



WHITE PLAINS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Joseph L. Ricca, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

March 4, 2021

Dear WPCSD Community Members,

A year ago, we faced many unknown challenges together. Throughout the pandemic, we worked thoughtfully and collaboratively to create a new system of education that would serve our children during the crisis. These efforts were made while we simultaneously looked forward to our goal, a safe full return to school for all our children. Today, we are thrilled to share our progress toward this goal.

At the present time, we are preparing to implement the next phase of our reopening plan. This phase will include the opportunity for all students to attend school, in-person, five days per week. While we know that this is exciting news for many families, who are eager to send their children back to school for five days a week, we also recognize that there are families who have selected the remote option and will need to continue with that instructional model to meet the needs of their families. Our commitment is to continue to best support the learning needs of all students, both in-person and in the remote model, for the remainder of the academic year.

As you are aware, all WPCSD families were surveyed at the school level and were asked to select either the in-person instructional model or the fully remote instructional model based on their needs. The data collected from the surveys are important as we continue to plan appropriately for the full return of our Tigers.

As we enter this next phase, maintaining the current scheduling model would be most beneficial to our children. This weekly schedule will continue to support the modified Wednesday where in-person students would attend for a half-day and be dismissed for an asynchronous/remote afternoon. Keeping the current schedule will allow our remote students to continue being connected to their classroom communities and engaged in rigorous learning opportunities with the greatest degree of equity possible. As the likelihood of our teachers serving our students both in-person and remotely for the remainder of the year is high, our teachers will still need this very important time to plan and prepare for students learning experiences. This plan will best support all our children, regardless of their choice of instructional model.

Many parents and guardians of our remote learners have expressed concern about the quality of education that they will be receiving as we move forward with our full reopening. The Curriculum and Instruction Sub-Committee of the Reopening Committee as well as the administrative team fully support continuing with our current schedule so that there will be a smooth transition into this next phase. In this way, we can continue to best address the academic and socio-emotional needs of all students (in-person and remote) as we navigate through the end of this very challenging school year.

Return to In-Person Instruction

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The phasing schedule below is tentative and will depend on having our facilities prepared in advance of entry. However, we are confident in its present structure, and families are encouraged to plan accordingly. Classrooms are being prepared as are common spaces in all our facilities. Principals must know the number of students to expect for each grade level so that they can plan for morning arrival, specials, lunch/recess, and dismissal. The tentative phase-in schedule is outlined below:

The WPCSD Come Back Schedule

**Monday, March 22 – Kindergarten, Ninth Grade, and Twelfth Grade
Return to School for Five Days**

**Monday, April 5 – First Grade, Second Grade, Sixth Grade, and Seventh Grade
Return to School for Five Days**

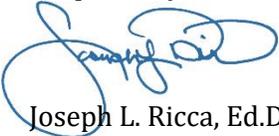
**Monday, April 12 – Third Grade, Fourth Grade, Fifth Grade, Eighth Grade, Tenth Grade,
and Eleventh Grade Return to School for Five Days**

Following this schedule, we will have all students, who have selected in-person learning for five days a week, back in our school facilities by April 12.

As we move forward, more information will be shared with our families. If you have any questions, please reach out to your child's principal, or me, at any time. Congratulations, WPCSD! We are officially moving toward our **WPCSD Comeback** and we are grateful, excited and **#WPProud**.

Thank you for your continued support and flexibility as we navigate another historic moment in our district's fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

Respectfully,



Joseph L. Ricca, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools