Washington Township Public

Schools

Eileen Abbott Central Administration Building

Office of the Superintendent

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August 25, 2021

Dear Families and Staff:

Our new school year is upon us. We are excited to begin the 2021-2022 school year with full day, live instruction for all students. Although we still will face many challenges, I am happy and excited to have our staff and students back in our schools ready to learn and grow. Classes will commence beginning September 1st and activities and sports will continue. We will collectively do our best to educate and nurture our students.

Attached to this letter is a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) with information related to the opening of schools and procedures that will be in place for the upcoming school year. Most of you are aware that the Governor has mandated indoor mask wearing for all public, private, charter, and parochial schools in the State, regardless of vaccination status. There are some exemptions to this mandate that you will find in the FAQ and on our website. Families seeking a medical exemption must procure the medical exemption form at their child’s school. This form will need to be completed by a physician and returned to the school for the review process before an exemption can be instituted.

The District administration is cognizant of the concerns relative to mask wearing for extended periods of time. For this reason, our schedule will include mask breaks throughout the day, opportunities for outdoor classroom learning - where masks are not required - including health and physical educational classes, recess, and when feasible, lunch. Replacement masks are also readily available in our schools to assist our children with broken and/or unusable masks.

Please note that children will be required to wear a mask to go to class. It is also important to note that the new guidelines from the New Jersey Department of Health state that students who wear masks are no longer considered close contacts when exposed to COVID positive students who also are masked and within three to six feet - and therefore would not have to be quarantined. This is a huge step in helping to keep our students in school during this newest round of COVID.

Our staff will report to school on Monday, August 30th and we will welcome our students for their first day on Wednesday, September 1st. School will be in session on both Wednesday and Thursday. The District will break for Labor Day Weekend beginning Friday, September 3rd.

Thank you again for your continued support and feedback during these past 18 months. Our schools are an essential part of our community, and our community is an essential part of our schools. Together, we can continue to make safety a priority and strive for excellence in all we do.

Sincerely,

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Mr. Joseph Bollendorf, Superintendent