



## West Seneca Central School District

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

November 3, 2020

Dear Families,

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

As has been communicated over the past few weeks, we are in the process of transitioning students to our campus for in-person instruction and support. After seeking input from stakeholders from a wide variety of groups including parents, students, teachers, administrators, support personnel, and members of our Board of Education, we have identified the following priorities that should be contained within our plans as we move forward with this transition:

- Safety
- Meaningful engagement between educators and students
- Student social and emotional well-being
- Minimizing disruption to existing educator-student relationships in transitioning to in-person learning
- Ability to effectively transition back to fully remote learning

### **Live Casting**

Given the current NYS guidelines related to COVID-19, we will be utilizing a “Hybrid” model of in-person instruction for in-person learning whereby students will be broken into cohorts that will attend school on different days in order to reduce population density within our schools. In order to address the priorities outlined above, our educators will be working with students in-person while, at the same time, working with students virtually (i.e. “Live Casting” on a device such as a Chromebook). Students will generally keep their current teachers and follow the same class schedule whether they are in-person or remote. Attached to this communication you will find school schedules for middle school and high school programming which are essentially in line with current student schedules (note: the middle school schedule will return to a typical eight (8) period day). Our elementary programming will follow similar routines and structures with a variety of learning opportunities for remote students throughout each day. Elementary teachers will be in contact with families regarding specific class schedules and routines as they did in September.

[Please click HERE to view the Middle School Schedule](#)

[Please click HERE to view the High School Schedule](#)

## Cohorts

Students will be broken into three (3) cohorts listed below...

Cohort A (student last name beginning with A – K): In-person on Monday & Tuesday

Cohort B (student last name beginning with L – Z): In-person on Thursday & Friday

Cohort C: Students who will remain fully remote (i.e. will not come to campus for in-person learning)

**\*\*\*Please Note:** In order to balance cohorts, it may be necessary for us to deviate to some degree from the last name cohort structure. It may also be necessary to change student schedules at the secondary level but every attempt will be made to keep students with the same teacher. Parents of families with children with multiple last names should contact their child's principal to help ensure consistency in scheduling.

It may be necessary to deviate from last name cohorting to some extent in order to balance class sizes in accordance with social distancing requirements within our classrooms. School administration will communicate specifics with families as needed.

Please see the general framework below...

Cohort	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
A	In-person	In-person	Remote	Remote	Remote
B	Remote	Remote	Remote	In-person	In-person
C	Remote	Remote	Remote	Remote	Remote

While teaching to two groups of students (in-person and remotely) at the same time through the Live Casting model will provide its share of challenges, we believe it will offer our students the best possible model of instruction and support given the circumstances associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. Below are some of the most significant benefits...

- No need for teacher changes at the elementary level and minimal need (if any) change at the secondary level. We would need to make a number of teacher changes if we moved to a "typical" hybrid without Live Casting.
- 5 days of meaningful student-teacher engagement per week. Any students who are remote on a given day will log onto their classes according to their regular schedule at the middle and high school levels and follow the schedule provided by their teacher at the elementary level. Wednesdays will remain remote for all students and will be a time for all to be on the same platform (Google Classroom) at the same time.
- Ease of transition back to a fully remote model of instruction in the event that a school or the district needs to do so due to COVID. This also includes students who are ill/quarantined - they can simply log into their class from home.

### Cohort Attendance Calendars

[Elementary School Calendar](#)

[Middle School Calendar](#)

[High School Calendar](#)

Safety considerations will be of paramount importance and more information will be forthcoming pertaining to important protocols and procedures.

### **Parent Choice**

Parents must complete the survey below to select a model of instruction for **EACH** of their children. For each child, parents must select either **Hybrid (in-person)** or **Fully Remote instruction**. It is imperative that **ALL** parents complete this survey so that we may plan for a safe and enriching educational experience for all students. ***Parents who select a Fully Remote model of instruction should do so with the knowledge that they are likely committing to this model for the rest of the school year barring a change in NYS requirements pertaining to COVID-19 and social distancing.***

Additionally, we are asking parents who opt for in-person/hybrid learning to indicate whether they plan to utilize District transportation (i.e. the school bus).

[Please click HERE to complete survey to select model of instruction by 4:00 PM Friday, November 6th](#)

Questions pertaining to the scheduling portion of this plan may be submitted to the email address below. Questions will be answered in a video message to be communicated on Thursday, November 5<sup>th</sup>.

[hybridquestions@wscschools.org](mailto:hybridquestions@wscschools.org)

### **Time Line for Return**

We have moved our date for the return of students in grades 7-12 up to December 14<sup>th</sup>. Utilizing the Live Casting model will reduce the need to reschedule students to the extent that we feel this date will be achievable.

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

### **Commitment to Our Students**

Teaching to students in-person and on a screen at the same time will provide its share of hurdles for our educators and students to overcome. As was the case in September with the implementation of remote learning, our Live Casting model will challenge us to learn and grow together and will make us stronger as an educational community as a result. We look forward to continuing to partner with our families as we face the struggles of our current crisis head on and find solutions to problems never before imagined. Thank you for your continued involvement and support of your child's education.

Sincerely,

Matthew Bystrak  
Superintendent