

NEW MILFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of the Superintendent

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Dr. Kerry Parker
Superintendent of Schools

June 29, 2020

Dear NMPS Family,

We've been thinking of you and hope your summer is off to a great start. As you may know by now, Governor Lamont announced Connecticut's plan for the reopening of schools in the fall. Given the positive health data in the State, guidelines have been developed under the premise that **all of our students will be coming back to school in the fall.**

The Commissioner of Education has asked us to develop three separate phases to be ready for implementation based on local public health issues. This "ramping down" plan would only be implemented if there was a local resurgence of COVID-19 cases. It has been communicated to us by the State that the new guidelines will indicate the public health conditions that would trigger a movement down into phase 2 and 3.

Phase 1: All students coming back to school in the fall, implementing guidelines (below).

Phase 2: Creating a hybrid model (some in school time and some distance learning).

Phase 3: All students on distance learning.

In the guidance received, there is reference to an option for families to stay on remote learning only, particularly for students who are immunocompromised.

The guidelines from the State include the following components:

1. **PPE:** Students and staff are required to wear facemasks when social distancing cannot be maintained, including on the bus.
2. **CLEANING AND DISINFECTION:** Implementing cleaning and disinfection guidelines as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control.
3. **HANDWASHING:** Frequently throughout the day. Making disinfectant available when hand washing is not possible.
4. **SOCIAL DISTANCING:** To the greatest extent possible.
5. **COHORTING:** Keeping students in a cohort (group of students stays together) as much as possible, K-8. Because of the complexity of 9-12, it is not logistically possible. The focus would be to mitigate any opportunities for congregation.

I am attaching three documents from the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) regarding the reopening plan: [Adapt, Advance, Achieve: Connecticut's Plan to Learn and Grow Together](#), [Reopening Executive Summary](#) and [Reopening Slides](#).

Our leadership team will be looking at these guidelines to discuss implications for operations both logistically and financially. This information will help in our planning and allow us to meet the specific needs and goals of our community. All guidance from the State will also be shared with our Envisioning the 2020-21 School Year advisory team, whose work has begun. Further, every district is required to submit their local plan to the State by July 24th. There is a significant amount of detail, consideration, and scenario planning that will happen over the next few weeks, and we will send updates as we move forward with our work.

This week, we will be sending you a survey regarding the August 2020 reopening. Your feedback will be very helpful as we formulate the reopening plans. I thank you in advance for your participation and partnership as we work to find balance between safety, learning, and practicality.

Stay well.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kerry Parker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kerry" and last name "Parker" clearly distinguishable.

Kerry Parker