



## West Seneca Central School District

Mr. Matthew J. Bystrak  
**Superintendent of Schools**

December 16, 2020

Dear Families,

Please [CLICK HERE](#) to view a video from Mr. Bystrak.

As a district, we are committed to bringing our students back to our campuses for in-person instruction. Last week we communicated a timeframe for the return of students to schools. **After consultation among our leadership team and the NYS Department of Health's approval of our Limited Service Laboratory Registration (necessary for COVID-19 testing) we feel we are in a position to safely accelerate our time line for return.** Please note the adjusted timeline below...

- **January 7th** - Select self-contained special education classrooms & select students participating in English language learning programs
- **January 11th** - Universal Pre-Kindergarten (district programs only) – Grade 2
- **January 19th** - Remaining grades at elementary schools (3-5, Allendale, Winchester & West Elementaries; 3-4 Northwood & Clinton Street Elementaries)
- **January 25<sup>th</sup>** - Middle and high school students

***\*Please note that these dates are subject to change based on conditions associated with COVID-19.\****

For those students who will return to school in the hybrid model, the following schedule applies:

	<b>In-Person Days</b>	<b>Remote Days</b>
<b>Cohort A</b> Students whose last names begin with A-K	Mondays/Tuesdays	Wednesdays/Thursdays/Fridays
<b>Cohort B</b> Students whose last names begin with L-Z	Thursdays/Fridays	Mondays/Tuesdays/Wednesdays

**\*Please Note: While we have set a date for the return of high school and middle school students, we are still in the process of working through our high school cohorts. More information will be forthcoming regarding these cohorts.**

We feel that phasing our younger students back to campus will provide our school community time to adjust to safety protocols and make changes where necessary.

Depending on the micro-cluster zone color designation we are in when students return to school, it may be necessary for us to conduct COVID-19 testing on a portion of the students and staff in each building. We plan to accomplish this testing utilizing our own staff. In order to plan accordingly, we are asking each family to complete the following survey indicating their consent for such testing. Our testing procedure will be shared so that all families will be aware of the process. You will be notified in advance if your child has been selected to be tested. Additionally, we will offer the opportunity for parents to be present with their child for such testing. **As a District, we will need to meet a specified percentage to provide in-person instruction. Therefore, we ask that you please consider providing consent for testing.** Please use this link to complete the [Student COVID-19 Consent Form](#). The testing that will be conducted is relatively non-invasive and is called the BinaxNOW test. You can view a video demonstration of this test being administered the following link: [BINAX Nasal Test](#).

More information pertaining to the return to in-person learning will be forthcoming from our buildings in the coming weeks. Additionally, we will be communicating calendars outlining days of attendance for each in-person cohort in order to ensure balance to the degree possible.

As always, we appreciate your continued involvement in the educational process as we navigate these challenging times.

Sincerely,

Matthew Bystrak  
Superintendent