

# Westfield Academy and Central School

**Michael Cipolla**  
Superintendent of Schools

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**Julia Murphy**  
School Business Official

October 26, 2020

Dear Westfield Academy and Central School Community:

I would like to begin by summarizing our start to the 2020-2021 school year. The WACS school community has been working diligently to minimize the spread of COVID -19. Our successes thus far with the reopening of school has enabled us to increase the number students attending in-person and the frequency in which students are able to attend. We have experienced success in these areas due to the dedication our families and employees have shown to stopping the spread of the disease in our school community. We need to continue our best efforts to minimize the spread and keep the disease out of our schools.

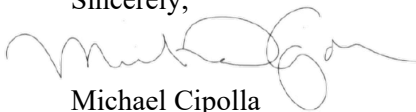
I would like to reiterate the importance of following the recommendations from the professionals in the health community. We should remain socially distanced and wear a mask. In addition, we should practice proper hygiene which includes washing hands, not touching your facial area and covering your nose and mouth when sneezing. We ask that you continue to screen your child prior to coming to school each day and use the electronic form available on our website to log the information. If you are unable to access the internet, please contact the main office at 326-2151 to arrange for an alternate method of reporting the results of the screening process.

Educationally, we are providing a few different models of instruction. As of October 26<sup>th</sup>, we are moving to 5 days of in-person learning in the elementary school. This is a change from 4 days. Also, beginning November 9<sup>th</sup>, students in grade 6 will be attending four days in-person which is an increase of two instructional days. We have made modifications to remote instruction at the elementary level by adding specific remote sections to gain continuity within our program and to increase the amount of instructional time for students. We will continue to evaluate each of these models. We appreciate the feedback that has been shared with our school. I would like to reiterate that we are able to make these changes largely due to your commitment to minimize the spread of the disease in our school.

In the event we should have to close school due to the spread of COVID – 19, we would rely on our social media platforms and voice messaging system to quickly communicate information and future educational plans. Please be certain your contact information is current with the main office.

Although this school year looks vastly different from what we have known, we have experienced levels of success and challenges. While these challenges will continue, we will gather feedback and make adjustments when possible. We are proud of the work that has been done to ensure our students have opportunities to learn, participate in athletics and gain experiences that reflect what we have traditionally known in past years. We will work to keep an open line of communication with families. Please feel free to reach out to us with any question that may arise.

Sincerely,



Michael Cipolla  
Superintendent of Schools