



August 3, 2020

Dear WTPS Families and Staff,

I hope this letter finds you and your families safe, healthy, and enjoying our last few weeks of summer. A lot can happen in a few weeks and depending on what is happening, that time can feel extremely long or extremely short. Allow me to begin this communication with a quick countdown summary of our last few weeks:

- 4 – weeks ago the Road Back was released by the NJDOE and the WTPS Central Administration began researching and purchasing necessary PPE in anticipation of students and staff returning to our buildings
- 3 – weeks ago your WTPS Central Administration gathered over 100 WTPS stakeholders to begin the daunting process of developing the safest and most educationally sound return plan possible for our students and staff
- 2 – weeks ago we released the outline of our instructional schedule as our Task Force and sub-committees put forth the results of their research and collaboration
- 1 – week ago we launched a reopening webpage to house our communications and resources for our community, a revised school calendar, and a survey to understand our parents' instructional preferences, while our committees proposed, rejected, built, demolished, and reconstructed
- 0 - weeks left until the release of the WTPS: Restart and Recovery Plan

As I am sure you can guess, these weeks have been so very short; yet within this compressed timeline we have been able to literally rewrite, reorganize, and re-envision school as we know it. My sincere gratitude to the members of our Task Force and subcommittees who selflessly gave of their time and energy. While we know it is impossible that any single plan could equally please every member of our community (as much as we would like it to) we do believe that the plan we are introducing is the best path forward for our students and staff.

I would also like to thank the many, many parents who offered their thoughtful questions, constructive criticisms, and passionate views that helped to shape the plan that is currently being finalized. Please know that we share your concerns, fears, and worries for health and safety as well as for education and progress. We sincerely believe that the plan we release this week will reflect our collective beliefs and values.

Finally, I would like to communicate two items that have been determined prior to the release of the final plan:

- Our Task Force has determined that students in our integrated preschool and preschool disabled programs will be included with students in Cohort C. As a reminder, Cohort C will follow the hybrid instructional schedule for 4 in-person school days. Please see [this](#) updated document for details.
- We have developed a process to schedule cohorts that ensures families are in the same cohort, considers the programmatic needs of our students, and balances our classes to optimize instruction while considering health and safety requirements.

We are satisfied with this process as it allows us to maintain the instructional integrity of our programs and services as well as ensure the safety of our students and staff. We hope you understand that it is because of this

intensive process that we will not be able to accommodate requests for specific cohorts. We will, however, have a process for you to change from in-person to remote or vice versa. This process will be outlined in the final plan.

We anticipate the final plan will be released on August 7. Shortly after, a form will be sent to all parents to submit their instructional and transportation commitment. The form will look very similar to the WTPS Reopening 2020-21 – Initial Survey. This will require all parents to participate. Once all parents have submitted their instructional and transportation commitments, we will finalize and release cohort assignments.

We still have a lot of work ahead of us, but we will certainly be prepared to deliver our finalized efforts to you by the end of this week. I am proud of the work we have done thus far, and I am proud to be a part of this caring community. As always, be well and stay safe!

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph N. Bollendorf". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Joseph N. Bollendorf, Superintendent