

WHARTON BOROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

www.wbps.org

“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

Mr. Robert D. Hayzler, Principal

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Superintendent

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August 24, 2020

Dear Wharton Families,

As this unprecedented school year approaches, I would like to offer information, reminders and suggestions for making this return as safe and successful as possible. Undoubtedly, there will be “hiccups” but, working together, the best environment will be created.

Avoiding Large Groups:

The first day of school is typically a very exciting day for both students and parents, a day for picture taking and pride. With our efforts to mitigate large groups, especially when dropping and picking up students, we ask that you take your pictures at home prior to coming to school. I realize this eliminates the possibility of having the school as a backdrop, but more importantly, it will minimize the number of people at the school and reduce times of larger clusters of people.

Knowing that we all need to work together to reduce the potential for groups to form, the school will have a significantly reduced number of children in attendance each day and has arranged for the use of multiple entrance and egress points. We ask that students arrive to school closer to the scheduled start time. Elementary students, unless otherwise informed, should arrive at the school at 8:40 am (8:20 am if reporting for breakfast.) Middle school students should aim to arrive no earlier than 7:50 am (7:40 am if reporting for breakfast.) It is the hope that our combined efforts will mitigate the potential of large groups of people.

The Wharton Police Department will be on site to begin the year to discourage loitering and help facilitate traffic.

Screening:

Through the Realtime Parent Portal, parents and guardians will be asked to complete a questionnaire and an assurance that they will not send their child to school should they be displaying any COVID-19 related symptoms.

Attendance:

As stated in previous correspondence, attendance will be taken daily, whether your child is “in-person” or “virtual”. Staff will record attendance on “in-person” days and students/student families will be required to check in for attendance virtually when on “distance learning”.

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"In partnership with the community, the Wharton School district is committed to educational excellence and guarantees challenging learning opportunities for all students to become life-long learners and productive and responsible members of society. It is the expectation of this school district that all pupils achieve the new jersey core curriculum content standards at all grade levels."

Meal Service:

As previously outlined, Flex Mondays are days that student families can obtain breakfast and lunch for dates they will be learning virtually each week. A survey/ordering will be available to record your food selection and/or participation in this program.

Face Coverings:

Per the recent executive order from the Governor, all students are now required to wear facial coverings at school. Please consider practicing this at home, with extending durations, particularly with younger children. Additionally, please consider sending a "back-up" mask with your child(ren) each day, in case the mask breaks or becomes unwearable.

The school will not be providing student facial coverings, but will have an emergency reserve and be able to assist families that may not be able to afford to provide these to their children.

Thank you, all, for the support you have provided in educating your children and the support provided to the district during this pandemic. One of the greatest strengths of Wharton is its ability to rally and work together in challenging times.

Being in this district as long as I have, this is something I am very grateful for and proud of.

Sincerely,

Christopher J. Herdman

Christopher J. Herdman
Superintendent