

9/3/2020

Dear Oceanport Parents and Guardians,

Parents from our community have contacted the Monmouth County Executive Superintendent of Schools expressing concerns pertaining to the district's plans for Hybrid and Virtual Instruction. On Wednesday, September 2, 2020 district administration met with both the Executive County Superintendent of Schools and the County Education Specialist in this regard. The County Office has reviewed our educational plan.

In order to avoid any further misunderstandings, the Virtual Instructional portion of the plan for the 20-21 school year is as follows:

- During the 2020-2021 School Year, all students (Hybrid, Virtual, and In-Person) are participating in a "flipped classroom" model. A flipped classroom is a type of blended learning where students are introduced to content through a pre-recorded video-taped mini-lessons. After viewing the lesson, the practice of content is then completed with the help of a teacher. (This is the reverse of the more common practice of introducing new content in-person at school, then assigning homework and projects to completed by the students independently at home).
- In this blended learning approach, students meet with teachers armed with questions and at least some background knowledge.
- Flipped Classroom is considered to be a "best practice" because, in addition to building background knowledge for students, it also provides consistent lesson delivery district-wide for *all* students.
- As Oceanport Parents are aware, the Oceanport School District will be Virtual from Thursday, September 10th through Friday, September 18th. During this timeframe, our expectation is that all students will meet with their teachers for full class experiences every single day following students' assigned class schedules. Full class instruction will be synchronous.
- Students will follow a four-hour school day schedule so that student orientations, rescheduled professional development for teachers, and building-based faculty and team meetings can take place in the afternoons. Parents should expect a variety of full-class instruction, independent learning assignments, and more during this timeframe.
- Beginning, Monday, September 21, 2020, the school day will be extended to end at 3:40 p.m. (Wolf Hill School) and 3:15 p.m. at Maple Place School. As a result, all students will have opportunities to receive additional support every day from both their classroom teachers and through "virtual learning coaches" (who are also certified teachers). Teachers and virtual coaches are scheduled each day to provide extra help and to provide extensions in learning for our students.

Monmouth County NJDOE has completed their educational review of the Oceanport Reopening Plan. They have determined that Oceanport School District's Hybrid Learning Plans are equitable, and that the district exceeds the current state requirements for a minimum of a four-hour school day. In addition, the required elements on the Governor's health and safety checklist, set forth in the NJDOE "Road Back" Documents, are currently under review. We are anticipating a status update from NJDOE Monmouth County Office shortly in this regard.

Thank you.