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## Update on Reopening

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TUCKAHOE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT &lt;email@blackboard.com&gt;

Sat, Sep 5, 2020 at 12:33 PM

Reply-To: email@blackboard.com

To: jmazzillo6@gmail.com



Dear Families,

As we head into a long Labor Day weekend, we look forward to our first day of school. This will be a first day of school unlike any other. Some students will take a bus, some will walk or drive, and some will log onto a device. However your family engages in our first day of school, we hope you find time to celebrate this important milestone and celebrate the start of a new school year.

Over the last few days, our entire faculty and staff have been reunited during our Superintendent's Conference Days. In lesson simulations, teachers assumed the roles of students to experience what it is like to learn remotely. Teachers blocked out their areas of instruction and did sound checks. They populated Google Classrooms and rearranged their physical learning spaces. Along the way, we collected feedback and reflections and made improvements in a narrow window of time. We examined the impact of the new block schedule at the Middle School/High School, ways to support the social-emotional learning of our students, and the ways our district plans to engage in work around diversity and equity.

It is important to note that in running sample lessons and technology checks, we came upon issues. These were worked through as they emerged, a testament to our fast-thinking and flexible teachers and our talented technology coaches. Many of these obstacles were outside of our teachers' control but were handled skillfully and creatively. This is unnerving to teachers who often orchestrate every minute of their first days back to school. The first days back will undoubtedly bring new twists and turns to navigate, but our teachers have proven they are up to the task.

We expect that with inviting students back to campus - both in-person and virtually - new issues will emerge. Our BOCES office has alerted us to demands on the region's internet structures for Westchester schools. A recent press release detailed their concerns and projected a time in October in which they will be better able to service the internet and the technological needs of schools. In the meantime, we have been told to expect interruptions and issues that may be outside our control. As such, some districts have delayed their on-site openings.

Despite these potential issues, we remain committed to reopening. We want to reunite with our students and are prepared to work with these technological issues as they emerge. The Tuckahoe faculty and staff feel it is important we reunite the Tuckahoe community - whether in-person or online. One of the ways we are mitigating these potential issues is by working with an eye toward ensuring internet conservation. This may mean rolling out certain features of hybrid instruction once we establish sure footing and moving carefully into this new model of teaching. We are leading from the front and are prepared to take risks and grow.

We are all learning together. Please be flexible and understanding. Teachers are doing something they have never done before. In fact, they have spent the last few days transforming everything they do, with an eye toward student safety and wellness. They are prepared to establish a safe, inclusive environment where students can learn, grow, and thrive. We are fortunate to have them in our classrooms. Your children are in great hands.

Looking toward the first day of school for remote learners (either because they are in Cohort B or the fully virtual cohort), please follow the steps outlined below for access to virtual classrooms:

For students in grades **2-12** who will be **learning remotely** on the first day of school, please take note of the following steps to help prepare your child for their first class:

- Your child should have received in their student email an invitation to their teacher's Google Classroom
- Once they accept this invitation, they will find that their teacher has posted meeting information for their first class

- They will log on to a Zoom call or Google meet during the time their class regularly meets

Meanwhile, for families of students in grades **K-1** who are **learning remotely**, families should have received an email from their child's teacher with their first Zoom or Meet link.

Looking toward the first day of school for students returning to campus, please keep in mind the important reminder below:

Please make sure to complete your child/children's Health Screening Form **daily**. This form will be collected from each student prior to entering their school building. In order to simplify this process, a batch of the Health Screening Forms were sent home to Cottle families. Middle school and high school students will receive their batch in their English class on Tuesday.

This has been uncharted territory for school districts but our Tuckahoe team of administrators, with input from teachers and our community, took charge in early spring when we realized the extent of the changes we would be forced to make. Due to our early planning, we were able to develop a very complex reopening plan.

Having said this, we ask for your patience as we navigate technology interruptions and logistical issues. We ask you to recognize the profoundly difficult task being presented to our teachers, who have had four days to redesign their entire approach to instruction. We know everything won't be perfect, but we also know we are a strong community with impressive teachers who cannot wait to see their students in-person or online. What's most important going forward is that we stay connected and remember we are....

***Tuckahoe in This Together!***

Sincerely,

Dr. Amy Goodman

Superintendent

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