



Superintendent of Schools

J. Scott Cascone, Ed. D.

January 14, 2022

Dear West Orange Public School Community,

I hope this message finds you well as we enter a 3-day weekend. The district is closed on Monday, January 17th in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This day of recognition celebrates the life and achievements of this influential American civil rights leader who was the chief spokesperson for nonviolent activism in the Civil Rights Movement, which successfully protested racial discrimination in federal and state law. On November 2, 1983, President Ronald Reagan signed the legislation enacting the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday. In 1994, President Clinton signed legislation to make this holiday a day of citizen action and volunteer service in honor of Dr. King.

The following information and reminders is for the benefit of our community and should be reviewed carefully.

The Governor has reinstated the Public Health Emergency which *will allow the state to continue vaccine distribution, vaccination or testing requirements in certain settings, the collection of COVID-19 data, implementation of any applicable recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to prevent or limit the transmission of COVID-19, staffing and resource allocation, and other critical components of the State's COVID-19 response. The new Public Health Emergency will allow for existing orders requiring masking in school and daycare settings to remain in effect.*

The NJDOH has recently updated the [guidelines](#) and our department of Special Services has created a [manual](#) that answers many questions. Also, in this effort, on-site testing is being made available for students and staff at WOHS beginning Thursday, January 20th:

**HS Athletics, Color Guard and Co-curricular:**

The site will be available on Mondays from 2:30pm to 6:30pm, for HS students and staff who participate in in-person athletic and co-curricular activities where social distancing is impossible or impractical (these students are required to test weekly). Both a rapid nasal and PCR saliva test will be administered at the same time. The convenience of having testing on-site with clear protocols will enable our activities to proceed with a diminished risk of illness.

**West Orange School Community:**

Please note that the campus testing site will also be available every Thursday from 2:30pm to 6:30pm to the entire student body, staff, and West Orange School District families.

To further stave off the spread of infection and allow time for recuperation, **WOHS will return to full day cohort hybrid instruction beginning Tuesday, January 18th.** Schedules have been disseminated.

With the goal to resume in-person instruction, the remainder of the district will remain full day onsite classes and, as previously noted, the virtual option is no longer available. In the event that staffing shortages render this impractical or impossible, the district retains a number of contingency plans to include, but are not limited to, implementing half day schedules, or pivoting to virtual.

### **Technology Support: Location Change**

The location for the Technology Support Hub is moving from WOHS to Liberty Middle School, effective Tuesday, January 18th. Parents and students who need technology support for district-issued chromebooks should go to Liberty Middle School during the following hours: **Monday-Friday 7:30am-9:00am; 1:15pm-2:45pm.**

Parents and students who need a chromebook for remote learning or need remote support should complete the [Parent/Student Technology Request Form](#).

Please click the following link for more details regarding the new locations: [Directions to New Technology Hub](#)

### **January 18 at 7pm Session 2: Building Bridges between Home, Community, and School**

Public Link: <https://woboe-org.zoom.us/j/88673944261?pwd=TkZlWDJlZVNOZGVRZmxLaHJqTzlmZz09>

Webinar ID: 886 7394 4261

Passcode: 004105

The 3-part series is made available for all parents, guardians, and caregivers and is conducted by Dr. Jared Scherz and [TEACHER COACH](#) who take us through the steps and measures for parents to effectively support our students, your children, establish and reestablish connections, understand and apply the keys to productive home and school communication, and embrace collaboration. Session 3 is scheduled for March 16th; please mark your calendar.

**Postponement -Strategic Action Plan - Focus Group Sessions:** The community focus session is being postponed from February 3 to later in the spring, subsequent to the appointment of the Interim Superintendent when the process can resume. For those who have expressed interest in participating, your willingness is appreciated and your information will remain on file and you may anticipate being contacted in the upcoming months.

As always, I thank you for your time and attention, and I wish you good health and a restful weekend.

Sincerely,



J. Scott Cascone, Ed. D.  
Superintendent