



1200 E. Fairmount Avenue Whitefish Bay, WI 53217

P: 414-963-3921 F: 414-963-3959

www.wfbschools.com

October 16, 2020

Greetings Whitefish Bay Families,

I hope this message finds you well. On behalf of our School Board and District staff, we want to begin by sending a message of appreciation and gratitude for the extraordinary flexibility and commitment to maintain both in-person and virtual learning. The ongoing support families have demonstrated for each other and our staff is greatly appreciated. We also want to continue to encourage everyone to follow all safety protocols as this has allowed us to sustain a level of in-person learning during the first quarter. I also want to thank our staff as this work is incredibly difficult and has taken a team effort since our planning began in the spring.

Quarter Two Decisions - On Wednesday night (10/14/20) the School Board approved continuing Quarter #2 in the blended AA/BB model with the virtual option. Families have until October 19th to make an instruction mode change for the rest of the semester one. As we have already communicated through the school principal newsletters, this is being done at the school level. You only have to work through this process should you desire a change in instructional modality for your student(s). These changes may result in a few staffing modifications based upon family choices.

Phase-in Plan Forthcoming - While not recommended at this time, the School Board is interested in having administration develop a "phase-in plan" that will allow more students to attend in person, once the COVID-19 data signals doing so would be stable and sustainable over time. We will be working on that plan in the very near future and will keep you updated as we move forward.

Community Health Advisory Ad Hoc Committee - We continue to work with the Community Health Advisory Ad Hoc Committee on reviewing and revising the COVID-19 gating metrics, safety protocols, and COVID-19 community education. Please also know that staff and student safety and operational sustainability remain priorities. We invite you to the [COVID-19 Safety and District Communications](#) portion of our website where our weekly dashboard is located, as well as other safety and metrics information.

Policy Modifications - The School Board also approved updates/changes to [Policy 453.7 Face Masks/Coverings](#). These changes reflect the latest research and direction on mask safety mitigation (see below), as well as recommendations from our Community Health Advisory Committee.

The policy changes include:

1. Neck gaiters, bandanas, single-layer paper masks, and masks with valves are not acceptable for indoor use.



Whitefish Bay

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2. If neck gaiters are used outside, they are to be made out of cotton material, 2-3 layers, or in a combination with a synthetic blend.
3. Paper face masks acceptable for use should be disposable, 3-layer masks and considered for single use only.
4. Voluntary use of N95 respirators (valveless) during the COVID-19 pandemic will be allowed (not provided by the District). If an employee chooses to provide and wear their own N95 mask, they should be aware of the following:
 - a. N95 masks work to their specified filtration rate when properly fitted through fit testing.
 - b. Individuals should consult their healthcare provider before wearing an N95 respirator to consider possible risk.
5. Face Shields can be used in conjunction with a face covering.

Community Commitment to Safety - Thank you for your ongoing cooperation and commitment to safety for our school community. Our goal is to sustain in person learning during the COVID-19 era, and a collective commitment to mask wearing is part of our strategy to do so. Should you have any questions please feel free to reach out to your school principal (see related links/information below).

Thank You - As I visit classrooms and schools, I am deeply humbled by the commitment of our team, the attention to safety of our students, and am continuously reminded that Whitefish Bay School District is an exceptional place to learn due to the entire school community continuing to work together during these difficult times.

Until next time - be well,

Dr. John W. Thomsen
District Administrator

- [Masks Save Lives: Duke Study Confirms Which Ones Work Best](#)
- [Do NOT Use a Mask With a Filtered Valve \(It Can Spread COVID-19\)](#)