

WEST DEPTFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Dear Parents & Guardians:

I would like to provide you with an update on the status of our schools/in-person learning. As a community, we could not be more proud of our district-wide reopening. Our students and staff surpassed our expectations and demonstrated their eagerness to remain committed to excellence as we transitioned from fully virtual to hybrid instruction.

As you may know, we have taken many steps to get (and keep) our buildings open. However, as you are undoubtedly aware, COVID-19 cases have been steadily on the rise when comparing week over week data. As an administrative team, we monitor the case count nationwide, statewide, countywide, and also in our West Deptford community. As such, it is not surprising that we have had to make recent notifications to families and staff about some positive cases in our school community.

Many of you have observed the need for closures in our neighboring districts and we are asking for families to be prepared in the event that school closures are needed. The district administrative team is working behind the scenes to make preparations and we ask parents to do the same. It is especially important for families with young children to explore their options for childcare should a sudden switch to virtual instruction be required five days a week for all students. This decision very well may be out of the hands of district officials. We understand your frustration and how hard this is as a parent.

We will do our very best to give you as much notice as possible if we need to shift to virtual; however, there are several factors that could contribute to a district-wide closure on short notice. For example, as we have seen in other districts, we could potentially be hit with a large number of new cases in a single day or we may lack staff due to positive cases or the need to quarantine. If either of these situations were to occur, we may need to revert to a fully remote schedule on very short notice.

Please know we will continue to monitor these situations and will be vigilant at all times to make decisions based on keeping the health of our students and staff at the forefront.

In closing, I know it has been a difficult time for students and families over the past few days, weeks, and months. While we may have more difficult days ahead of us I want to extend my appreciation to the West Deptford community for your support and willingness to come together in times of adversity. All of my best for continued good health and well-being.

Very respectfully,

Gregory J. Cappello, Esq.
Superintendent of Schools

PRIDE, PASSION, AND A COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE