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Return to Full-Time, In-Person Instruction for MS/HS Students

TUCKAHOE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT <email@blackboard.com>

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Thu, Feb 11, 2021 at 9:45 AM



Dear Tuckahoe Families:

The Health and Wellness Committee met on Tuesday evening and reviewed the most recent New York State Department of Health regulations regarding school reopening and social distancing. Specifically, NYSDOH regulations read "appropriate social distancing means six feet of space in all directions between individuals or use of appropriate physical barriers between individuals." The focus of the meeting was to explore ways to provide in-person instruction for our Middle and High School students.

We reviewed revised recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Centers for Disease Control, and the Learning Policy Institute. Additionally, we looked at research published in The Lancet, including a meta-analysis and systemic analysis of social distancing and COVID-19. We know the harmful effects associated with the reduction of inperson instruction. We were collectively motivated to move rapidly on a return to full in-person instruction.

This program for middle school and high school students includes the following:

- We would offer full-time in-person instruction for TMS and THS students.
- There will no longer be a hybrid program. Families may opt for full virtual or full in-person instruction.
- Students will be socially distanced less than six feet, but this will be mitigated by the use of dividers and masks. Three feet will be the default minimum for students in the TMS/THS buildings.

Given the value of students receiving in-person instruction, we will move forward expeditiously. As soon as we receive the desk shields, we will start bringing students in on a rolling basis, with the goal of having all students learning inperson by mid-March. This plan is contingent on having all barriers delivered on time. Again, families may opt for fulltime remote instruction.

Our Health and Wellness Committee has been outstanding through our reopening process. Our mission has always been to enact a reopening plan that provides for the physical safety, emotional wellness, and academic success of our students, while ensuring conditions are safe and prioritize in-person teaching and learning. We appreciate the ways building administrators, faculty, and staff have furthered this mission with their care, kindness, and commitment to the Tuckahoe Schools community.

More details and dates will follow soon. Parents of Middle School and High School students should look out for an upcoming survey from TMS/THS principal Dr. Linehan. We look forward to TMS/THS students joining our Cottle Cubs for full-time, in-person instruction.

Sincerely,

Dr. Amy Goodman Superintendent of Schools

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