

October 1, 2020

Dear West Chester Area School District Parents/Guardians,

As we look at a return to hybrid (in-person two days a week) instruction for elementary students on October 19 and secondary students on November 5, we have a large amount of important information to communicate. Please visit the updated Return to Hybrid Instruction section of our website for **important details**, including:

- District-wide, elementary, and secondary Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
- **Revised calendars for October and November** for both elementary and secondary
- Our district-wide COVID-19 cases and exposure protocol as well as other important in-person safety information
- Revised schedules for elementary and secondary
- Updated Health and Safety plan that includes information about mask requirements

As you are likely aware, in order to accommodate the widely recommended 6 feet of social distancing needed for COVID-19 mitigation, we have to divide students into two cohort groups (A & B.) While the A students attend school in person on Mon/Tue, B students will attend in person on Thu/Fri. Wednesday remains a virtual day for all students. Each student day will be shortened by 30 minutes when we return to hybrid in order to allow for adequate teacher planning time to continue to provide high-quality instruction during this time.

When students are learning at home, they will access classrooms via Zoom and Schoology. Webcams will allow them to be a part of the classroom, interacting with teachers and even other students. This will look and feel a little different than it does currently during Remote 2.0. We have studied and visited schools that are already using this model, and we are running pilots in our own schools this week and next. While not anywhere near ideal, we believe we can teach and engage students in this manner. I know that our instructional staff will continue to go above and beyond to provide the best possible instruction in this very challenging environment.

Principals have a large amount of school-specific information to share with parents, including details about bus transportation. Principals will also be working with families to divide students into cohorts by last name (generally A-K for Cohort A and L-Z for Cohort B.) Siblings will be kept together.

Students will have the option to remain remote as we transfer back to hybrid instruction. Since teachers will now be working with some students in person and some students remotely at the same time, the flow of the instructional day will be a bit different than it is currently in Remote 2.0 with all students learning virtually.

***If you would like your child to remain remote when we move to a hybrid model, please fill out this form by Tuesday, October 6 for elementary, and Friday, October 9 for secondary.*** It is critical that we receive this information in a timely manner so that our schools can create A/B student cohorts and so that our teachers can adequately plan. **You do not need to fill out this form if your child will return to hybrid.**

I am scheduling Parent Q&A Info Sessions tonight (Oct 1) for elementary and tomorrow night (Oct 6) for secondary. The sessions are already very full. These will be recorded and placed on our website, and we can schedule additional sessions in the future if needed.

None of this is ideal, but we stand committed to doing the very best we can for our students under incredible circumstances. Educating our students during a pandemic is truly a community effort and we appreciate your patience and support.

Thank you,

Dr. Jim Scanlon, Superintendent