

WOODSTOCK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Dear Families and Friends:

Over the past 4 months we have worked tirelessly to keep our schools open responsibly while exceeding minimum expectations to put health and safety first for our school community.

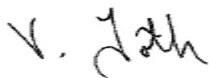
As we head into the winter holiday season it is more important than ever that we all remain vigilant and redouble our efforts to prevent the further spread of COVID-19. As the weather has gotten colder, and we are all now breathing the same air, transmission rates in our state, county, town and schools have increased across the board.

Our schools are only as healthy as our community, and in school transmission is a very real possibility, especially for our adult population. Woodstock schools employ nearly 140 staff, who interact with our students daily. These individuals, like the general population, have a variety of risk factors which increase the possibility of significant complications if they were to become infected.

Given the importance of keeping everyone safe and healthy, combined with the inevitable surge of cases following the holiday break, we will return to virtual learning beginning on January 4 through January 8, 2021. It is everyone's hope that we can return to our hybrid learning model on Monday, January 11, 2021.

It is only natural to see the hopeful images of vaccines being distributed around the country and think that the worst is over. However, universal availability of these vaccines is still months away and will do little to stem the tide of increasing infections over the coming winter months. I, as many of you, have witnessed firsthand the impact of COVID-19 on both friends and family. We are obligated to ensure the safety of our two most precious resources, your children and our staff. It is hoped that this additional precaution will allow everyone to return successfully on January 11, with the hope that our schools can move forward into a hopeful future of uninterrupted learning for the remainder of the school year.

Sincerely,



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