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Reopening Planning

TUCKAHOE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT <email@blackboard.com>

Mon, Aug 3, 2020 at 9:55 AM

Reply-To: email@blackboard.com

To: mazzilloj@tuckahoeschools.org



Dear Tuckahoe School Community,

Our administrative steering committee has worked tirelessly over the past few months to develop a plan that would allow for our students' safe return to school. The health and safety of our students, faculty, and staff are paramount and has been at the forefront of our planning efforts. On Friday, July 31, we posted to our [website](#) and submitted to New York State a comprehensive overview of our reopening plans. These plans were developed in conjunction with the valuable input of our community, reopening subcommittees, union leadership, and the Board of Education.

In our reopening plans, we detail three potential scenarios: an in-person model, a hybrid model, and a fully remote model. We have been advised by health experts that we may need to move among these three models as the year goes on. Despite what twists and turns may emerge, we are driven to provide a continuity of instruction throughout the year. Please expect to see more detailed information in the weeks leading up to our first day of school. Future updates will include schedules, outlines of the school day, school group assignments, and the updated school year calendar.

Our focus is welcoming as many students on campus as possible, while maintaining a safe social distance, and improving upon remote learning by promoting live, synchronous instruction with classroom teachers. We have shifted our first day of school to September 8, and front-loaded our conference days, so teachers will be able to learn strategies, review curriculum, understand safety protocols, and, most importantly, prepare to welcome your children.

The plan for the first day of school for students is a flexible hybrid model, where students in grades 4 to 12 attend school in person at least 2 days per week. Schedules will be distributed shortly, indicating which days your child will attend. Our youngest learners, grades K to 3, will attend daily. In order to promote equity, certain groups of students may be prioritized for in-person learning. This includes, but is not limited to, special education students, English language learners, students who did not engage in remote learning during the spring of 2020, and students with technology or connectivity needs.

Our reopening procedures are nimble in responding to new information, and we are willing to refine

approaches when specific policies are not working or the public health situation and recommendations change. We hope, of course, any future changes are fueled by positive developments in the public health situation. The importance of in-person learning is well-documented, and all of our plans include mostly face-to-face instruction, including our remote and hybrid instructional models

Although we are moving ahead with our hybrid model, we know there are some families who would like their students to be fully remote. There is an option in Tuckahoe to do that. Tomorrow, I will be sending out an additional letter with a form attached, allowing you to request your child learn remotely. These decisions by parents are critical in our planning, as accurate counts of our students allow us to safely prepare for our operations and facilities. You only need to submit the form if you plan to have our child learn remotely. Once you finalize your selection, there will be an option to switch back to Hybrid Learning during specific windows of time during the school year, and at the semester break.

At Tuckahoe, we are in this together. I want to express my appreciation to the community for the outpouring of encouragement and support for our teachers, staff, and administrators. I echo this gratitude for their flexibility and determination; this plan is a testament to the countless summer hours they spent working out the minute details of this massive restructuring of our schools. Recognizing their call to service, our administrators, and educators' drive to bring students back to campus has been inspiring. Teachers and union leadership are assisting in developing schedules, phase-in plans, and supports. All this has involved their devotion to student learning and success, leading to productive dialogue and collaborative decision making.

I understand the uncertainty and tension these times have visited upon our community, and after all, I have seen these past few months, I remain confident that we will emerge from this period of history stronger and more resilient than ever.

Sincerely,

Dr. Amy Goodman
Superintendent of Schools

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