



WANTAGH UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Superintendent of Schools

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John McNamara
Superintendent

August 10, 2020

Dear Parents,

As most of you are aware, Governor Cuomo announced on Friday that schools across New York State can reopen in September. I would like to thank all the members of our District Re-entry Committee that put together our district's reopening plan. I would also like to thank the members of the school community that completed surveys and participated in Town Hall Meetings, both last week and at the end of June. Almost a thousand people joined us for our meetings last week alone. Your feedback has been invaluable throughout this process.

Our district is currently preparing to open for our students on ***Tuesday, September 8, 2020*** as follows:

- Students in grades K-5 will attend school in-person every day. Class sizes have been reduced to appropriately accommodate social distancing within the classroom. Students will remain with their cohort for the entire day.
- Students in grade 6 will also attend school in-person every day. Classes will take place in our largest instructional spaces to appropriately accommodate social distancing within the classroom. Students will remain with their cohort for the entire day.
- Students in grades 7-12 will attend school using a hybrid model. They will attend school two or three days per week in-person and attend the other two or three days per week remotely. Students will be divided into two cohorts:

Cohort A – Students attend school in-person on Monday, Tuesday and alternating Wednesday and have remote learning on alternating Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

Cohort B - Students attend school in-person on alternating Wednesday, Thursday and Friday and have remote learning on Monday, Tuesday and alternating Wednesday.

- Information about the cohort that students in grades 7-12 are placed in will be provided to you by August 24, 2020.
- Specific student schedule information for all grades will be available to you by September 1, 2020 using our parent portal.
- All students and staff are required to wear masks throughout the day and a daily temperature screening will take place upon arrival.

For parents that have concerns about returning their child to school in the current COVID-19 environment, a strictly remote learning option is available. Some important information about remote learning includes:

- The district is asking for a commitment to remote learning until November 13, 2020 for middle and high school students, which is the end of the first marking period.
- The district is asking for a commitment to remote learning until November 25, 2020 for elementary school students, which is the end of the first trimester.
- After that initial commitment period a parent may opt their child back into in-person instruction.
- If a student begins the year with in-person instruction and a decision is made to change to remote instruction, a second window to enroll in remote instruction will begin on October 5, 2020.
- Please complete the [intent to return to school form](#) as soon as possible, if you would like your child to participate in remote learning to start the school year.

A remote learning presentation will take place on **Monday, August 17, 2020 at 7:00 PM** and will be followed by a question and answer period. You can join that meeting by using this [Zoom meeting link](#).

A full copy of our [district's reopening plan](#) and a recording of the Town Hall Meetings can be found on our district website with many more details about reopening. I thank you for your continued patience as we work to safely reopen our schools in September.

Sincerely,

John C. McNamara

Superintendent of Schools