

January 8, 2021

Hybrid Schedule to Resume, Monday, January 11th

Dear WTPS Families,

The administration has spent the week monitoring staffing data in the hope to be able to reopen our schools for hybrid instruction on Monday January 11th. I am happy to inform our families, that as of this moment our staffing situation is good, and **we can resume hybrid live instruction**.

The last time I wrote to the community regarding our ability to reopen shortly after Thanksgiving was on Friday November 27th. That was followed by a letter on Sunday, November 29th, announcing a reversal in our ability to open. I know the additional burden this late notice placed on our families at that time. I am working to avoid that scenario from repeating itself; however, our families must understand that the District cannot control when members of our staff learn that they must quarantine due to exposure, living with a person who is positive, or receiving a positive notification themselves. This information is fluid and changes by the minute.

If we are to provide live instruction, we will continue to be in a fluid environment that may need to change on short notice, I apologize in advance for that, and we will work to avoid that, but at times it may prove impossible.

Therefore, to help in this endeavor, we plan to avoid making decisions related to the District as a whole and will attempt to make decisions needing to be made for each individual school. If we have a staffing shortage that cannot be overcome at a specific school, then that school may pivot to remote instruction in whole or in part. Specific programs that are more challenging to deliver remotely may be able to be staffed appropriately and remain available for live instruction even if the rest of the school is remote. These decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis and will be communicated by the school principal.

I do sincerely appreciate the many constructive emails and letters of support we have received. These are certainly very challenging and difficult times, and we recognize that no decision will satisfy everyone. We will continue to utilize data related to health and safety while at the same time doing the best we can for our kids.

Sincerely,

Joseph N. Bollendorf Superintendent, Washington Township Public Schools

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