

WHARTON BOROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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"Learn to Thrive in a Dynamic World"

Marie V. Duffy Elementary School

"Governor's School of Excellence"

Pamela S. Blalock, Principal

Alfred C. MacKinnon Middle School

Robert D. Hayzler, Principal

Christopher Herdman
Superintendent

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Business Administrator

Marie Giantomasi
Director of Special Education
& Child Study Team Services

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June 2021

Dear Student Families,

To say the least, this school year has been extremely challenging. However, with the incredible levels of community support, the dedication of our teaching and support staff, and the perseverance of our students, we are closing, what will hope to be, the end of learning in a pandemic. I am proud to announce that, to date, and due to our implemented protocols, our district has had no "in-school" student to student transmissions of COVID-19, and we are one of very few districts that was open for full days of school.

Now, with what we hope was the worst behind us, the district is set to focus on learning recovery and acceleration, with particular focus on social emotional learning. As outlined in a previous letter, students will be afforded the opportunity to actively participate in "in-person" instruction, at the school, and online classes, through a private provider, for course recovery or enrichment. The district has also contracted with tutoring services, to further support our students this summer and beyond. Learning Acceleration Coaches will work with individual students, in concert with other provisions, to provide necessary academic and social emotional supports. Lastly, and possibly most impactful, the district will be securing fulltime clinicians, for the 2021-2022 school year, to support our students, provide professional development to staff, and to meet and work with student families.

The district has and will continue to focus on the cleaning and maintaining a healthy facility, including improving ventilation. In addition to a new HVAC system in the middle school, all HVAC units in the district have had air purifiers appended. This summer the district will be replacing exhaust fans throughout the facility and planning a window replacement project for the elementary school, providing more opportunities to bring fresh air into individual classrooms. "High touch" surfaces will continue to be disinfected throughout the school day and additional "no touch" hydration stations are to be added in the buildings.

All of this will be accomplished while reducing our planned budget, in order to support families struggling financially as a result of the pandemic.

For the 2021-2022 school year, the Wharton Borough Public School District will continue ongoing consultation with our local Department of health and follow their guidance and recommendation, while also abiding by any CDC recommendations and Executive Orders.

Again, I wanted to extend my gratitude to our students, student families, and staff for the graciousness, compassion, understanding, and support in our combined efforts to provide the children of Wharton learning opportunities this trying year.

Sincerely,

Christopher J. Herdman

Christopher J. Herdman
Superintendent