

WEST DEPTFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT

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March 4, 2021

Dear West Deptford Families:

The West Deptford School District remains committed to facilitating a reopening of school, five days a week, for all students as soon as possible. Last week, the district successfully transitioned to Phase II and solidified all plans for a positive shift to Phase III on April 12, 2021. As vaccinations are now being distributed, per [the Department of Health weekly report](#), our status in Gloucester County has gone from orange (high activity level) to yellow (moderate activity level), it is time to prepare for the return of full day instruction five days a week. The information below outlines the details pertaining to **Phase III and the announcement of a tentative final Phase IV** learning model to tentatively begin on April 26, 2021.

Phase II:

Our current learning plan, **Phase II**, will continue through April 1, 2021.

Phase III:

Beginning April 12 - April 23, **Phase III** of our learning plan will be as follows:

- Mondays - Thursdays: All schools will expand the in-person instructional schedule
 - OV: 8:35 am - 3:10 pm (in-person)
 - RB: 8:40 am - 3:15 pm (in-person)
 - GF: 8:50 am - 3:25 pm (in-person and virtual: live streaming)
 - WDMS: 7:45 am - 2:37 pm (in-person and virtual: live streaming)
 - WDHS: 7:15 am - 1:49 pm (in-person and virtual: live streaming)
- Fridays: All schools will continue with the 4-hour instructional schedule for in-person or live streaming
 - Cohort A and B will alternate attending in-person instruction on Fridays.
 - OV: 8:35 am - 12:35pm (in-person)
 - RB: 8:40 am - 12:40 pm (in-person)
 - GF: 8:50 am - 12:50 pm (in-person and virtual: live streaming)
 - WDMS: 7:55 am - 11:55 am (in-person and virtual: live streaming)
 - WDHS: 7:15 am - 11:16 am (in-person and virtual: live streaming)
- Cohort A and B will continue attending school on their current assigned cohort days and will continue to alternate attending in-person instruction on Fridays. *(See charts below)*
- Cohort C will attend school five days a week. *(See charts below)*
- Cohort D will continue with live virtual instruction.
- PreK - 2 will have asynchronous instruction when not attending in-person instruction.
- PreK - 4 will eat their breakfast, snack, and lunch in their classroom.
- PreK - 4 will receive live instruction from their special area teachers.
- Grades 3 -12 will livestream instruction on their virtual days.
- We are still under recommendation to social distance, to wear face coverings, and to limit large group gatherings.

PRIDE, PASSION, AND A COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE

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- The Young Eagles Program will continue to operate their current schedule during Phase III. Hybrid daycare billing will be reduced to reflect the extended in-person instruction.
- All families still have the option to select the full virtual model (cohort D) when we transition to Phase III.

Below is a quick reference regarding the cohort assignments for Fridays in Phase III:

Phase III: Grades PreK - 2

Day of the Week	In-Person	Asynchronous
Friday, April 16	A & C	B & D
Friday, April 23	B & C	A & D

Phase III: Grades 3-12

Day of the Week	In-Person	Virtual (Live Streaming)
Friday, April 16	A & C	B & D
Friday, April 23	B & C	A & D

Phase IV:

We tentatively anticipate our next transition, Phase IV, to begin on Monday, April 26th. Phase IV will be the collapsing of Cohort A, B, and C for in-person instruction. Phase IV will allow students to attend in-person learning for five full days of instruction a week. Note: If you do not want your child to attend school in-person, a full virtual model (Cohort D) will still be available for the remainder of the school year.

Below are details pertaining to in-person instruction during Phase IV:

- Please know that students will most likely not sit 6' from each other, and plexiglass barriers may or may not be used.
- The wearing of masks will still be required by all individuals that enter the building.
- Lunches:
 - Students in grade PreK-8 will eat lunch in the cafeteria.
 - Students in grade 9-12 will have various locations available to eat during their unit lunch. (Cafeteria, Auxiliary Gym and Outdoors)
- Principals will be sharing their school's individual Phase IV plan which will provide details in regards to the use of PPE.
- If you do not want your child to attend school in-person, a full virtual model (Cohort D) will still be available for the remainder of the school year.
- Please know that students **may not be able** to social distance while riding the school bus. All students will be required to wear a mask while riding the bus. Parents will still have the option to drive their student to and from school if they choose.
- Due to the return of five day a week, full day instruction, the Young Eagles Program will eliminate daycare when Phase IV begins and return to the traditional before and after school program.

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Please note: In order for the overall plan to be developed successfully, we will need an accurate number of students who will be changing from their current model to another as soon as possible. Your child's building principal will be sending out information on March 8th:

- **Elementary Schools - Families that have students in the elementary level will be asked to complete a confirmation survey to indicate their plans for Phase III and IV. This survey will be included in the email sent by the elementary principals on March 8th. This will allow parents/guardians to change their child(ren)'s cohort selection for Phase III (beginning April 12th) and Phase IV (beginning April 26 - the remainder of the year). We ask families that will be making such a change to notify the elementary principals through the confirmation survey.**
- **Middle School/High School - The middle/high school principals will send their own correspondence out as well on March 8th which will provide details allowing parents the opportunity to change their child's cohort for Phase III and IV. Please respond NO LATER than March 10th if making a change to your child's Phase III or Phase IV cohort.**

Our district is grateful for the support of the community and we are excited to offer the above transition to our students. We look forward to the opportunities the next phases of our instruction will bring. **Please be on the lookout for an email on March 8th from your child's building principal.** If you have any additional questions or concerns, please contact your child's building principal.

Thank you,

Greg Cappello
Superintendent