



August 19, 2020

Dear students, staff, families and community,

Gearing up for this new school year is very different from the usual hustle and bustle that brings so much excitement. I miss that kind of busy, but the good news is we have our plan in place and it was approved by the School Board on Tuesday. I will post the plan on our website next week. Schools will be sharing schedules with you next week and sharing dates for informational meetings and communication by schools. Elementary teacher assignments will be mailed August 26th. Class schedules will be available to students on September 3rd. We have coordinated the following communication timeline to avoid inundating families with too much information all at once:

- District-wide communication from the Superintendent via robocall and email every Wednesday at 5:45 p.m.
- Pre-School Communication: A letter will be sent to families next week.
- Elementary Communication:
 - The Reopening Family Plan and Reopening Staff Plan will be shared via video on Thursday, August 20th
 - Class placements will be mailed on August 26th.
 - Weekly updates will be shared via a link to our messenger system every Sunday at 5:00 p.m.
- Junior High Communication:
 - General updates will be shared via email Fridays on August 21, August 28, and September 4th with additional Fridays as needed.
 - Monthly updates will be shared via podcast on the first Sunday each month
- High School Communication:
 - A community forum via Zoom will be this evening Wednesday, August 19th from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. An email with this link was sent to high school families. <https://zoom.us/j/91382071419?pwd=UFZCbzhRK0JtV09rY21lNWwhWw0Jadz09>
 - Ninth Grade Orientation via Zoom will be on September 1st. An email invitation will be sent soon.
 - Student class schedules will be available on Skyward by September 3rd.

School offices are now open for business. Please call our office staff or administrators if you have questions specific to your school. If you visit our offices to conduct business, please understand that we are requiring the following with no exceptions:

- You will ring a doorbell and an office staff member will come out to greet you.
- You will be expected to complete a symptom check attestation
- Masks must be worn at all times while conducting business with our staff.
- Physical distancing must be adhered to at all times.
- We ask that you wash your hands and use the sanitizer that will be available

Our offices and facilities are following a strict regime of cleaning and disinfecting areas. For this reason, visitors will not be allowed in other areas of our schools at this time. Please be kind and respectful to our employees when you visit as they are following mandated guidelines. Necessary complaints should be communicated with building administrators or me. Keep in mind administrators and superintendents are people too, and we could all use a little kindness right now because we are all in this together.

Instructional staff will be engaging in planning and professional learning the week of August 31st through September 4th. This is when planning for specific learning needs including services that will be provided on campus will take place. Families of students receiving onsite services will be individually notified. Those specific services will begin no earlier than after the first two weeks of school.

We are working on child care resources. I hope to know more about that next week. Remote learning presents a struggle for many families who don't have childcare. I hear you all and will work with you and the community to find solutions. This was a challenge prior to COVID-19. I am open to any ideas as this is a community issue.

I am here to listen and assist at 360-617-4600 or msewright@mtbaker.wednet.edu.

Sincerely,

Mary Sewright, Superintendent