



# WOODHAVEN-BROWNSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Learning and Leading for Tomorrow

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## Administration Offices and Board of Education

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Mark Greathead  
Superintendent

July 23, 2020

Dear Woodhaven-Brownstown School District Families and Community,

I hope this communication finds you and your families safe, healthy, and enjoying the summer. I know you have many questions regarding our return for the 2020/21 school year; my hope is that this letter provides some answers, using the best information that is available as of today. At the end of this letter, you will find a link to a survey which will provide us feedback that will be helpful to us as we finalize our return to learning plans.

### [MI Safe Schools: Michigan's 2020-21 Return to School Roadmap](#)

Governor Whitmer, on June 30, released her Return to School Roadmap. It provides significant guidance for preK-12 public schools in the form of “Requirements”, “Strong Recommendations”, and “Recommendations” in the areas of Safety Protocols, Mental & Social-Emotional Health, Instruction, and Operations. Highlights of the Roadmap include:

- Phases 1-3: 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
- Phase 6: In-person instruction with a return to pre-pandemic protocols

We are currently developing the WBSD plan for Phases 1-3, Phase 4, and Phase 5 and aligning it to the MI Return to School Roadmap. More than 90 individuals, representing school administration, teachers, support staff, and parents, are engaged in “task force” meetings to develop these plans for an eventual recommendation to our Board of Education.

Please keep in mind, we are working through many of the logistics associated with a safe return to school. The options and concepts listed below are not meant to be exhaustive, but rather illustrative to give families a general sense of what to expect when we start the 2020-21 school year. Above all else, we’re doing our best to be *flexible* (options to meet student and family needs) and *nimble* (being prepared to quickly transition from one educational model to another).

### **Monday through Friday, In-Person Instruction**

The WBSD plan, at this time, will be to provide safe and educationally sound, full-day, in-person instruction, in compliance with the Roadmap, to the students of the WBSD, when school starts on Tuesday, September 8.

We will also offer, by request, an on-line learning option. One of the charges of the Instruction task force is to implement an on-line learning option that is robust, aligned to our curriculum, supported by our teachers, and fully engages our students in their education.

Some school districts had earlier announced hybrid learning models (every-other day, half-day, etc.), and some school districts more recently have announced that they will start the school year by only providing an on-line learning option. However, we recognize the burden this would place on many families in terms of work schedules and childcare.

Our plan of providing in-person instruction is naturally contingent upon our being allowed to do so (per state leadership) and our ability to do so safely, in compliance with all requirements. As parents and families consider their learning options for this fall, please keep the following in mind, especially if we start the school year in the current Phase 4:

### **Masks**

In Phase 4, face coverings are required for all staff and all students in grades 6-12. They are required of students in grade preK-5 when they leave their classrooms and enter common areas, such as hallways; and are strongly recommended when in the classroom. All students and staff on WBSD buses will be required to wear a face covering. Face coverings will be required for visitors to WBSD schools. We recognize that some students and staff may have medical conditions that prevent the use of masks. Those situations will be handled on a case-by-case, and confidential, basis.

### **Social Distancing**

While six feet of social distancing is strongly recommended, and preferred, it will not be possible in every WBSD classroom and hallway. Our operations department is working with building administration to creatively maximize space within classrooms.

### **Transportation**

Transportation will be provided to WBSD students as it has in the past. Students and staff will be required to wear face coverings when riding the bus. Cleaning protocols for our buses may have an impact on bus stop times; if choosing to utilize WBSD transportation, please check bus stop times carefully (when available) as they will likely change from what they were in the past.

### **Cleaning and Hygiene Protocols**

Even before the MI Return to School Roadmap came out, the WBSD was planning for more stringent cleaning and hygiene protocols. Every building in the district has been equipped with an electrostatic sprayer for use in daily classroom sanitization. All classrooms and common areas are being outfitted with hand sanitizer stations. Additional cleaning and hygiene protocols, as required by the Roadmap, are being planned for and implemented.

Over the next few weeks, the WBSD Return to School Task Force will be finalizing our district's plan. It will provide detailed information regarding the topics in this letter, as well as others. For example, the MI Return to School Roadmap requires school districts to follow direction from the local health department regarding procedures when a student or staff member is positively diagnosed with COVID-19. That direction has not yet been made available, but when it is, it will be widely communicated and strictly followed.

To further help us with our planning, please visit [www.wbsd.co](http://www.wbsd.co) for our Parent Survey – Return to School. An assumption and common understanding that I hope we share is that during this pandemic, things change quickly (back on June 30, the belief was that we would be in Phase 5 for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July). Therefore, your responses should reflect your current feelings. Please know, we're not asking for a commitment at this time.

Let me close by including a reminder of the three (3) most important things we can all do to prevent the spread of this virus: wear a mask, practice social distancing, and regularly wash hands. All of us, doing our part, is the best chance our children have at receiving the best educational experience possible – both in the classroom and through their extra-curricular endeavors.

Sincerely,



Mark Greathead  
Superintendent  
Woodhaven-Brownstown School District