



1200 E. Fairmount Avenue Whitefish Bay, WI 53217

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[www.wfbschools.com](http://www.wfbschools.com)

February 11, 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 as we continue to thoughtfully navigate through the pandemic to best serve our school community. This communication has timely and important information regarding phase-in updates at the Elementary, Middle School and High School levels.

**Cumberland and Richards Elementary Schools** - The week of February 15th our elementary schools will welcome our 4th & 5th grade in-person learners as the last steps of the Elementary phase-in process. Thanks to our entire school community for your commitment to safety and mitigating COVID-19 risk.

**Whitefish Bay Middle School** - Last night, at the Regular Business Meeting, the School Board approved a plan to phase-in the Middle School to full in person learning while maintaining the virtual option for the Middle School. Key phase-in information and dates are identified below:

- **March 1st** - All 6th grade in person learners will attend in person (M,T,TH,F), while grade 7 & 8 will remain in the blended schedule. All students will remain asynchronous on Wednesdays.
- **March 8th** - All 6th & 7th grade in person learners will attend in person (M,T,TH,F) while grade 8 will remain in the blended schedule. All students will remain asynchronous on Wednesdays.
- **March 15th** - All 6th, 7th & 8th grade in person learners will attend in person (M,T,TH,F). All students will remain asynchronous on Wednesday.
- **Fully Virtual Students** - Those students with selected full virtual for the 3rd quarter will remain fully virtual.
- **Asynchronous Wednesdays at the Middle School** - As stated above, our in person learning will occur on four days per week (M,T,TH,F) with asynchronous learning for all on Wednesdays. Wednesdays will remain asynchronous at the Middle School moving forward. Since the District continues to offer a virtual learning option for families, staff will need to continue to instruct in the "blended" mode for the virtual students. This means that the expectations for 6-12 grade teachers to teach, live stream, and post lessons in the learning management system remains the same, as if we were in the "blended" mode. This year, there is also a need for additional planning and collaboration time, for special education teachers, classroom teachers, interventionists and English Learner staff to offer support services.

Specifics regarding the Whitefish Bay Middle School Phase-in Plan will be provided by Principal O'Connor and his leadership team directly to Middle School families in the near future.

**Whitefish Bay High School Phase-In Proposal** - On February 17th at 7 p.m. the District will hold a special meeting to review a High School Phase-In Plan proposal. The Board may take action on this plan on February 17th as well.

As communicated during the 3rd quarter modality selection process, 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 with all school decisions. Please review *Certain Medical Conditions* - [CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2020/s111920-cmc.html).



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**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 approximately 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.

The District continues to incorporate safety mitigation walkthroughs using protocol checklists co-developed with the Community Health Advisory Committee in order to monitor and support safety practices as we move to increase in person learning. School principals will continue to share the results of their findings with students, staff, and parents on a weekly basis. We all need to work together on safety.

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.

### **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 Updated 2/2/2021 from our Community Health Advisory Committee and the District](#) that addresses additional COVID-19 information and safety recommendations.

Should you have questions on the Phase-In Plan, please contact your school principal. 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