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November 16, 2020 Educational Update

Good Afternoon WCSD Learning Community:

This letter has been added to the [Community Notifications section of the Re-Opening website](#) and can be translated into your primary language if needed. [Para leer este mensaje en Español haga clic donde dice "translate" \(arriba a la derecha\) y escoja el idioma Spanish y lo llevara a la pajina en Espanol.](#)

The purpose of today's Educational Update is to share with you our plan to increase in-person learning opportunities for all of our students. We shared with you in the October 23, 2020 update that our goal for our [Hybrid Learning Plan](#) is to return to an in-person learning schedule that is as close to 'normal' as it possibly can be during a time when adherence to CDC and Department of Health Guidance is required. Over the past couple of weeks we were able to make significant improvement in this area. It is with this in mind that the District will be implementing a phase-in model which will improve upon the current hybrid model and lead to increased in-person instructional time. I would like to thank all parties who participated in this truly collaborative effort to increase the amount of in-person instructional time at the secondary level on behalf of our students and community.

Please understand that this plan will be evaluated on a regular basis; however, we believe that it is important to provide you with as much notice as possible regarding our plan as of now so that families may adapt accordingly, as necessary. In addition, it is important that the District continues to increase instructional time in phases. We understand that many members of our community would prefer that we start with Phase-Two in January and skip Phase-One. However, we must remain vigilant and cognizant of our current staffing needs and health and safety concerns as they relate to COVID-19. Increasing instructional time in phases will allow the District to monitor, review, and adjust as necessary.

Phase-One

Phase-One will include a return to a two-tier transportation system, whereby all of our elementary schools share the same school day schedule. During Phase-One, which is anticipated to begin on January 11, 2021, we will follow the following schedule for hybrid learning:

- **Secondary Arrival / Dismissal:** Students will arrive at 7:25 AM and dismiss at 12:45 PM. This schedule allows for us to continue to use existing resources to cover classes as needed, while also maintaining a portion of the day for teachers and support staff to connect with remote students during the afternoon.
- **Elementary Arrival / Dismissal:** Students will arrive at 8:25 AM and dismiss at 2:25 PM. In addition to creating a unified schedule for our elementary schools, this schedule also allows for teachers and support staff to connect with remote students during the afternoon.
- **Remote Learning Wednesdays:** We will be extending our secondary school remote learning times on Wednesdays to match the same Phase-One period schedule for secondary schools. This will represent an increase in remote learning time, and will allow us to keep our remote schedule in sync with our hybrid learning schedule. Elementary students will continue to follow their existing remote learning schedule.

The Phase-One schedule may be thought of as a 2-hour delay schedule for secondary students and a 1-hour delay schedule for elementary students. However, it should be noted that secondary students will have more time in the building during Phase-One than if it were truly a 2-hour delay schedule. It is important to know that the extra time during the afternoon is critical for our remote only students to be able to receive additional support and services as necessary.

The secondary period schedule will be modified to reflect the new arrival / dismissal schedule as follows:

Phase-One Secondary Period and Remote Learning Schedule:

<u>Junior High School Schedule</u>		
Teacher Day - 7:25-2:25 Students Arrive 7:25 Buses Depart 12:45		
Period	Start Time	End Time
1	7:30 AM	8:04 AM

<u>High School Schedule</u>		
Teacher Day - 7:25-2:25 Students Arrive 7:25 Buses Depart 12:45		
Period	Start Time	End Time
1	7:30 AM	8:07 AM

2	8:08 AM	8:38 AM
3	8:42 AM	9:12 AM
4	9:16 AM	9:46 AM
5	9:50 AM	10:20 AM
6	10:24 AM	10:54 AM
7	10:58 AM	11:28 AM
8	11:32 AM	12:02 PM
9	12:06 PM	12:36 PM

2	8:13 AM	8:46 AM
3	8:52 AM	9:25 AM
4	9:31 AM	10:04 AM
5	10:10 AM	10:43 AM
6	10:49 AM	11:22 AM
7	11:28 AM	12:01 PM
8	12:07 PM	12:40 PM

12:40 - 1:25: Teacher Lunch
1:25 - 2:25: Teachers will schedule synchronous learning opportunities with remote students, provide remote students with feedback, review work completed during asynchronous learning, and engage with students via discussion board.

Revised Remote Wednesday Schedule: Secondary students will follow the same schedule on Wednesday that they follow the rest of the week ([See Period Schedule Above](#)).

Phase-Two

Phase-Two which is anticipated to begin on April 12, 2021 will further extend our Hybrid Learning Schedule for secondary students. Elementary students will continue to follow the schedule indicated in Phase-One.

- **Secondary Arrival / Dismissal:** Students will arrive at 7:25 AM and dismiss at 1:25 PM. This schedule supports a ‘typical’ school day structure where teachers will follow their normally assigned period based schedule (including lunch). This schedule does still allow for a portion of the day to have teachers and support staff to connect with remote students during the afternoon.
- **Elementary Arrival / Dismissal:** Students will arrive at 8:25 AM and dismiss at 2:25 PM. This schedule allows for teachers and support staff to connect with remote students during the afternoon.

- **Remote Learning Wednesdays:** The remote learning schedule will be evaluated prior to the beginning of Phase-Two. Any recommended changes will be shared well in advance of the schedule taking place.

The Phase-Two schedule may be thought of as a 1-hour delay schedule for all students K-12. It is important to know that the extra time during the afternoon is critical for our remote only students to be able to receive additional support and services as necessary.

The secondary period schedule will be modified to reflect the new arrival / dismissal schedule as follows:

Phase-Two Secondary Period Schedule:

<u>Junior High School Schedule</u>		
Teacher Day - 7:25-2:25 Students Arrive 7:25 Buses Depart 1:25		
Period	Start Time	End Time
1	7:31 AM	8:09 AM
2	8:13 AM	8:47 AM
3	8:51 AM	9:25 AM
4	9:29 AM	10:03 AM
5	10:07 AM	10:41 AM
6	10:45 AM	11:19 AM
7	11:23 AM	11:57 AM
8	12:01 PM	12:35 PM
9	12:39 PM	1:13 PM

<u>High School Schedule</u>		
Teacher Day - 7:25-2:25 Students Arrive 7:25 Buses Depart 1:25		
Period	Start Time	End Time
1	7:31 AM	8:12 AM
2	8:18 AM	8:55 AM
3	9:01 AM	9:38 AM
4	9:44 AM	10:21 AM
5	10:27 AM	11:04 AM
6	11:10 AM	11:47 AM
7	11:53 AM	12:30 PM
8	12:36 PM	1:13 PM

Please understand these schedules may have to be adapted, based on COVID-19 related circumstances, or regulation from New York State or other governmental offices. In the

meantime, we will continue to do our best to work towards our goal to return to an in-person learning schedule that is as close to 'normal' as it possibly can be during this difficult time.

Sincerely,
Dr. Dwight Bonk
Acting Superintendent
Wappingers Central School District

**Please note that during this pandemic, which began impacting schools in March 2020 and the subsequent Governor's Orders, the communications provided in the District's Updates may be subject to change, pending any future modifications made by the Governor's office, the Department of Health, the CDC, and the New York State Education Department. In this ever changing environment, many things are not guaranteed.*