

Tyrrell Middle School

Joseph Norcross, Principal

Tier II Hybrid Model

Week 1- September 8-11

As previously communicated by Wolcott Public Schools, the first week of school for students has been moved to the week of Labor Day (September 8-11). The first day for students in Group 1 will be Tuesday, September 8th, and students in group 2 will attend their first day on Wednesday, September 9th. Please refer to the email list of student groupings.

Due to Chromebooks not being handed out until week two, students will not be required to participate from home when not in school during week one.

September 8th-11th will be early dismissal days with students being dismissed at 12:35. As in past years, lunch will not be provided to students on early dismissal days.

Plan for Arrival to School

Student Arrival Plan

****In order for students to enter the building, they must be wearing a face covering that covers both their mouth and nose.***

Parent Drop Off:

- Parent drop off will still take place at the gym/auditorium entrance
- Parent drop off begins at 7:45, and students must go directly to homeroom
 - Students will not be allowed entry into the building until 7:45 so please plan accordingly
- We anticipate more parent transportation taking place than in past years, so we ask that you please be considerate and have your child exit the car from a parking space rather than the sidewalk to alleviate traffic backing up into Todd Road
- We will have two adults (ideally our School Resource Officer and a faculty member) working to control traffic and ensure students safely move from parent cars to sidewalk
- Students must report directly to homeroom
 - Teachers will be stationed in hallways and stairwells to assure students space properly and report directly to homeroom upon arrival

Bus Students

- Students taking the bus will be released from buses at 7:45 and must report directly to homeroom
- Unlike past years, both front main entrances will now be utilized for dropping students bused to school in an effort to promote proper distancing.

- There will be no congregating in common areas, cafe, hallways, etc. as this would defeat the purpose of the strict cohorting of students that we have established
- Once in the building mask coverage over mouth and nose must remain in place at all times with the exception strategic mask breaks scheduled within the day
- Attendance will be taken in homeroom promptly at 7:55 before morning announcements begin
- Wednesday is a remote learning day (please refer to explanation of hybrid plan below)
- We are working in earnest to minimize contact and exposure to those who are not students, faculty, and staff, therefore, visitors are not permitted into the building unless they are coming to the school for a scheduled appointment; most meetings will be held virtually to begin the year.
 - If a parent is dropping off a student item, they must do so at the main entrance, and our security aide, Mr. Ackerman, will greet you at the door and receive the item being dropped so that no entry to the building is made
 - A vestibule is being constructed that will have a drop off drawer (much like a bank drive through) so that parents will be able to interact with our security aide and drop items through the drawer and intercom system. This will likely be completed within the first few weeks of school
 - Cubbies and storage spaces in the back of each classroom will not be utilized to begin the year. Unlike past years, students are allowed to keep their backpacks/bags with them at their desk on the floor

Classroom Expectations

Given the size of the middle school population and the frequency of transitions under our normal schedule/operating procedures, our operations/carrying out of our school day has been altered significantly. In doing so, our primarily goal is the health and safety of our students, faculty, and staff. These alterations to protocol and operations places an emphasis on cohorting students in groups of 8-10 with no sharing of classroom space with other students. Teachers will move cohort to cohort, and students will remain with the same students in the same classroom as a means to minimize unnecessary exposure to additional teachers and students.

In the spirit of minimizing the number of people your child will interact with on a daily basis, World Language and Unified Arts will be taught virtually, and band and chorus will focus on music theory with some opportunity for virtual lessons.

As has been previously communicated, only 50% of the student population will be in attendance at any one time, and students have been cohorted into two groups (please refer to emails sent to you the afternoon of August 21st)

Tyrrell Middle School will follow recommended protocols including:

- Mandatory wearing of masks covering both the mouth and nose
- Maximizing social distancing in classrooms, hallways, during mask breaks, and lunch periods
 - Every cohort that students have been divided into consists of 8-10 students

with the exception of one cohort of 12

- Desks in each classroom are set up so each student is sitting a minimum of 6 feet from any other student
- Students will not be passing from room to room. Teachers will be the ones to move while we are operating under the COVID related Tier models
- Students will be provided with am/pm bathroom breaks in which teachers walk cohorts to bathrooms to ensure appropriate spaced transition to lavatory areas and limit the number of students in the area at one time.
- Hand sanitizer dispensers and towels have been provided for each classroom
 - All faculty and staff are expected to follow proper sanitizing and hygiene practices while in the classroom

Hybrid Model:

- Students will attend class in person two days a week and attend all classes remotely two days a week
- While participating on remote learning days (opposite cohort in attendance at school), students are expected to follow their individual **cohort schedule** while working from home.
 - In doing so, every student who is participating remotely is expected to attend their class' digital live stream (through Google Meet) according to their cohort schedule. Therefore, students will be required to participate in the live lesson while learning from home on off days, and therefore have an opportunity to interact in real time with classmates and the teacher even on days when his/her cohort is not in attendance at school.
 - Teachers will share information as to how students can accomplish this for each class during our first four days of school (half days)
 - We have made every effort to equally balance the number of students in each individual cohort
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 - We have placed a priority on honoring parent requests as to which student grouping their child was placed in and keeping siblings in the same grouping days. At this time, classrooms and cohorts are set and changes cannot be made.
- Wednesdays are remote learning days. Each teacher will provide office hours (to be communicated to students by each individual teacher). Office hours will afford students and teachers an opportunity to answer questions, work with individual students or small groups to reteach or remediate a skill or concept students may be struggling with.
- The middle school will be following a schedule that has been slightly adjusted to accommodate our Tier II Hybrid Model. You can access the adjusted full day schedule via the following link:
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1GEmHnfKughqK9xXkcHmYSwOD-8jUyQQdLYdpD-kLzuU/edit?usp=sharing>
- The first four days of school (September 8-11) will be shortened days, and you can access the Tier II Hybrid shortened day schedule via the following link:
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1xR-nshcMCLPoz-Jb-IFLBfZt0d9iepEaCpxiL LxKKT0/edit?usp=sharing>

- As in past years, **lunch will not be provided** for students on shortened days

Health and Safety Practices:

- Face masks are required: students and teachers will wear masks at all times and observe social distancing protocols. Please refer to the Facemask protocol letter emailed on the afternoon of Friday August 7th. You may access the letter via the following link:
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Whmqy0IOkZB1XtPBUgrUhh3xPyhZbNBTKcEHyAHmqUc/edit?usp=sharing>
- If a student refuses to wear a face covering in school or on the school bus, a building administrator will meet with that student and discuss the importance of wearing a face covering for their protection and the protection of others.
- Parents are strongly encouraged to send their child to school with a **backup/extra mask** in their bag in case of breakage or soilage during the academic day
- Wearing a mask protects the health and safety of the school and community; refusing to wear a face covering could result in disciplinary consequences.
 - The principal or designee will contact the family and define expectations and share that they have spoken with their child
 - Students are expected to bring their own masks, however if a student forgets their face covering the school can provide one
- Students and staff are encouraged to wash hands/use sanitizer frequently. Hand sanitizers are located in every classroom and in hallways throughout the building.
- Students will not be moving classrooms, but rather, teachers will do the moving and transitioning in an effort to limit student contact outside of homeroom cohorts.
- Visitation from non-student, non-faculty staff will be limited to appointment only and virtual in nature to the greatest extent possible
- Students will keep all their materials at their desk in their backpacks. Students will not be using cubbies as they have done in the past.

Instructional Expectations

During implementation of our COVID Tiers of operation, instructional practices will shift to limit student-to-student and teacher-to-student contact and proximity during in-person learning.

- All classes will be heavily reliant on digital resources to facilitate both in person and at home learning (i.e. Google Classroom) while reducing the need for personal contact and work in close proximity.
- On off days when the opposite student cohort is present for in person learning, students who are home learning for the day are expected to attend their cohort schedule at the prescribed times (as if they were in school following their schedule) while engaged in at home learning to take advantage of live streaming of classes, as well as daily engagement with teacher and classmates
- While participating from home, students are expected to submit classwork as if they were present and attending in school. If they are experiencing difficulty with understanding something within the lesson they should utilize the chat feature to ask questions or take advantage of opportunities when teachers ask if any students at home would like clarification or to ask a question.

- All core academic classes will be live streamed for synchronous learning while World Language, Unified Arts and Literacy Lab will be implemented virtually to begin the year
- Wednesdays will be a remote learning day for all students. Teachers will be available for office hours and to work with individual or small groups of students to address difficulties with conceptual understandings or skill development. Students can use this day and office hour times to reach out to teachers with any difficulties or questions
- Teachers may take the initiative and schedule students to attend their office hour(s) if they determine that a student's needs remediation/reteaching of a skill or concept

Chromebooks:

- The district will have a one to one policy for chromebooks this year. Students will be assigned a chromebook and charger if they need one.
- Students are allowed to use their own personal device (Chromebook, Windows or Apple Laptop).
- The district will be sending out information on policy and insurance in the future.
- Students will be assigned a Chromebook in the second week of school.
- Students are to bring their Chromebook to school fully-charged everyday. They will also take them home at the end of the day.
- Google classroom codes will be distributed by teachers in the first few weeks of school.
- Any inappropriate use of technology will be immediately reported to administration.

Special Education:

- Special education services will be coordinated through the case managers for in-person and voluntary remote learning. Dedicated staff will be assigned to meet IEP hours and services.

Breakfast and Lunch

The Wolcott Public Schools Food Service Department will be providing breakfast and lunch on full day schedules. On early dismissal days (September 8-11) lunch will not be provided to students (this is the same as early dismissal days in past years).

While operating under the Tier II Hybrid Model:

- All tables have been removed from the cafeteria, and have been replaced with desks that have been spaced so every student will be at a minimum six feet apart
- Teachers will walk students to and from the cafeteria in single file lines in which students are adequately spaced moving to and from the cafeteria
- Students will be encouraged to hand wash or hand sanitize before leaving the grade level area to be walked down to the cafeteria
- Students will go to assigned desks and called by cohort in limited numbers to limit student interaction.
- Students will be given laminated barcodes which will be scanned by cafeteria staff so that students will not be required to touch a pin pad to pay for lunch. It is the student responsibility to make sure they have their barcode everyday they are buying lunch.

- One hot choice and one non-heated meal choice will be offered to students daily

Dismissal

- Dismissal will begin at 2:26
- Students who are receiving rides (i.e. parent pickup) will be dismissed first
 - **Parent pick up will take place in the gym side parking lot** and these students will exit through the gym side/auditorium entrance/exit area
 - Parents/Guardians are to park in the parking spaces. Students will cross via the crosswalk to the cars. We ask parents to remain in their cars as well.
- Students who are transported via buses will be dismissed as each bus arrives. This will limit the number of students in the hallway at one time (traditionally we have dismissed the entire student body at one time)
- Both main exits in the front of the building will be utilized to minimize the number of students in each hallway
- Walkers will be dismissed once all buses have loaded and left school property

After School Activities

All Tyrrell Middle School after school extracurricular athletics and activities have been cancelled until at least October 2nd