

Thursday, August 27, 2020

Dear Parents / Guardians,

Due to circumstances beyond our control, revisions to both the District Calendar for 2020-2021 and to the Oceanport School District Reopening Plan were presented to the Oceanport Board of Education for approval at its Regular Board Meeting on Wednesday, August 26, 2020.

Several Factors made proposed changes necessary:

1. JCP&L has announced a three (3) day shut-down of power at Wolf Hill School to take place during the week of August 31-September 4. During the anticipated power outage, internet service, planned professional development, and classroom preparations must be suspended and / or rescheduled for the safety of our staff members. In a normal year, all staff would be moved to Maple Place School for staff opening days. Current restrictions and social distancing requirements make this impossible.
2. Since mid-August, the district has received new and additional leave requests under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA), as well as the New Jersey Family Leave Act (NJFLA). These laws allow for leave, in some instances paid leave, for both health-related and childcare concerns. These requests are *in addition to* leaves previously submitted to the district in July 2020. Every effort is being made to obtain substitute coverage, but the district is unable to resume in-person instruction until all staffing issues have been fully resolved.
3. NJ Governor Murphy's recent Executive Order #177 requires all NJ School Districts to close during the Presidential Election on Tuesday, November 3, 2020. In addition, teaching staff members are not required to work on Election Day per law, because it is designated a state holiday.

Accordingly, changes to the District Calendar and Reopening Plan will be enacted, as follows:

- School will remain closed to students on September 8th and September 9th.
- District Staff will report to work on September 9th.
- **School Opening is delayed until Thursday, September 10th for all students.**
- ***Instruction for all students will be fully-remote, virtual, and synchronous, following a four-hour shortened schedule from Thursday, September 10th through Friday, September 18th so that emergent staffing issues may be fully resolved.***
- **In-Person Instruction begins, September 21&22 (Cohort A) and September 24&25 (Cohort B). (Wednesday, September 23 is All Virtual).**
- Virtual Back-to-School Nights for Parents have been rescheduled:
 - ✓ October 8th at Wolf Hill School
 - ✓ October 15th at Maple Place School
- School will be closed Tuesday, November 3, 2020 for Election Day as required in Executive Order #177
- The last day of school in June 2021 has been extended to June 23rd, 2021

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Additional Important Dates for Students and Parents:

- **Student Orientation for Grade 5 and New Students at Maple Place: Thursday, September 17, 2020**
- **Student Orientation for Grades Pre-K, Kindergarten and New Students at Wolf Hill: Friday, September 18, 2020**
- **Student Schedules:**
 - ✓ All student schedules will “go live” in the Realtime Parent Portal on Thursday, September 3rd.
- **Parents should review schedules and report scheduling problems to school secretaries by September 4, 2020:**
 - ✓ At WHS: Ms. Rosalie Cuoco - rcuoco@oceanportschools.org
 - ✓ At MPS: Ms. Patti Tomaino - ptomaino@oceanportschools.org
- **Chromebook Distribution will take place by homeroom on the following dates and locations:**
 - ✓ Tuesday, September 8th – Wolf Hill School
 - ✓ Wednesday, September 9th – Maple Place School
 - ✓ A specific schedule with times / pick-up points is forthcoming.
- **Student Print Materials / Workbooks etc. will be distributed by homeroom on the following dates and locations:**
 - ✓ September 17th – Wolf Hill School
 - ✓ September 18th – Maple Place School
 - ✓ A specific schedule with times / pick-up points is forthcoming.

We realize that this revision is inconvenient for many Oceanport families, and that many struggle with issues pertaining to childcare. For this, we do apologize and we ask your patience as we work around the circumstances presented. These are unprecedented times, and unfortunately circumstances are fluid and unexpected changes do occur.

Please know that Oceanport District Staff is working tirelessly, and will do everything within our power to successfully bring students back to school in-person on September 21.

Sincerely,

Anne R. Facendo

Interim Superintendent of Schools
Oceanport Public School District