

WEST ORANGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Thomas A. Edison Middle School

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Dear Student and Parent/Guardian:

We are weeks away from transitioning to our hybrid or 25% capacity in-person learning phase. We hope that your E-learning has been engaging and meaningful for your child to this point. We are hopeful our local community maintains low levels of COVID activity to enable our successful move to face to face instruction! We believe our teachers have established effective school routines, your child has adjusted to “normal” school hours and are school-focused in completing after-hour assignments and homework.

Our hybrid opening of school will require some expectations and requirements communicated in advance.

- Virtual students (off day hybrid and parents who have selected all virtual) will continue to log on to Zoom meetings during their class session and interact with Google Classroom activities which would count as students being present. Any Google Classroom class period assignments must be submitted on the day assigned.
- Teachers will continue to Zoom live stream lessons to those at home while co-working more closely with the in-person learners. Key lesson segments whereby direct teaching of content will continue to be recorded and posted in your child’s content area Google Classroom. Missing the live-stream will inhibit asking real-time questions.
- There are some in-person expectations that need to also be communicated:
 - Masks must be worn properly at all times. School personnel will practice this same safety practice.
 - Sanitizer wipes and hand sanitizer will be available in all classrooms with students wiping down desks prior to leaving the classroom.
 - Bathroom breaks are encouraged during the 10 minutes between classes. Staff will monitor bathroom traffic permitting two students in at a time and recording names and times.
 - Morning Drop Off: students exit buses and parent drop-off moving to their team entry whereby temperature screening and social distancing within the school entry area will be monitored.
 - Dismissal will be staggered and exits varied to ensure social distancing at the end of the school day. Public address announcements will be made during Advisory for walkers, pick-ups, and specific bus route arrivals for students to be dismissed.
 - Bus Travel - masks required at all times with students assigned seating. Those boarding in the morning first will be seated in the back. Students will disembark in reverse order of boarding.
 - **Emergency Drills and Fire Drills** - The State of NJ will continue to require bi-monthly emergency drill practice with one monthly fire drill and one other emergency drill. COVID protocols have been established to avoid building-wide evacuations or creating close contact between students.
- In-person teaching with small groupings will be based on the last name alphabetical cohorts noted below:
 - **Cohort A - Last names A - D**
 - Nov. 9*- 10
 - **Cohort B - Last names E - K**
 - Nov. 11*- 12
 - **Cohort C - Last names L - Q**
 - Nov. 16*- 17
 - **Cohort D - Last names R - Z**
 - Nov. 18*- 19

- **Nov. 9th, 11th, 16th, and 18th** will be the first day of in-person instruction for each cohort. However, on these first days the students in school must go through student orientation to review outside and inside building protocols. The assignments for students who are scheduled to live stream will be asynchronous. The teachers will have afternoon office hours to provide support on these days.
- **Nov. 23 Remote Synchronous (All students), Nov. 24 Remote Synchronous (All Students), Nov. 25 Asynchronous** for all students assignments will be posted by 9:00 am
- Our 4-hour school day will follow the schedule below:

Grade 6

		Day 1 Mon. / Wed.	Day 2 Tues. / Thurs.
	8:00-8:10	Period 1 (check- in)	Period 5 (check- in)
Block 1	8:10-9:10	1	5
Block 2	9:20 -10:20	2	6
Block 3	10:30-11:30	3	7
Block 4	11:40-12:45	4	Advisory

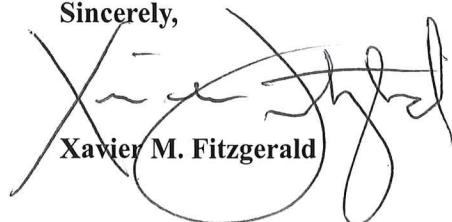
**Live
Stream
(At-Home)**

		Day 1 Mon. / Wed.	Day 2 Tues. / Thurs.
	8:00-8:10	Period 1 (check-in)	Period 5 (check-in)
Block 1	8:10-9:10	1	5
Block 2	9:20-10:20	2	6
Block 3	10:30-11:30	3	7
Block 4	11:40-12:45	4	Advisory

The students at home (live streaming) are reminded that Period 4 Green Team, 5 Gray Team, and 6 Yellow Team are lunch advisory and are designated off-screen time. However, Advisory on day two (Tues. and Thurs.) for all students will be a mandatory class.

In closing this rather in-depth update, I hope that we have managed to answer some of the questions you may have as we reopen schools in this limited yet safe capacity. If you have questions beyond this letter please contact your child's guidance counselor or call the main office. One final note, it is required by state law that all students have their required immunization and their immunization records in the school nurses' files by October 30th. These records can be brought in, scanned to ERamos@westorangeschools.org or can be sent via postal mail. **If the records are not received by the above-mentioned date your child can be excluded from in-person and also virtually learning until the immunization records are received by the school nurse.**

Sincerely,



Xavier M. Fitzgerald