



West Orange Public Schools  
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Superintendent of Schools

J. Scott Cascone, Ed. D.

June 8, 2021

Dear West Orange Public School Families,

This letter serves as notice that West Orange High School students will operate virtually tomorrow, Wednesday, June 9th. In consultation with building principals and due to the later dismissal time for high school students, coupled with the forecasted high temperatures for tomorrow, Grades 9-12 will operate virtually. The district is remaining compliant with the indoor mask mandate as explained below. Grades Prek-8 will operate at the regular hybrid schedule. Because, temperatures are expected to drop Thursday and Friday, we do not foresee additional changes to the schedule being necessary for the foreseeable future

As we all know and realize, the month of June typically brings with it rising temperatures, and maintaining comfortable classrooms is a challenge annually. The public schools of West Orange is not unique in this regard, and the New Jersey Department of Education has issued a statement concerning the necessity to wear masks in these circumstances, which was shared with us today by our county offices:

***“Masking protocols outlined in Executive Order No. 175, which are aligned with current CDC recommendations, remain in place. The Order includes an exception to masking requirements outdoors during periods of extreme heat. Additionally, the Order includes an exception to masking protocols in situations where wearing a mask would inhibit an individual’s health. Please be advised that the Governor has clarified that this indoor masking exception could reasonably be applied to situations in which a district determines, at its discretion and based on its assessment of the individual circumstances, that a period of extreme heat warrants students and staff to remove their masks while indoors to protect individual health. As always, unvaccinated individuals are strongly encouraged to continue wearing masks while participating in activities that include sustained contact with others, or when in a crowded setting.”***

We encourage our students to attend in-person instruction wearing a mask, and dress in clothing appropriate for the weather yet mindful of dress code. Some latitude for judgment has been offered to the building principals, and decisions will be made as needed on a case by case basis.

I wish you a pleasant evening and remind everyone to remain hydrated.

Sincerely,

J. Scott Cascone, Ed. D.  
Superintendent