



# West Seneca Central School District

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August 12, 2020

Dear West Seneca School District Community,

Over the course of the last several weeks, our district has carefully reviewed guidance from the New York State Department of Health and New York State Education Department to develop a reopening plan that best suits the educational needs and safety of the West Seneca School Community. In order to provide our students with the safest learning environment and the most regular and consistent access to teachers, the West Seneca Central School District will utilize a multi-faceted plan for reopening. **Phase 1 of the plan will have ALL students beginning the school year in a remote learning instructional model (i.e. students will be learning from home and not attending school in person).**

The Remote Learning Option was determined to best ensure the safety and welfare of our students, staff, and community. Students will be learning remotely, at home, with a combination of synchronous (live) and asynchronous learning. [Please note that all students will be provided a Chromebook and the District will take additional steps to help ensure internet connectivity for those in need. Further information regarding the distribution of Chromebooks to all students will be forthcoming].

Students will begin this instructional model on the first day of school, **September 8, 2020**. In order to allow parents to plan, we are setting a time frame for this model of instruction to be in place through the Thanksgiving Holiday. With this in mind, we will be continually assessing our capacity to safely bring some or all students to campus for instruction and/or targeted services throughout this time frame. Our goal as a district is to eventually return all students to our campus this year in some capacity. The District will continue to monitor and review a number of factors including, but not limited to, the following:

- Public health conditions and local data
- Availability of Personal Protective Equipment
- Availability of timely testing and contact tracing
- Ability to maintain adequate staffing
- Ability to safely transport students
- Additional New York State Guidance

A review of the above factors will be used to determine when the District will be able to proceed to Phase 2 for some or all of our students. This phase will likely involve a hybrid model of instruction (combination of remote and in-person learning), as we continue to gradually phase students back into school. The District will be in continual contact with our school community throughout this process.

Parents who have already requested a fully remote model of instruction for their children will be afforded that same option in Phase 2 of this plan barring any further NYS guidance to the contrary.

In order to communicate the details of the reopening plan, a series of public meetings will be available for all school community members via Live Stream. The first public meeting will be on Wednesday, August 12th, 2020 from 6:00-7:30pm. Subsequent virtual meetings will take place on August 18th and 19th from 6:00-7:00 pm. All information to access the public meetings is available on the District website.

Individual schools will also be communicating the details of learning schedules and other pertinent reopening information with families.

The safety and well-being of our students continues to be our top priority. We are grateful for the support of our school community in these challenging and ever-changing times.

Sincerely,

Matthew J. Bystrak  
Superintendent