



Wyckoff Schools Weekly

July 10, 2020

Dear Wyckoff School District Community,

I hope this weekly update finds each of you well and enjoying the start to your summer.

As we make plans for our return to school in the fall, we very much want and need your input. Parents and guardians, we ask that you complete our [Wyckoff Family Survey 2020](#) by 5:00pm on Tuesday, July 14th. Teachers and staff, a separate survey will be sent out to each of you next week which will be co-developed by the WEA leadership team and district administration.

The timelines for decisions about the format of school return are as follows:

- District plans for Return to School are due to the Bergen County Department of Education for review on July 27, 2020.
- The New Jersey Department of Education guidelines state that districts must notify parents and staff of Return to School plans four weeks prior to the start of school.

I would like to thank our administrative and maintenance staff who have been working diligently to prepare for the return of students and staff in the fall. I'd also like to thank the Return to Wyckoff Schools Committee (RTWSC) that convened this past Wednesday. This 60-person committee includes representatives from the Board of Education, the Parent-Teacher Organization, the Wyckoff Education Association, the Wyckoff Administrators Association, central office administration, the local Health Department, and the local Police Department. The recent RTWSC meeting was devoted to reviewing the subcommittee reports developed by the educator-led workgroup that met from April to June and to building the parent survey that is linked above. The next meeting of the committee will be Wednesday, July 15th, and will likely follow a subcommittee structure to continue our planning work around each of the key areas of consideration for returning to school: Scheduling, Social Distancing, Healthcare and PPE, and Curriculum and Instruction. In addition, our maintenance team has been preparing for the cleaning and sanitation protocols outlined in the State plan, as well reviewing the test results for air quality and ventilation within our classrooms. We are preparing for and ordering the personal protective equipment and healthcare equipment needed for the fall, as well as furniture related to distancing guidelines.

The Wyckoff School District is a leader in Bergen County and in the State of New Jersey, being the largest elementary district in the county and one of the most innovative and high-performing school districts in the State. We pride ourselves on our thoughtful and well-researched decisions in education, and this situation, though unprecedented, is no different. We will continue to be proactive and thoughtful rather than reactive and rushed. We will plan and not panic. We will consider all perspectives and all needs, prioritizing the safety and education of our students, the safety and professional needs of our teachers and staff, and the varying and pressing needs of our parents and families. We are committed to giving every return-to-school scheduling option our full consideration within the decision-making timeframe that has been allotted to us by the State, and in so doing, to determine the best possible option for our school community.

We will continue to provide weekly updates and further surveys will likely be requested. Thank you to our parents and guardians for your cooperation in completing [today's survey](#) as the results are needed to guide our planning. Enjoy the weekend.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kerry L. Postma".

Kerry L. Postma, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools