

Wolcott Public Schools

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HOW PARENTS CAN CHOOSE TO OPT OUT OF IN-SCHOOL LEARNING

Date: August 4, 2020

Overview: Governor Lamont's "Adapt, Advance, Achieve" plan for reopening Connecticut's schools allows parents who are concerned about their child's safety to temporarily keep their child home for distance learning. It is very important for parents to know that no distance learning format can be a perfect replacement for in-class learning. Distance learning will be overseen by a Wolcott Public Schools teacher.

District-wide Information for All Schools:

- Parents are encouraged to ensure proper supervision of their child and to support their regular attendance and participation in the distance learning activities.
- Participation in distance learning is voluntary at the discretion of the parents and should not be considered a one-to-one replacement for in-class learning.
- Contact time, resources, and materials may be different in the distance learning version of a class compared to the in-school version.
- It is possible that the distance learning teacher for a particular grade will be different than the one that your child would have for in-class learning. For example, distance learning students from the same grade who would normally attend Alcott, Frisbie, and Wakelee may be grouped into the same distance learning class.
- The State of Connecticut will expect all schools to track attendance of students participating in distance learning.
- If any statewide testing is mandated this year (SBAC, SAT) students may be mandated to take these tests in person at school (unless the State approves exceptions).
- For the reasons stated above, we very strongly urge parents to make their decision for a full marking period. We cannot promise that if students frequently switch from distance learning to in-class learning that their learning experience will be consistent.
- Google Classroom will continue to be the district's primary hub for distance learning. There will be a mix of synchronous and asynchronous learning activities:
 - Synchronous: teachers and students log into a Google Meet simultaneously for direct instruction and discussion.
 - Asynchronous: teacher creates and posts assignments and projects for students to work on flexibly. Teacher is available for one-on-one and small group support.
- School districts are awaiting further guidance from the State on the provision of special education services to students whose parents choose to keep them home.

Specific Information for Tyrrell School:

- A request form will be sent to all parents in the district for this purpose. Names of those students who will opt out will be sent to each school principal. **Mrs. Maia or Ms. Angelone** will follow up with parents for further information.
- Students who chose to opt-out may be required to follow their same schedule attending their classes virtually.
- Attendance will be taken each day in each class.
- Students should have a quiet space at home to conduct their virtual learning.

For questions that cannot be answered by your school principal, please contact Central Office by emailing: reopen@wolcottps.org

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