

August 13, 2021

Dear WCS Parents & Community Members:

Last week, we learned that the state does not intend to issue guidance regarding the reopening of schools in September. Districts were encouraged to use the CDC school guidance and work with their local health departments to determine how to safely welcome students back in September. Immediately following this announcement, school leaders across our region met to cooperatively draft reopening guidelines. This collective set of safety practices was shared with the Essex and Clinton County Health Departments for review and feedback. Based on this process, we are happy to announce that **WCS will again be open for in-person learning five days a week for the 2021-2022 school year.**

We look forward to welcoming back students on the **first day of school on Tuesday, September 7th.** Some elements of the school day will remain the same as they were last year while other areas will return to the way they were pre-COVID. **For this year, we will return to a single bus run with all students attending from 8:00-2:52.** Like last year, in-person school **visitors will be restricted**, and the earliest time for **student drop-offs will again be 7:55 AM.**

The following safety guidelines will be in place at the start of the school year:

- **Masks are required inside school facilities and on school buses** for all students, staff, and visitors.
- **Social distancing of 3 feet** will be instituted whenever practical.
- **School buses will be at full capacity** with all occupants required to wear masks.
- Parents will be responsible for **daily student health screening at home each morning** and no student or staff member should attend school if they are ill.
- There will be **no remote option** offered this year.
- All eligible students and staff members are encouraged to get vaccinated.

We will continue to monitor regional transmission rates and work closely with our local health departments to evaluate the guidelines outlined above throughout the school year.

Managing our way through a pandemic is a team effort that will rely on each and every one of us working together as a school community. We appreciate everyone's continued support and cooperation.

Best Regards and Take Care,



Justin M. Gardner
Superintendent of Schools