Collaboration, Unity, Equity #CUEup!
Superintendent’s Monthly Report
December 2020

We would like to wish our community a Happy and Safe Holiday!

Curriculum and Instruction/ Integration of Technology Learning
The Westbury Union Free School District is making significant strides to empower our students to take ownership of their learning, raise their expectations, build positive relationships, transforming education through digital citizenship. We are thinking forward with our staff to analyze data, understand the impact of remote learning, and make adjustments to improve the quality of teaching and learning. Please visit our website www.westburyschools.org for valuable information and updates and to see the amazing staff BITMOJI classrooms. To that end, below you will find critical information:

- Our administration and staff are in forward thinking mode and as a result, we have created a Simultaneous Teaching Guide. This is a compilation of researched-based best practices and the continuous innovation from our staff. I commend our leadership and staff and the entire team of practitioners that took part in designing this magnificent tool that will evolve as we continue to learn from our experiences.

- During our fluid changes, we notice that our families have been engaged in the partnership of teaching and learning in ways never before, although nationally there is a learning curve and student learning or progress requires time for adjustment and improvement. We are committed to reimagining teaching and learning and look forward to empowering our families to be partners in this endeavor. Our scheduled FACE sessions are as follow:
  - FACE Advisory Council will meet on December 21st
    - Mindfulness and Wellness with Dr. Asheena Baez
    - Community Cafes
    - Westbury Volunteer Corp.
  - Please join us every Thursday at 5:30 pm for COVID19 Updates.

- Congratulations to our Westbury High School Honor Society Inductees! We had over 100 virtual participants honoring and celebrating our amazing student scholars’ accomplishments.

- The week of December 7th through 13th is global Computer Education Week. Although we are in pandemic mode, technology has demonstrated to be a valuable essential tool for teaching and learning. When we began our reentry plan, our leadership, staff and parents came together to discuss the unknown. The rich experiences we have shared from March to the current time has contributed to the reimagining and transformation of education. We have been diligent in closing the digital divide and as promised have distributed IPADS to our Prekindergarten students and secured Chromebooks to be distributed as mentioned below:

The distribution of Chromebooks will/have taken place according to the following schedule:
- Middle School: Thursday December 10, 2020 from 8-10 am and 5-7 pm
- Powells Lane: Thursday, December 10 and Friday, December 11, 2020 from 9 am-12 pm on both days
- Drexel Avenue: Friday, December 11, 2020 from 9-11 am and 12-2 pm
- Park Avenue: Monday, December 14, 2020 from 9:00-11:00 am and 12-2:00 pm
- High School: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 from 3-4 pm

Parents will receive a Connect Ed messages of the identified students (tiers) informing them of the dates and times of distribution. Please make sure that you are wearing a mask when arriving to pick up the device.
**College and Career Readiness:**

As we re-evaluate and re-assess the planning and preparation for college amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic, the High School Counseling Team implemented the Electronic Document Process (E-Docs) which links the Common Application to the NAVIANCE Program. This implementation has allowed for both teacher recommendations, counselor recommendations, and Student Transcripts/Essays to be submitted electronically for all schools linked to Common App or those linked directly via Naviance. Students will have the ability to access over 900 colleges via the common application and more than 2,000 colleges via Naviance. The goal is for the class of 2021: 372 12th grade students, to complete a minimum of one four-year application via Common App and/or one two-year application via Naviance.

We have currently offered the following **college information sessions** to Westbury High School 12th graders:

- October 19th: Columbia University
- October 22nd: St. Thomas Aquinas
- October 27th: SUNY Buffalo State
- November 4th: SUNY Stony Brook University
- November 17th: CUNY Macaulay Honors College
- December 7th: Johnson & Wales University
- December 8th: CUNY Baruch/ Mary Mount Manhattan/University of Rochester/ SUNY Colleges

Approximately thirty-four events were offered virtually to support the college and career readiness process. This included several Virtual College Fairs offered by local organizations, Financial Aid Information Sessions (The Dream Act Information Session) and Scholarship workshops.

- The following Colleges/Universities offered “On the spot College acceptance” Day Events.
  - **November 18th - 19th:** Adelphi, Molloy College, Mercy College, NYIT, SUNY Canton, SUNY Old Westbury, University of New Haven, St. Johns University, University of Bridgeport, Monroe College, SUNY Albany, Suffolk Community College
  - **January 5th-January 29th:** Nassau Community College

The **following Work-Based Learning Organizations** will/have conducted training/Job Placement appointments in December/January:

- **December 9th:** Electrical Training Institute
- **January 7th:** Long Island Educational Opportunity Center (Health Services/Technology Programs)

We are excited to announce that the Westbury UFSD will once again offer the three strands: **Business, Coding and Pre Med.** through the **Harvard Weekend Academy.** This opportunity is offered to all students in grades 9-12. I commend our leadership team and staff for always networking and seeking ways to extend the capacity of our students learning.

Approximately 124-10th grade students expressed interest in the Nassau BOCEs Barry Tech/GC Tech Vocational Programs (via Career Exploration Survey offered to 414 students). The interested students will participate in the upcoming Virtual “Taste of Tech” Orientation session starting the Week of December 14th. The intention is to have 60% of the students apply to attend Barry Tech in the 2021-2022 school year.

**Testing**

If we are designated a micro cluster zone and required to implement additional COVID-19 safety restrictions, we would be required to ensure that 20%-30% of our in-person students and staff be tested for COVID-19, depending on the zone, in order to continue with in-person instruction. In anticipation of being designated a micro cluster zone, last week we sent home testing information and consent forms requesting permission to have children tested for COVID-19. **No student will be tested without parental consent and all student testing is voluntary.**

This week we signed an agreement with ATC Healthcare to manage district-wide testing. If we are required to test, ATC will bring in a team of certified medical practitioners to handle all the necessary testing in 2-3 hours per building. They administer the PCR test that requires a swab of the nasal cavity. Results are available in 3-5 days and
parents are notified by ATC if there is a positive test. ATC accepts all health insurance with no copay needed. For those without health insurance, the CARES Act covers the cost for everyone who has a social security number.

**High School and Middle School Cases**

On Wednesday, December 9th, we learned that a student enrolled at the High School tested positive for COVID-19. The student was in the building all week and could have potentially been in close contact with many people. In consultation with the DOH, and out of an abundance of caution, the High School ran an immediate shelter-in-place drill to limit movement in the building, students were released in sections, and the High School shifted to 100% remote learning until Monday, December 14. We are working with the Department of Health (DOH) to identify all possible close contacts.

On Wednesday, we also learned of a teacher at the Middle School who tested positive. The teacher was able to identify six individuals with whom she had close contact and all were immediately advised to quarantine. The Middle School already has a high number of staff members out for multiple reasons. The additional staff members who were identified as close contacts and quarantined meant that the Middle School building administration would not have enough staff members to cover all the classes. The Middle School will remain in 100% remote instruction until we have enough staff members released from quarantine or otherwise back to work in order to safely supervise all classes.

**Current Cumulative Cases**

We have had a total of 17 students and 12 staff members test positive since the beginning of the school year. We saw a surge during the Thanksgiving Break with 4 students and 8 staff members testing positive, and a total of 75 quarantined students and staff.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

All information is posted on our website @ [www.westburyschools.org](http://www.westburyschools.org).