



## WEST MIFFLIN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

1020 Lebanon Road Suite 250 West Mifflin, PA 15122-1036

(412) 466-9131 x3003 Fax: (412) 466-9260

**Mr. Jeffrey E. Solomon**

Acting Superintendent/Assistant Superintendent

July 16, 2020

As the summer progresses, we recognize that a lot of you are feeling uncertain about the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year. The Pandemic Team, Administration, Teacher's Union, Parent Groups, Nurses and School Leaders have been working diligently to finalize a plan for the beginning of the school year. As of now, there are tentatively three distinct options being offered for the safety of our students during this COVID-19 pandemic. Following the PA Department of Education and the restrictions and guidelines offered by the state, West Mifflin Area School District will be offering the following:

### Option A: Full time in-house instruction with mitigation.

Currently, the state is mandating a face covering, if this order stays in place, the district will require that all students and staff wear a face covering while in the buildings. Safety measures and efforts to maximize space in each classroom are underway. Social distancing will be utilized, classroom desks will be spaced out to limit face-to-face contact and hand sanitizer will be readily available. Also, food preparation and distribution may look a little different than the norm and cleaning and sanitizing efforts will be more frequent and specialized. Respectively, students that ride a bus will also be required to have a face covering. All students will be allowed to ride the bus in the green phase, however, there will be restrictions as to the number of students permitted on the bus in the yellow phase. According to the survey, 41.1% of you are willing to provide your own driving/carpooling. Please complete the Transportation Opt-Out form, on the district website, to provide the district with a more precise number of who is going to utilize this option. As always, students or staff that have a medical exemption or physical issue that prevents them from wearing a mask, will be exempt. Precautions will be made at every level to ensure the safety of our students and staff.

### Option B: Every student has the option of utilizing WMASD's remote learning program.

Schoology is the online instructional tool that the staff has been trained on during Professional Development and will continue training throughout this school year. Schoology is a learning management system that allows teachers K-12 to engage students by organizing and managing academic content; such as uploading calendars,

creating assignments, posting homework and more. Parents have the ability to monitor student assignments and progress and receive notifications. With time to properly prepare for remote learning, our instruction has enhanced. The lessons align with the in-house teaching and are monitored and created by individual classroom teachers. Grades 6-12 have successfully utilized this comprehensive tool for online learning last year and we are excited for grades K-5 to begin in a similar fashion. The additional laptops for grades K-5 have been ordered with a delivery time scheduled for mid-September. Reintegrating a student back into the buildings using this method will be a smooth transition. Students utilizing this option will still be able to participate in all school sponsored activities.

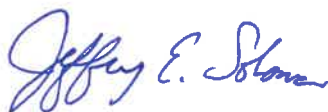
The last option is sending your student to WM Cyber Academy. WMASD has our own on-site cyber school option. The academics are based on the Edgenuity curriculum. The advantage to this option is that the teachers are current staff at WMASD. Contact [harbstm@wmasd.org](mailto:harbstm@wmasd.org) for any questions.

Every effort is being made to ensure that all options are thoughtfully and carefully planned to maximize the safety of every student, staff, personnel and administrators. Please know that this plan is fluid, depending on regulations or changes from the state. This letter is to inform you as to the choices offered this fall. The Health and Safety plan will be voted on at a later school board meeting. If you have specific questions, please feel free to contact your child's building principal.

Please visit our website <http://wmasd.org/> to respond to the Bus Transportation Opt-Out and Remote Learning Commitment forms to be completed by Friday, July 31st.

We will keep you informed as the final decisions are made. Please practice social distancing and mitigation measures to ensure everyone's safety during this pandemic. Enjoy your summer break and stay safe!

**Sincerely,**



**Jeffrey E. Solomon**  
**Acting Superintendent/  
Assistant Superintendent**