning Model or Option 2, the Remote Learning Model. Option 1 is our Hybrid Learning Model available to students in Pre-K to Grade 12. Most Westfield Public School students (PreK-12) will be welcomed back to school through Remote Learning as our Hybrid Model is implemented in four phases. Phase 1A starts on Monday September 14, bringing back Westfield Technical Academy students during their shop weeks only. Phase 1B will bring back our High Needs students every day. Phase 1C will bring back Preschool students daily and Kindergarten students every other week in our A and B cohort Hybrid Model. In Phase 2, students in grades 1, grade 5, grade 7, and grade 9 will return to school every other week in our A and B cohort Hybrid Model. Phase 3 will return all remaining students to school every other week in our A and B week Hybrid Model. The Hybrid Model will take place for the entire year or until pandemic restrictions are lessened or lifted allowing students to safely return to in-person learning, or Phase 4. In the Hybrid model, students will be placed into two cohorts, A and B. Students in Cohort A will attend in-person school on Weeks 1 and 3 and attend school remotely on Weeks 2 and 4. Students in Cohort B will attend in-person school on Weeks 2 and 4 and participate in remote learning on Weeks 1 and 3. Arranging for siblings to attend in-person schooling on the same week is a priority for the district.

Option 2 is our Fully Remote Learning Model. Students (PK-12) who self-select the Fully Remote Model will engage in a 100% remote (synchronous and asynchronous) learning experience. Remote learning is designed specifically to respond to the needs of those students and families who are not yet ready to return to in-person learning. Fully remote learning also may be appropriate for students who thrive in a remote learning environment. Students and families selecting to begin the year in the Remote Learning

model may remain in this model until the end of the school year or until we are able to return to pre-COVID learning conditions. Parents can request to move from one model to another. These requests should be made to the building Principal.

Parents and staff will be asked to complete a [2020-2021 Enrollment Verification \(click on this hyperlink\)](#) Survey by Friday, August 21 regarding their preference for the fall. Families that do not fill out this survey will automatically be placed into our Hybrid Model. I realize that we have asked for this information previously, but we also know that this information is constantly changing. With up to date and accurate information, we have an increased chance of having a smoother start to the school year.

Please know that no matter the learning model parents and guardians choose for their children during the 2020-21 school year, our priorities remain the same; we will focus on the health and safety of our students and staff and our commitment to our district core values. In preparation for the start of the year, each school will hold a parent forum to review school specific plans in early September. The Final WPS Return to School Plan will be posted on our district website on Friday, August 14. We thank you in advance for your continued partnership and understanding as we navigate the upcoming school year. We are excited for the return of our students!

Sincerely,

Stefan Czaprowski
Superintendent of Schools
Westfield Public Schools