

Washington  
Township  
Public  
Schools



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July 15, 2020

Dear WTPS Families,

I hope that this letter finds you well and enjoying your summer. As you are aware, the governor has recently announced that schools will reopen in September. This order was followed by a 104-page document from the Department of Education providing guidelines on how individual districts should plan to reopen their schools. The document can be accessed [here](#).

Washington Township Public Schools is already immersed in the planning for our reopening. To ensure that we deliver a thoughtful and effective reopening plan to the state and to our families, we have not only developed a task force, as required by the NJDOE's guidelines, but have added additional sub-committees to ensure that each component of the reopening plan receives the focus and research it needs. The sub-committees include:

- Health & Safety
- Curriculum/Instruction & Scheduling
- Transportation & Food Service
- School Climate – Counseling (Social & Emotional Support)
- Technology/Remote Teaching & Learning
- Communication
- Personnel (HR)
- Athletics/Physical Education/Student Activities

Each sub-committee has extensive representation including administration, teachers, board of education members, parents, department managers, local experts, and other community members, as needed. The mission of all involved will be to help design a return to school plan that addresses both the health and safety concerns of our staff, students, and families, as well as meet or exceed our educational goals. This plan will be formalized and shared with the full school community no later than Friday, August 7<sup>th</sup>. In the meantime, we will provide information as it becomes available, beginning with details regarding our hybrid scheduling model (including both in-person and remote instruction) that will be released later **today**.

We will need your help and your input to develop the best plan possible. There will be multiple surveys that will gather not only your opinions, but also your preferences that will ultimately shape your child(ren)'s educational experience for the foreseeable future. Your participation is crucial. One such survey will be sent to you in the next few days and will be provided through your [Unified Classroom Parent Account](#). If you have not logged into your Unified Classroom Parent Account recently or have not set-up your Unified Classroom Parent Account, we urge you to confirm that you can log in or set-up your account in order to participate in this necessary survey. **If you have any difficulty or need assistance setting up your account, please email Charlie Doud at [cdoud@wtps.org](mailto:cdoud@wtps.org) at your earliest convenience.**

We are in the process of developing communication protocols so we can ensure you stay informed and are able to provide us with your questions and concerns. I know you have a lot of questions, as do we, which makes this process fraught with emotion, worry, and even fear. What I can assure you is that we are making every decision with a focus on the health and safety of our community, and the education of our students. Please know that we are working as quickly as possible to get thoughtful and considerate answers to you. I ask for your continued patience, trust, and support as we work through this difficult process... I know that we can do this and do it well.

Be well and stay safe!

Joseph N. Bollendorf, Superintendent