



WOODHAVEN-BROWNSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Learning and Leading for Tomorrow

Administration Offices and Board of Education

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Mark Greathead
Superintendent

July 1, 2020

Dear Woodhaven-Brownstown School District Families and Community,

Yesterday, Governor Whitmer released the MI Safe Schools: Michigan's 2020-21 Return to School Roadmap. A link to the Roadmap is available on our (newly redesigned) District website, under our COVID-19 Resource Center. In short, all school districts are required to develop three (3) sets of plans, and implement them based on the status of their region (we are currently in Phase 4):

- Phases 1/2/3: No in-person instruction, remote learning only
- Phase 4: In-person instruction with required safety protocols
- Phase 5: In-person instruction with minimal required safety protocols

As you know, our first priority in the WBSD is the health and safety of our students and staff. I believe that the Roadmap presented affords us the direction, guidance, and flexibility to safely **return our students and staff to classrooms this fall!** Based on the guidelines presented, it's clear there will be a variety of requirements for us to implement, dependent upon the phase we are in come September.

For the primary reason of having the opportunity to educate all of our students in their least restrictive environments, it is my hope that, as a region, we are able to soon move to Phase 5 and maintain that (or better) throughout the upcoming school year.

A considerable amount of work has been done in the District up to now, brainstorming possible school scenarios and health/safety protocols for the fall. We will now begin applying that work, in conjunction with the results from our recent parent and teacher surveys, to develop the WBSD Return to Learning Plans. A summary of the parent survey results are also available on our (newly redesigned) District website, under our COVID-19 Resource Center.

It is anticipated that there will be considerable costs associated with all schools' safe and responsible Return to Learning Plans. These costs are going to impact districts across the state during a time in which significant dollars are projected to be cut from school budgets due to the economic impact of COVID-19. For the WBSD, to simply maintain a "status quo" educational program for the coming school year, we would have to operate with a nearly \$5 million deficit budget. It is for these reasons that I will continue to

advocate for educational funding priorities and additional stimulus dollars from our elected officials, both in Lansing and in Congress. The greatest travesty would be to develop a set of Return to Learning Plans that prioritizes the health and safety of our students and staff, and not receive the funding to implement it.

I am forever grateful to the WBSD families and community for their patience and kind words of support over the last few months. There will be more information to share in the coming weeks as we work through drafts and begin to finalize our Return to Learning Plans. As a reminder, please do not hesitate to reach out to us at wbsdcares@wbsdweb.com should you have any needs that we can help with.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer; I am looking forward to seeing all of our students very soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Greathead". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M".

Mark Greathead
Superintendent
Woodhaven-Brownstown School District