REFLECT, REFOCUS, REIMAGINE: Reopening of Schools

On March 5, 2021 the Governance Team, made up of Union Leadership and the Reopening of Schools Committee Chairpersons, met as a first step in discussing the Reopening of Schools. As the CDC, DOH and Governor began to lift restrictions and present updates to protocols of social distancing, we began to express some ideas. During that meeting, we discussed the possibilities of shifting to full time, in-person teaching and learning for our students. Why an increase for in-person learning?

1. Research and guidance continues to emphasize the need for children to be in school:
   • Avoid learning loss and accelerate learning
   • Socialization/Emotional Supports
   • Consistency
2. Our plan is consistent with the guidance provided from the recent CDC Report and the NYSDOH July Guidance Document
3. Many parents, students and staff have requested an increase of in-person days
4. Full virtual remains an option for parents/students

To support this process and based on the occurrences of many school districts having to revert to remote learning as a result of an increase in COVID19 cases, we decided to have three Phase-in processes. During the first phase, the 5th grade, 7th grade and seniors (transition years) will return to full in person instruction for five days. All other students will have the opportunity to continue receiving hybrid model or 100% remote learning instruction.

Dates for Reentry:    High School: May 3, 2021
                      Elementary and Middle School: May 10, 2020

The district continues to take the necessary precautions for the safety of our students, staff and families:

• Although not recommended, we have desk shields mounted on each desk in the district.
• There will be a need to increase the number of students on the buses aligned to the CDC/ DOH guidance. We will make every effort to have one student per seat in addition to having siblings or students living in the same household sitting together.
Our transportation company will continue to follow CDC/DOH guidelines for daily cleaning, disinfecting and sanitizing
- Universal and correct use of face coverings
- Physical distancing (Goal is 6 feet or closest to 6 feet as possible; not less than 3 feet)
- Handwashing and respiratory etiquette
- Cleaning, Sanitizing and Disinfection Protocols
- Contact tracing Protocols
- Bring outside air in classrooms; moving activities outside when practicable
- 12 feet for wind instruments/ singing/ physical education
- Full virtual remains an option for parents / students
- Continuously monitor our data as a District
- Continued attempts to increase vaccinations for our staff and students

Results of parent survey:

We conducted a survey to elicit information that would support us in designing and modifying our Strong and Bold Reentry Plan to increase in-person instruction based on the guidance from the CDC/DOH. We would like to thank our parents for their support in completing our survey so that we better understood the number of students willing to return to a full day of in-person learning and those that wished to remain 100% remote only:

The results of the survey were as follow:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Schools</th>
<th>In-person</th>
<th>Remote</th>
<th>Total Number of Students in Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5th Drexel Avenue</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th Park Avenue</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th Powells Lane</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th Middle School</td>
<td>204</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>368</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seniors High School</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>282</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional students attend Evening Program.

Our building Principals will host virtual presentations with the parents from each of their respective schools to provide further information regarding the reentry of our 5th graders, 7th graders and our Seniors. Our Committee Chairpersons have reconvened their committees to discuss particulars for the immediate return to in-person and for a successful Reopening of Schools in September. The safety of our children and staff is the priority to a continued Strong and Bold Reopening of schools.

Assessments:

The administration of the 2021 New York State Assessments has begun. As per NYS Education Department, the assessments were not able to be administered remotely. For this reason and in order to provide access to all as well as honor the wishes of the families of our 100% remote students, we conducted a survey to see if they wanted bring their children into the buildings to take the assessments. A specific area, in each building, has be designated for our 100% remote students so that our families, who chose to bring their children, would feel more at ease.
The health and safety of all was at the forefront of the planning and scheduling of our assessments. The schedule of the administration is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2021 K-8 New York State Assessments</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grades 3-8 English Language Arts</td>
<td>April 19-April 29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grades 3-8 Mathematics</td>
<td>May 3-May 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NYSESLAT Speaking Administration</td>
<td>April 19 - June 9, 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NYSESLAT Listening, Reading, Writing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>May 17- June 9, 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science Grade 4 Written</td>
<td>June 7 –June 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science Grade 8 Written</td>
<td>June 7 –June 9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Equity, Diversity and Inclusivity**

As we continue our focus towards Equity, Diversity and Inclusivity, we begin our Teacher Diversity Recruitment Fair for the 2021-2022 School Year:

**Monday, May 3, 2021: Being Held Remotely via Zoom**

- Introduction to the Westbury UFSD- 4:30-5:30 p.m.
- Screening Interviews, Session I: 5:30-6:30 p.m.
- Screening Interviews, Session II: 7:00-8:00 p.m.

[Click Here to Register for the Westbury UFSD Teacher Diversity Recruitment Fair](#)

Please see our [Spring Newsletter](#) which includes our esteemed alumni educators in the Westbury UFSD. We are proud of our former students returning as professional educators and giving back to our Westbury community.

**Reminders:**

- Public Budget Hearing: Tuesday, May 4, 2021
- Voter Registration: Thursday, May 13, 2021 *(Dryden Street School, Park Avenue School, Powells Lane School, Middle School)*
- Budget Vote: Tuesday, May 18, 2021

Please visit us on [www.westburyschools.org](http://www.westburyschools.org)