

Dear West Chester Area School District,

Our School Board tonight has approved a plan to return to in person (primarily hybrid) instruction that allows us to accommodate the widely recommended 6 feet of social distancing.

We understand that parents have a number of questions. We are finalizing the details of our Frequently Asked Questions, Schedules, Oct/Nov Calendars, and other important information, and will send that to parents in the next day. We will also hold two Q&A sessions with the superintendent on Thursday, October 1 (Elementary) and Friday October 2 (Secondary). (These will be recorded for those who can't attend.)

To register for the elementary chat session: Oct 1, 2020 06:00 PM Eastern Time

Register in advance for this meeting:

https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0kdOCprDwpGNYLjmEKAoG_kLZlcExkpIGC

You will receive an email containing information about joining the meeting prior to the start time.

To register for the secondary chat session: October 2, 2020 06:00 PM Eastern Time

Register in advance for this meeting:

https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYsd-2oqzsuEtJQNLEUC_mewJLmWukPDzuD

You will receive an email containing information about joining the meeting prior to the start of the meeting.

Because of the extreme number of emails we've received, we hope you'll consider holding questions until some of this additional information is sent tomorrow.

West Chester worked with a 150-member staff task force to consider a variety of hybrid models and recommended an AA/Remote/BB model. Students will be placed alphabetically into either an A or B cohort, and principals will work with parents to schedule those students :

- "A" students would attend on Monday and Tuesday; Wednesday would remain a remote day for all students; "B" students would attend on Thursday and Friday.
- Students would access classroom instruction via Schoology/Seesaw and Zoom into the classroom on their at-home days.
- The instructional model and schedule may be different at each grade/level.
- **Elementary students (K-5) will return to hybrid instruction October 19, and Secondary students (6 - 12) would return November 5.** This schedule was designed to bring our youngest students back to in-person instruction first, but also to provide continuity with the end of our first marking period for secondary students.

- School start times will revert to our traditional, in-person times, however, *we will shorten the student school day by 30 minutes each day* to provide adequate teacher planning time.
- Families will be able to remain in the Remote program, and can return from Cyber to hybrid. We'll be sending information to families about this in the coming weeks.

You can view our updated [Health and Safety Plan](#) as well as the [presentation](#) from our Board meeting. You can also read our [Return to Hybrid FAQs](#). *Again, we will send additional FAQs for each school level this week.*

We have a wide number of COVID-19 safety protocols developed as we return to in-person instruction, and will share these, as well. These protocols have been working well with the 470 highest-need special education students and English Learner students who have already been attending school in a brick and mortar setting in our schools since the summer.

We are designating time for staff training as we transition to hybrid. Parents should note that times *not included in our existing calendar that will now be used for training include*: Elementary: October 13 – 16 (these will now be morning-only days for students as afternoons will be dedicated to staff training) and Secondary: October 29, 30, Nov. 2, 4 (these will now will now be morning-only days.) Principals will send reminders as we move forward.

Thank you for your patience as we work to share a large amount of information with our parents.

Dr. Jim Scanlon, Superintendent