



West Seneca Central School District

Mr. Matthew J. Bystrak
Superintendent of Schools

October 20, 2020

Dear Families,

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

I hope this communication finds you doing well and in good health. When we first announced we would be starting the school year in a remote learning model we did so on the premise that a gradual phasing in of the over 7000 students and staff that comprise our school community was the safest and most prudent option. Additionally, given the experiences of last spring with remote learning and the current uncertainty with the COVID-19 pandemic, we felt it necessary to develop a strong remote learning program that entails high quality instruction and meaningful engagement with students. We feel we have accomplished this goal and, while students have been participating in a variety of services and supports in our schools over the past few weeks, we are planning for the return of students to our campuses on a larger scale.

Instructional Model

Due to NYS requirements, we will be utilizing a hybrid model of scheduling for all grade levels as we bring students to campus for in-person instruction. Students will be broken into three (3) cohorts and participate in schooling in a combination of in-person and remote learning throughout the course of each week.

- Cohort A – Students with last names beginning A-K
 - In-person Monday & Tuesday, Remote Wednesday – Friday
- Cohort B – Students with last names beginning L-Z
 - In-person Thursday & Friday, Remote Monday – Wednesday
- Cohort C – Students whose families opt for a fully remote model of instruction
(This option will exist for all students unless otherwise directed by NYS)

***Elementary Hybrid** (K – 5: Allendale, Winchester, West Elementary/K – 4: Northwood, Clinton)

Elementary Parents Cast Your Hybrid Vote: Full-Day vs. Half-Day

Due to the nature of elementary school scheduling and in consideration of childcare concerns, we have developed two models as potential options for the return of our elementary students: *A Half-Day Hybrid Model* and a *Full-Day Hybrid Model*. We are seeking input from our families to make the final determination as to which model will be utilized. **Ultimately, we will utilize the model that receives the most support from our community of elementary parents.**

Some considerations for **Half-Day Hybrid**...

- Will minimize need for students to switch to new teachers
- Provides more direct remote instructional time with teachers on days when student is in remote learning
- Students who are ill/quarantined will be able to move to afternoon session each day (afternoon sessions are remote) to access their learning
- Breakfast/lunch provided to students as “to go” as they leave school each day (drive through meals will be available each day for those not in-person)
- Changes may need to be made to this model as school year progresses (e.g. time schedule and potential teacher changes may be necessary)

[CLICK HERE for the Half-Day Elementary Hybrid](#)

Some considerations for **Full-Day Hybrid**...

- More in-person contact between teachers and students
- Will likely require some students to switch teachers
- Days when students are not in-person will primarily consist of asynchronous/independent activities
 - Note: We will work to identify opportunities for a degree of teacher-student interactions on these days
- Breakfast/lunch served in school each day students are in session (drive through meals will be available each day for those not in-person)

[CLICK HERE for the Full-Day Elementary Hybrid](#)

We ask that parents of elementary students (Kindergarten – 5: Allendale, Winchester, West Elementary/Kindergarten – 4: Northwood, Clinton) complete the survey found at the link below to cast their vote for the model they most prefer - We will use only ONE of the two models. This survey will close at 6:00 PM on Thursday, October 22nd.

[CLICK HERE to complete elementary survey.](#) Please Note: This survey is for the **parents of elementary students only.**

We will communicate the results of this elementary survey once all results have been tabulated (most likely at the end of this week).

Time Line For Hybrid Return of All Students

Below is the timeline we have identified for phasing students into school for in-person instruction:

- Nov. 9th – Select Self-Contained Special Education Classrooms
- Nov. 16th – Universal Pre-Kindergarten (Northwood & Allendale)
- Nov. 30th – Students in Kindergarten
- December 7th – Students in grades 1 & 2
- December 14th – Students in grades 3 - 6
- January 4th – Students in grades 7 – 12

We will follow up with parents next week regarding their choice of instructional model: Hybrid or Fully Remote. We are planning to utilize a full-day hybrid model for our middle and high schools due to scheduling and the nature of the coursework at these levels. As a district, we remain committed to utilizing our resources to provide a meaningful educational program that meets the academic and social/emotional needs of our students. I would like to thank all the members of our school community for their continued engagement and support during these challenging times.

Sincerely,

Matthew Bystrak
Superintendent