



## Wyckoff Schools Weekly

July 17, 2020

Dear Wyckoff School District Community,

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

An update for parents of our 2020 8th Grade Graduates:

Thank you to those who responded to our recent “Outdoor 8th Grade Promotion Survey.” As was announced at the July 13th Board of Education meeting, the results were such that there was not a groundswell of support for an in-person event, therefore the District will not proceed with planning an outdoor promotion. I would like to congratulate all of our 8th grade students on their achievements and wish each one a successful transition to high school.

We are continuing to develop and evaluate various plans for our return to school in the fall. Thank you to our families and staff for completing the Wyckoff Family Survey, developed by our Return to Wyckoff Schools Committee (RTWSC), and the Wyckoff Staff Survey, co-developed by District Administrators and the Wyckoff Education Association (WEA). This data is being considered in conjunction with various logistical analyses of our District’s facilities, enrollment, and operations according to the following scheduling and staffing guidelines outlined in the [New Jersey Department of Education’s “The Road Back”](#) school reopening plan:

- **Scheduling** - All school district reopening plans must account for resuming in-person instruction in some capacity. Scheduling decisions should be informed by careful evaluation of the health and safety standards and the most up to date guidance from the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH), as well the stakeholder input on the needs of all students and the realities of each unique district. School district policies for attendance and instructional time may require modifications for the 2020-2021 school year.

- **Staffing** - Regardless of the environment, school districts should clearly communicate with teachers regarding expectations and support for student learning. School reopening plans and decision-making throughout the school year should consider unique needs of each staff member, such as access to technology, social and emotional health, and child care concerns. Staff roles will also have to expand to accommodate new health and safety regulations. Districts should consider leveraging staff to monitor student movement, hallway traffic, and maintain safety according to guidelines. Instructional and non-instructional staff schedules may also include designated time to support school building logistics required to maintain health and safety requirements. -from the [“The Road Back,”](#) [New Jersey Department of Education](#) (NJDOE)

The RTWSC met this past Wednesday to continue developing and evaluating recommendations across all key areas - Scheduling, Social Distancing, Healthcare and PPE, and Curriculum & Instruction - for each possible reopening model being considered by the District. We are regularly communicating with local and county health officials, as well as school officials from neighboring districts, in our efforts to make the most informed decisions for our 1,920 students and 345 staff members.

Per State guidelines, we will share the District’s scheduling plans with staff, families, and students at least four weeks before the start of the school year in order to allow families to plan child care and work arrangements. Once our scheduling plans are finalized, our administrative team, our summer staff, and the RTWSC will continue the intense and comprehensive preparation needed to ensure a safe and successful reopening. We will need the support and collaboration of all of our stakeholders, each step of the way, as we prepare to safely and effectively open our school doors in September. I know we can count on that from each member of our strong and proud Wyckoff school community.

I wish you and your families an enjoyable weekend, and I look increasingly forward to meeting our students, staff and families in person this fall.

Sincerely,



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