



March 12, 2021

Dear WTPS Families:

We hope this letter finds you well. The Washington Township Public Schools have been committed to the safe facilitation of reopening schools full-time, five days per week since we returned to school in September 2020. We are excited to announced that this day is coming in the very near future. With vaccinations rolling out and the New Jersey Department of Health lowering the COVID-19 activity level in Gloucester County from high to moderate, **we are tentatively planning the return to five days of full instruction on April 26, 2021.**

This school year has provided challenges, and thanks to the efforts of our faculty, staff, and administration, we have managed to re-invent our educational program, while prioritizing the health of our community. Now, we are excited to make a new pivot to bringing our students back into our schools full-time.

Beginning on April 12, 2021, the District will adjust its Hybrid schedule by collapsing Cohorts A and B into one five-day, in-person model. Students will continue to follow the early dismissal schedule they have since September, and the Remote-Only option still will be available. Some changes, however, will be necessary in the in-person environment, including:

- Social distancing in the classrooms and buses will be promoted to the extent of our ability; however, it cannot be guaranteed;
- Individual desk dividers will be provided; and
- Average class sizes will vary, depending on the grade-level hybrid enrollment and the instructional program.

Further, on April 26, 2021, the District plans to continue the expansion of in-person learning by moving to a full-day model. This means all in-person learners will attend school for full-day instruction, five days per week. The regular District school day and schedule will be followed. The Remote-Only option still will be available. Changes that will occur with this rollout include:

- Lunches will be served;
- Remote students in kindergarten through second grade will receive remote-only teacher(s). Students will begin each day in a morning meeting with their original classroom teacher. The remainder of the day will be with a remote teacher(s) who is not the classroom teacher; and
- The student day will revert to our regular session model.

As we anticipate this transition, it is vital that we know exactly how many students plan to return to school full-time.

We ask that you complete the WTPS Instructional Commitment Survey that has been populated in your [Unified Classroom Parent Account](#). You will have until Thursday, March 18, to complete the survey, which asks: Beginning on April 12th, how do you want your child to be educated? There are two options:

- 1) **My child will attend in person.**
- 2) **My child will be educated via the remote-only option.**

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The District also is encouraging our families to utilize our transportation services, as we anticipate the majority of our students returning to school. This will be helpful in reducing traffic at arrival and dismissal times; therefore, the survey also will ask if you would like your child(ren) to ride the bus, if you will arrange transportation for your child(ren), or if your child is a walker and transportation is not needed.

If you do not fill out the survey by March 18th, your child will continue to receive instruction and transportation the way they currently do – if they are in the hybrid model, they will transition into the full-day in-person model; if they are in the remote-only model, they will continue with remote instruction every day.

If you have any difficulties accessing your Unified Classroom Parent Account, we recommend the following:

- Using Google Chrome on a laptop or desktop
- Using the “FORGOT PASSWORD” link underneath the Unified Classroom Sign-in

Please note: the PowerSchool App does not provide access to such forms and surveys, so please ensure you can log onto your UC Parent account through an internet browser. If you need further assistance logging in, please email us at PowerSchoolHelp@wtps.org and we will be happy to assist you.

In the coming days and weeks, we will be providing more details about this change in our educational model. We appreciate all your patience and cooperation, and we are excited to welcome our students back to our buildings full-time. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please contact your child’s principal.

Sincerely,



Joseph N. Bollendorf
Superintendent