



West Orange Public Schools
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Superintendent of Schools

J. Scott Cascone, Ed. D.

August 26, 2020

Dear West Orange Families,

I hope this finds you all well. Next week, we will enter the month of September and the start of the 2020-21 school year is right around the corner. I for one, am excited to start the new year and hopeful for a return to a sense of normalcy. We will welcome new learners to our school family, students and teachers will reconnect, and we will resume our educational mission with a renewed sense of commitment. As we open the year with virtual instruction and work toward gradually ramping up to our hybrid model in as expeditious and safe manner as possible, our schools will remain open and operational for a variety of services.

The following correspondence contains important informational updates for our families.

Calendar

The Board of Education has adopted a revised [2020-21 District Calendar](#). Please note the following:

- **The school year will start virtually for students on Monday, September 14th.**
- The week of September 8-11 will be used for:
 - Intensive staff professional development
 - Parent and student tutorials
 - Technology, curricular, and instructional supply pick-ups and “Beep and Greets”
- Onsite Preschool and Kindergarten orientations will be conducted at all schools the week of September 14th.
- Onsite orientations for all grade levels, Basic Skills and ESL students are being planned.
- Virtual School Day Schedules [Fall 2020 Virtual Instruction For All Students](#)
- Teacher assignments/academic schedules will be released on September 1st.

Air Quality/Ventilation Report

The district’s aging HVAC systems have provided a health and safety complication for opening our buildings to large numbers of students and staff in September. Presently, our target date for the commencement of the hybrid, cohort model is November 9th. The proposed remediation plan will be presented at the August 31st Board meeting, along with any prospective adjustments to this timeline.

Request for Full Time Remote Learning

Parents/guardians have the option to submit a [Request for Full Time Remote Learning](#) for their children for the duration of the school year. The original deadline for submission was August 31st. However, in light of the delayed implementation of our hybrid model, submission of this form may

be ongoing. As we near the commencement of our hybrid model, we will issue additional deadline advisories. The preferred date to change from virtual to hybrid or vice versa will be in February, at the midpoint of the school year. However, any parent/guardian may request a switch providing 30 days' notice to the building principal in order to allow for adequate time for safe and orderly matriculation of students into the onsite cohorts.

Special Services

Parents/guardians of students with disabilities should feel confident that the Special Services department is available to provide information and updates throughout the school year. In-person testing will resume and the department continues to work towards safely transitioning students back to receiving in-person experiences. Should you have any questions concerning your child, please reach out to your child's teacher, case manager, and/or building administrator. Additionally, you are welcome to contact the Special Services Department at (973) 669-5400, Ext. 20538 and your call will be directed to the appropriate staff member.

Scholastic Athletics and Extracurricular Activities

Athletics and extracurricular activities offer our students vital opportunities for socialization, interpersonal interactions with peers and mentors, as well as physical exercise. Therefore, over the course of the virtual start, we intend to maintain as many of these programs as possible in alignment with the corresponding health and safety guidelines. High school athletics, with the exception of Girls Volleyball (season postponed by governor's order), will proceed with the authorization of the Governor's office and according to the NJSIAA guidelines. Regrettably, we have cancelled the fall middle school sports season due to logistic considerations and organizational capacity.

Child Care Programs

The following providers are offering all-day care programs for working parents. The childcare facilities are for students in grades K to 5. Financial aid options can be discussed with the vendor and vary from vendor to vendor.

- *West Essex YMCA*, on site at St. Cloud and Redwood Schools
<https://www.metroymcas.org/main/school-districts/>
- *Community House* on site at Gregory, Kelly, Hazel, Mt. Pleasant, Washington
wochbgc@hotmail.com
- *West Orange JCC* at 760 Northfield Avenue, West Orange
<https://jccmetrowest.org/programs/children-youth/kids-club/#overview>
- *Guerrero Martial Arts* of Caldwell
www.CaldwellAfterschool.com

Food Services

Our food services provider Maschios will continue to offer daily breakfast and lunch pickups this year at all schools from the hours of 10am and 12pm. If you have any questions regarding food services please contact Ms. Lorie Cragle by calling 973-669-5400 ext. 20593 or via email at lcragle@westorangeschools.org. For information pertaining to free and reduced lunch eligibility please contact Ms. Karla Hernandez by calling (973) 669-5400 ext. 20528 or via email at khernandez@westorangeschools.org (*se habla espanol*).

Technology

As of Monday, August 10th, parents/students in grades 4-9 may pick up a new Chromebook at the designated date/time listed on the schedule below. This is an ongoing weekly schedule that will run through Friday, September 11th.

Elementary Schools (Grades 4-5)	Middle Schools (Grades 6-8)	WOHS (Grade 9) - Tarnoff Cafeteria
<p>Tuesday: 9am-11am Thursday: 9am-11am</p> <p>Gregory: Cafeteria Hazel: Gymnasium Kelly: Gymnasium Mt. Pleasant: Gymnasium Redwood: Gymnasium St. Cloud: Library Media Center Washington: Gymnasium</p>	<p>Edison, Liberty & Roosevelt Library Media Center</p> <p>Monday: 9am-11am (Last Name A-I) Wednesday: 9am-11am (Last Name J-Q) Friday: 9am-11am (Last Name R-Z)</p>	<p>Monday: 9am-12pm (Last Name: A-E) Tuesday: 9am-12pm (Last Name: F-J) Wednesday: 9am-12pm (Last Name: K-O) Thursday: 9am-12pm (Last Name: P-T) Friday: 9am-12pm (Last Name: U-Z)</p>

We are also working on preparing Chromebooks for students in grades K-3. We anticipate the distribution of these Chromebooks to start Tuesday, September 1st. We will notify parents in grades K-3 via School Messenger and Social Media once the Chromebooks are ready.

In order to maintain social distancing and control the number of visitors in each building to ensure that our staff can support this task, the pick-up schedule in the secondary schools is broken down by alphabetical order by last name and designated days of the week. The only exception is WOHS where a staff member is available every day of the week.

Please note: all students who are currently in possession of an older district-issued Chromebook must turn in their current Chromebook and charger when picking up their new Chromebook. All students must also present the signed [1:1 Chromebook Agreement Form](#) (parent and student signature) when picking up their new chrome book: **Please do not email the agreement form to the Technology Department. Please pick up the Chromebook in the school where your child will be attending this coming school year.**

Parents/Students who need remote technology support should complete the [Technology Service Request Form](#). Once we receive your request, a member of the Technology Department will reach out to the parent/student. Click here for frequently asked questions: [FAQs](#)

While this school year may be off to a unique start, the district administration, faculty and staff are wholeheartedly as enthusiastic to work with our students and their families as we are every year. We look forward to teaching and engaging to the best of our abilities, despite the pandemic and associated restrictions. As always, we work for the betterment of our students and of society; for the students are the future, and the future has no boundaries.

Sincerely,



J. Scott Cascone, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools