

POMPTON LAKES PUBLIC SCHOOLS
237 Van Avenue
Pompton Lakes, NJ 07442
(973) 835-7100

October 7, 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian:

It is hard to believe the first month of school is behind us. We are grateful that schools are open and we continue to work to serve the needs of all of our students. The start of this school year has certainly presented challenges and we thank you for your patience and support.

As you may be aware, the district's reopening plan that was published and shared in early August included details of the in-person schedule through mid-October. The purpose of not determining a daily in-person schedule beyond this date was due to the unknown nature and unique circumstances of reopening school. As we have become better accustomed to our new normal, we are able to provide an updated schedule. Based on feedback from our administrative team, the close observation of teaching and learning, and feedback from the district's Restart Committee, we are sharing a schedule that outlines the in-person program for the remainder of the calendar year [District Daily Schedule October 19-December 23, 2020](#)

Under this schedule, the in-person/hybrid program will remain the same with the exception of a plan to make Wednesdays in-person half-days beginning in December. Currently, Wednesday is an all-virtual day. The initial decision to make Wednesday a virtual day was primarily to provide our custodians additional time for deep cleaning and sanitizing. We have found over the first month of school that our custodial staff is able to adequately and thoroughly complete the cleaning and sanitizing process on a daily basis. While we all know it is impossible to anticipate the future, we would like to see an increase to the amount of in-person time we provide. Making Wednesday an in-person day is one step towards this goal. We hope, if conditions allow, to increase the length of the in-person portion of the school day at some point after Christmas Break.

One upcoming challenge regarding our program is the choice parents will have to change their child's program (either from virtual-only to in-person/hybrid or from in-person/hybrid to virtual-only). This change is expected to occur in mid-November and will involve additional planning on the district's part.

Next week, a survey will be distributed to our virtual-only families. These families will be **required** to select a program for their child(ren) (remain in virtual only or transition to in-person/hybrid). Once we receive all responses, we will then open registration to any in-person/hybrid families that would like to move their child(ren) to virtual. Our tentative schedule for this process is as follows:

October 12 – Survey sent to virtual-only families. A response will be **REQUIRED** by October 21 indicating a choice for the Second Period (mid-November-end of January) to either remain virtual-only or transition to the district's in-person/hybrid program.

October 22 – Correspondence will be sent to all in-person/hybrid families indicating that registration for the district's virtual-only program is open. Registration will close on 10/28. ****REGISTRATION IS ONLY REQUIRED TO BE COMPLETED IF A CHILD IS MOVING FROM IN-PERSON/HYBRID TO VIRTUAL ONLY**** If a child is currently enrolled in the in-person/hybrid program and will remain in this program, no action is necessary.

Once both deadlines have passed, we will evaluate our needs and make any necessary adjustments. We do not anticipate the need to make major adjustments to either program and will do our best to maintain a seamless and smooth transition for those students changing programs.

Please continue to be aware that our plans can change at any time. While we are fortunate to not have had a positive case among any of our students or staff members in over 3 weeks, we know that circumstances can change and we must remain prepared to adjust and adapt any time.

Please continue to do your part by following the follow CDC safeguards within your families, including:

- Staying home when sick
- Washing hands often with soap for at least 20 seconds
- Covering coughs and sneezes and properly disposing of tissues
- Limiting close contact with people who are sick and not sharing food, drinks and utensils
- Practicing social distancing
- Wearing a face covering
- Continuing to monitor your health symptoms

Finally, we urge all of our parents to review the [COVID Daily Screening Tool](#) every day. It is **essential** that if your child has any two (2) symptoms in Column A or any one (1) symptom in Column B, that you keep him/her home from school.

Sincerely,

Paul Amoroso
Superintendent of Schools

