August 2021

Dear Westbury Families and School Community,

Welcome to the 2021-22 school year! I am honored to have been selected to serve as your Superintendent of Schools and lead the Westbury School District into its next chapter. Despite the once-in-a-century global health crisis, this year promises to be exciting and filled with opportunities for growth.

I know, as of late, the reopening of our beloved school district has been in your heart and on your mind. Please know, we have been working diligently to identify best practices to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in our schools and offices. Studying the guidance issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), Nassau County Department of Health (NCDoH) and our district physician, the Westbury School District is poised to bring all students and all staff back to school for in-person instruction, beginning September 1.

In developing mitigating protocols and procedures for our district, parents, union leadership, administrators, health professionals, teachers and community members worked collaboratively to review and devise a Reopening Plan. The plan includes, but is not limited to, mask/face covering requirements, physical distancing implementation, cleaning protocols and social-emotional support. Please click on the following link to review the plan https://tinyurl.com/yw9z2fmw.

The health and safety of all members of our school community will remain our top priority. While I understand we are experiencing a once-in-a-century global crisis, you should know the Westbury School District will continue to follow the recommendations of the CDC, AAP, NCDoH and health professionals to keep our teaching and learning environment safe for all. You should also know that we have identified Dr. Roger Bloom, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel, as the districtwide COVID-19 Coordinator. Dr. Bloom will be the direct liaison between the school district and the Nassau County Department Health. In reporting a positive case of COVID-19 within our school district, Dr. Bloom will adhere to COVID-19 Reporting Guidelines recommended by the CDC. Please click on the following link to view the guideline https://tinyurl.com/yc7n538j. You may contact Dr. Bloom for COVID-19 related matters at rbloom@westburyschools.org.

Westbury Families and School Community, on September 1, our beautiful and brilliant students will be returning to school with excitement and some anxieties. Let’s work together to decrease student anxieties and increase excitement. Our school-based pupil personnel team is always
available to provide social-emotional support to you and your family. Our custodial team have been working hard to prepare our schools and offices for full usage. Our administrators have been creating an environment that is warm and inviting to our students. Our dedicated support staff is waiting for our halls to be filled with children so that they may support their growth and development. I am confident our teachers will return on August 30 eager to prepare lessons and activities to help our children acclimate to the full return to school. I ask that you please review our safety protocols with your children and familiarize them with the expectation to keep themselves safe and healthy, as well as others. Our school board and administrators are committed to reviewing our Reopening Plan regularly to determine when and if it should be updated.

In the coming days, you will receive a packet from your child’s school that details pertinent information to help your child get a great start to the new year. You are encouraged to read the information thoroughly. Should you need clarification or have questions, please contact your child’s school.

Once again, I am thrilled to serve Westbury Union Free School District and begin working with students, families, community and staff. Working together as partners at this important moment in history will help our children to achieve their dream. I look forward to seeing your child for in-person instruction on September 1. I wish you and your child an amazing school year.

Should you have any questions about reopening our schools, please contact us at reopeningwufsd@westburyschools.org. This email address was specifically created to answer your questions relating to the opening of schools.

Sincerely,

Dr. Tahira A. DuPree Chase
Superintendent of Schools

Let us put our minds together and see what life we can make for our children.

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