



OXFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

“Sailing Toward Success”

August 6, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am writing to provide you with an update following last evening’s School Committee meeting. The School Committee voted to approve two learning models: **Option 1** - a phased-in plan beginning for a period of time with remote learning for all students and then moving to a hybrid model. In addition, they also voted a second option, **Option 2** - Virtual Learning Academy which is for students who choose not to return to school for any in-person learning. For further clarification, the hybrid model includes a blended learning approach where a cohort group of students (approximately one-half of a building) is in class for in-person learning while the other half is participating in remote learning. The cohorts flip the following week. Our hybrid model schema would be a week-on/week-off approach, Monday-Thursday. Every Friday will be remote learning for all students to allow for extensive cleaning of the buildings between cohort groups. The second model, OXPS Virtual Learning Academy, is for families who do not intend to send students back to school for in-person learning. This plan involves enrolling in the OXPS Virtual Learning Academy. For further explanation or more details on either plan, please [CLICK HERE](#) to visit the Oxford Public Schools website and review the Re-Entry Plan documents as well as the approved 2020-2021 School Year Calendar.

The start of school will be September 16th. We plan to use the first three days of school for orientation for our students and families. The District will begin its phased-in plan for all students beginning September 21st through the end of September. At that point in time, we will reassess the medical guidance and safety information available and our goal would be to begin our hybrid model on October 5th. However, this is all flexible, fluid, and contingent on changes in the virus and other considerations so there is a possibility that we may not move to in-person learning (hybrid model) in October, as planned.

The School Committee asked that we revisit the proposed schedule for the elementary schools which recommends a start time 1 hour later than usual. I anticipate presenting a new plan as to what the day may look like for elementary students. In the Middle School, the schedule has changed to a 5-period day, and at the High School the schedule was modified to a block schedule (please refer to the Re-Entry Plan document or PowerPoint presentation for a sample of what these schedules may look like).

Recognizing that this is a great deal of information for parents/guardians to digest before making an informed decision about whether to send their students back to school for in-person learning (hybrid model), or to keep them home and participate in the OXPS Virtual Learning Academy, we have extended the deadline for families to return the Student Choice Form until August 24th. Only those families who choose to participate in the OXPS Virtual Learning Academy need to send this form back. The form will be sent out and available next week. Also, we will be surveying you on transportation and other items next week.

Lastly, for those of you with questions regarding either of the two models (phased-in remote moving to hybrid or virtual learning academy) I urge you to join us remotely for a **Parent/Guardian Question & Answer Forum** next **Tuesday, August 11th at 6:30 p.m.** You may join the meeting remotely by [CLICKING HERE](#), or you may call-in at 1-209-733-0652 and enter PIN 595 939 917#. If you do not have a Gmail account, you will need to call-in. We will also be accepting questions via the chat option. Thank you for your support.

Warmest regards,

Kristine E. Nash, Ed.D.

Interim Superintendent of Schools

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