

November 24, 2020

Dear Wayne-Westland Families,

With the holiday season upon us, I hope you all will enjoy a much-needed rest and a sense of renewal. I know some of us look forward to this time, while some may face challenges as the global pandemic continues to cause uncertainty and change.

One area where I would like to bring clarity and consistency is the status of our instructional plan. Given the current local environment related to COVID-19, students will continue with Distance Learning through at least **Friday, January 15, 2021. Please know our goal remains in-person instruction for our students.** Our current plan is to transition students back to classrooms no earlier than **Tuesday, January 19, 2021.** A mid-January return provides us an appropriate distance from the anticipated spikes in COVID-19 cases during the holiday season.

There are no easy answers, and we respect that the pandemic can be the source of strong opposing views. As much as we try to set timelines, the pandemic dictates the timelines. We must continue to work in partnership with respect and a commitment to our students. To ensure transparency, I want to share the following points that inform our decision-making process. We will return to in-person instruction when health and safety factors permit us to return to our classrooms and buildings.

Health and Safety

By viewing our [Return to Learn webpage](#), you will notice the increase in health and safety factors. Medical professionals anticipate these trends will continue during the holiday season and beyond. While children and adolescents are at a lower risk for COVID-19, we recognize that the disease spreads quickly to individuals within the higher-risk categories. In the case of WWCS, this impacts many of our staff members who support and care for our students every day and students who live in multi-generational homes.

Stability and Continuity of Learning

The transition from in-person to remote instruction can be difficult and disruptive for everyone involved. The information we are sharing today will provide time to plan and consistency for our students, staff and families so that all of us know what to expect over the next few months.

Resources to Meet our Students' Needs

When the community spread of COVID-19 is brought into our buildings, we follow the Wayne County Health Department guidelines for individuals who may have had exposure. This leads to students, teachers and staff members needing to quarantine for 14 days.

Working as a Community to Slow the Spread

As our health systems' leaders have noted, hospitals are being overwhelmed and our students, families, and staff members are at higher risk without shared community responsibility. We all must work together to follow appropriate mitigation and safety strategies to reduce community spread to levels where we can return to in-person learning.

Second Semester Reminder

We ask all families to choose one of the two options available for the second semester: In-person/ distance learning (current model with Wayne-Westland teachers) or the Wayne-Westland Online (Edgenuity) option. If you are happy with your child's current learning option, you do not need to do anything. **Once again, either choice will remain in effect until the end of this 2021 school year.**

The in-person/distance learning option will allow your student to transition to in-person learning when health and safety factors permit us to return to our classrooms. Parents who make this choice are committing to having their students attend school under any of the following situations:

- Entirely in-person at any time
- Hybrid model (two days in-person and three days of distance learning) at any time
- Fully Distance Learning (remote learning taught by Wayne-Westland teachers)

If your child/ren are currently participating in our Distance Learning with Wayne-Westland teachers and you do NOT want your child to return to in-person learning under any circumstance this school year, you have the option to enroll your child in Wayne-Westland Online Learning (Edgenuity) for the second semester. Please fill out the [application](#), which is due by December 2, 2021.

- The Wayne-Westland Online (Edgenuity) is the district's fully on-line option. All students enrolled in the Wayne-Westland Online (Edgenuity) will remain in the virtual learning environment throughout this school year. Please take some time to discuss which option works best for your family.

I know we are frustrated and exhausted by this global pandemic. However, our shared commitment to mitigating the spread of COVID-19 and news of a potential vaccine can provide us a sense of optimism and hope. I am proud to see our students' continued resilience and our staff and families' commitment to helping them reach their full potential. We hope everyone can enjoy a restful and rejuvenating Thanksgiving Break. I wish you and your family the best for a safe and happy holiday season. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,



John Dignan
Superintendent