



# WOODBIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT

40 Beecher Road -South  
Woodbridge, Connecticut 06525

Christine Syriac – Interim Superintendent  
Cheryl Mammen - Special Services Director | Alfred Pullo, Jr. – Director of Business Services/Operations

August 21, 2020

Dear Members of the Woodbridge and Beecher Road School Community,

We continue to move forward with our reopening plans. The in-person learning /remote option begins for students L-Z on September 8 and for students A-K on September 9 and for all students on September 10. Our teaching staff will begin professional learning on Friday, August 28. Please find information in this letter on several reopening topics related to staff that have been discussed of recent and which there seems to be the need for clarification.

**Certified Teachers:** With the reopening of school during the pandemic there is the need to hire additional teachers as the district is offering both in-person learning and a remote learning option concurrently. When hiring replacement teachers to fill open teaching positions Woodbridge School District plans on continuing our practice of hiring certified teachers. While the State Department of Education has made hiring for short duration substitute teachers very flexible anticipating a potential substitute shortage in Woodbridge our plan is to continue hiring certified teachers to fill open teaching positions.

**Remote Option Teacher:** Twenty-five percent of our students have selected the option of remote learning. The remote learners at each grade level will have a certified teacher assigned. The remote teacher will be a Beecher Road School teacher.

**Mask Clarification for Staff Members:** All staff members who request masks will be provided masks. As cloth masks are acceptable to meet our current mask requirement teachers and staff have the flexibility to use their own face masks.

**Social Distancing in Classrooms:** Excess furniture is being removed from classrooms to provide additional room for social distancing within the classroom. Our Facilities Manager and his staff have reviewed the classrooms to maximize social distancing. Each student and teacher will receive a desk shield. Class sizes are currently smaller as 25% of the students are enrolled in remote learning.

**Professional Learning for Teachers:** Professional learning prior to the return of students has been increased by three days as the State reduced the required number of student days by three days. Safety protocols, remote learning, are one of multiple topics that will be discussed in detail during the six-day window of professional learning being provided to teachers and staff.

**HVAC System:** Our Facilities Manager, the BOE Facilities Committee, the administration, and some town representatives met in July to discuss the HVAC system at BRS. We will be upgrading to Merv-13 filters. We purchased portable dehumidifiers for all Unit Ventilator rooms in the A/B/C wings. The equipment will be set so as to greatly increase airflow. We will be allowing teachers to open interior classroom doors to create airflow to the hallways.

Please also reference our FAQs posted under the reopening tab on the district website.

Respectfully,

Christine Syriac  
Interim Superintendent