



1200 E. Fairmount Avenue Whitefish Bay, WI 53217

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

www.wfbschools.com

February 18, 2021

Greetings Whitefish Bay School Community and Staff,

I would like to offer our continued thanks and appreciation to District 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 the High School Phase-In Plan. There are Elementary and Middle School updates and reminders as well.

Whitefish Bay High School Phase-In Proposal Approved - Last night at the Special Meeting, the School Board approved the High School Phase-In Plan beginning March 1, 2021. Students who are currently in the blended modality will phase-in according to the timeline below. All students will have the opportunity to change their modality at the start of the fourth quarter. The virtual option for all students remains in place. Below contains key dates of the High School Phase-In Plan.

- **3/1/21 - In Person Grade 12 (M,T,TH,F) & Cohorts AA and BB as scheduled Grades 9-11**
- **3/8/21 - In Person Grades 9 and 12 (M,T,TH,F) & Cohorts AA and BB as scheduled Grades 10-11**
- **3/15/21 - In Person Grade 9-12 (M,T,TH,F)**

Asynchronous Wednesdays at the High 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 High 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 9-12 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 High School Phase-in Plan will be provided by Principal Amy Levek and her leadership team directly to High School families in the near future.

Cumberland and Richards Elementary Schools - This week our elementary schools took the last steps of the Elementary phase-in process. Thanks to our entire elementary school community for your commitment to safety and mitigating COVID-19 risk in all settings.

Whitefish Bay Middle School - As previously communicated, the School Board approved a plan to phase-in the Middle School to in person learning while maintaining the virtual option for the Middle School beginning March 1, 2021. As in the High school Plan, the Middle School will take three weeks to completely phase in all students. Please see the previous District Communication [HERE](#).



1200 E. Fairmount Avenue Whitefish Bay, WI 53217

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

www.wfbschools.com

Important - It is vital that families understand and review their risk associated with the decreased physical distance provided in classrooms as we continue to phase-in at all levels and that this is taken into consideration with your school decisions. Please review *Certain Medical Conditions* - [CDC](#).

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 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.

Safety Protocol Walk-Throughs - 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.

Collective Commitment - 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.

Self-Screening - It remains essential that all school community members use [the CDC self-screening checklists](#) on a daily basis prior to coming to school. Stay home if you feel sick or are symptomatic, and get tested.

Commitment to Health and Safety - Please be reminded 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, 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