



West Orange Public Schools
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Superintendent of Schools

J. Scott Cascone, Ed. D.

August, 10, 2020

Dear West Orange Families,

I hope this communication finds you all well. Last Thursday, August 6th, the district hosted a virtual “Town Hall” meeting. We would like to thank the almost 7000 people who attended the forum either on Zoom or Facebook. At this meeting, the district presented its updated proposed plan for the reopening of school in September. The plan outlines a phased approach to opening our schools fully for in-person learning that guarantees to the greatest extent possible the health and safety of students and staff.

This letter serves to highlight key points from the Reopening Plan, as well as provide you with direct links to the presentation. The Reopening Plan will be submitted to the West Orange Board of Education on August 17th for approval and pending the same, submission to the NJ Department of Education. We continue to engage in the planning process for the fall and are grateful for all of the feedback we have gotten from our parents, staff, and community.

Key Points

Phase I: Fall Virtual

- Synchronous remote learning will begin on September 14 for all students
- Prioritized in person experiences will be provided in some capacity for specific groups of students to inform instructional programming, provide direct student support to specialized populations, and prepare for effective virtual learning experiences

Phase 2: Hybrid Instruction

- On or about November 9th, the district anticipates the implementation of a hybrid model of instruction where all students will be provided opportunities for in-person instruction in some capacity. This will be dependent on COVID case counts in our community and any forthcoming directives from the Governor and/or New Jersey Department of Education. The hybrid model of instruction includes, but is not limited to:
 - Pre-K-5
 - 2 days per week on site / 4 hours
 - Live Streaming on remote cohort days
 - Grades 6-12
 - 2 consecutive days on alternating weeks / 4 hours
 - Live Streaming on remote cohort days

Pathway 2: Parent Selection of Full-Time Remote Learning

- Parents / students have the option to opt out of the district's hybrid model (which includes in-person instruction) and instead select ***Full-Time Remote Learning*** for the 2020-2021 school year by completing and submitting the:
 - [Request for Full-Time Remote Learning Digital Form](#) (accessible by clicking on the hyperlink)
 - Students participating in the 100% Virtual Learning cohort will receive **all components** of their content area instruction online, to include daily lessons, activities, scheduled opportunities for student:teacher and student:student interaction, independent assignments and assessments.

Technology Distribution

We are distributing technology and will be following up with more details about devices over the course of the next couple of weeks. Dates and locations continue to be posted on the district's website and posted to social media.

Presentation Links

The full presentation, as well as a recording of the event can be accessed through the following links:

- [West Orange Public Schools Reopening Plan \(Town Hall Presentation, August 8, 2020\)](#)
- [Town Hall Presentation, August 8, 2020 \(Video Recording\)](#)

I know this is a lot to take in, and that you will likely have many questions. Please join us on August 17th at 7:30 pm for a full presentation of our finalized plan. Each school principal will follow up with families about individual school plans, once we receive formal approval from the state. Thank you for all you are doing to support your child's education. We know how challenging these times are for your family and want to do all we can to ensure a productive school year for your child.

Sincerely,



J. Scott Cascone, Ed. D.
Superintendent