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January 14, 2021

Greetings Whitefish Bay School Community and Staff,

I would like to offer a very sincere thank you to the District's students, families, teachers, staff and the larger community. We remain very proud of our team members as we continue to thoughtfully navigate through the pandemic to best serve our school community. This communication has timely and important information for families regarding Quarter 3 instructional modality, as well as the Elementary school phase-in plan as approved by the School Board last night.

Last night the school board approved a plan to phase-in to full in person learning while maintaining the virtual option for **Cumberland and Richards Elementary Schools**. Families will have until Monday, January 18th to decide if they will be part of the in person phase-in plan, or if they will be fully virtual for Quarter 3.

The Board also approved the **Middle School and High School** beginning Quarter 3 in the AA/BB Blended Model, with a virtual option. At the Regular School Board Meeting on February 10, 2021 the School Board will be discussing the phase-in plan proposals for the Middle and High Schools.

**Elementary Phase-In Plan** - Quarter three Begins January 26th, and the elementary phase-in plan is scheduled to begin February 1st. Much of the communication and details will be coming directly from the school level, but these are some things families should consider at this point in time:

- The District will take 3 weeks to phase-in the elementary schools beginning February 1st. We will begin with our youngest learners (grades 4K-1) first.
- As we phase in grades, our in-person learning will occur on four days per week (M,T,TH,F) with asynchronous learning for all on Wednesdays. Initially, this will provide teachers with the planning and collaboration time to change modality and time for the District to carefully monitor safety mitigation strategies. Administration will update the Board on the possibility of moving to 5 days per week at the March 10th Regular Board Meeting.
- Elementary students may or may not have their currently assigned classroom teacher based on overall family modality requests. The District will need to realign staff accordingly based upon Quarter 3 family selection.
- **IMPORTANT** - As we navigate away from the Blended Model and increase the number of students in the classroom, the physical distance between students will be reduced. It would not be uncommon for students to be 2 to 3 ft from each other in the classroom due to the size of our classrooms and the number of students in each room. Safety mitigation practices will remain in place and carefully supported and monitored.
- Students who attend in-person that need to quarantine and/or test positive for COVID-19 will "live stream" into their in-person classroom for the duration of the quarantine/isolation period.

It is important that families understand their risk associated with the decreased physical distance provided in classrooms as we begin to phase-in and that this is taken into consideration as you make your Quarter 3 selection. Please review ***Certain Medical Conditions*** - [CDC](#).

It is vital that the collective community commit to safety mitigation practices while at home, in the community, and while at school. Families and students at every grade level should practice the same level of risk mitigation outside of



the school as they do in school. Not doing so will jeopardize our ability to offer increased levels of in person instruction.

## Whitefish Bay K4-5 In-Person Phase-in Timeline - Key Dates

1. **January 18 - Cumberland and Richards Elementary Families decide on Quarter 3 Modality -** In-person phase-in or fully virtual. Elementary students may or may not have their currently assigned classroom teacher based on overall family modality requests. We need to realign staff accordingly based upon family selection. More information will be coming from your school.
2. **January 26 -** Beginning of quarter three continuing in AA/BB Model and Virtual Option based upon quarter three family selection.
3. **February 1 - 4K - 1 (M,T,TH,F) 4-Days In-Person;** In-person sections at 4 days a week (asynchronous Wednesdays remain); Cohorts AA and BB as scheduled grades 2-5; Virtual option for all students remains in place.
4. **February 8 - 4K - 3 (M,T,TH,F) 4-Days In-Person;** In-person sections at 4 days a week (asynchronous Wednesdays remain); Cohorts AA and BB as scheduled grades 4-5; Virtual option for all students remains in place.
5. **February 15 - 4K - 5 (M,T,TH,F) 4-Days In-Person;** In-person sections at 4 days a week (asynchronous Wednesdays remain); Virtual option for all students remains in place.
6. **TBD -** In-person moves to 5 days a week, IF the District can sustain enrollment for dedicated VLT elementary teachers and staff no longer needs additional implementation time; The virtual option for all students remains in place.

## Commitment to Health and Safety

Please be reminded - Of greatest importance are to observe the [3 W's of prevention](#). Committing to these strategies in and out of school will allow the District to maintain an in-person modality option as much as possible throughout the pandemic. For more information on COVID-19, visit [District COVID -19 Safety & Communications page](#). Please also review the [FAQ from our Community Health Advisory Committee and the District](#) that addresses additional COVID-19 information and safety recommendations.

Please look for more information from your school. Thank you again for your ongoing flexibility and understanding as we work through the pandemic as a thoughtful and caring community.

Respectfully,

Dr. John W. Thomsen  
Superintendent of Schools