



North Stonington Public Schools

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SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

DEBORAH MARTIN
BUSINESS MANAGER

July 21, 2020

Dear Families of North Stonington Public Schools:

We know that all families are thinking about the return to school at the end of August, wondering what school will be like in our town this fall. The Board of Education and school administrators are planning for a FULL RETURN to school for all students and the *first day of school for students will be Monday, August 31st*. This change in the first day for students was recently approved by the Board and gives school staff five days to prepare to welcome students back after a long absence. Return to school this fall will include new health and safety protocols, new rules for bus transportation, and new technology for remote learning.

Although Monday, August 31st, and Tuesday, September 1st, will be early dismissal days for students, our FULL RETURN to school uses the same start and end times as last year. These two early dismissal days enable staff to begin introducing new protocols for health and safety in our schools. These protocols are part of our district's reopening plan, which will be submitted to the Connecticut State Department of Education this Friday, July 24th. The reopening plan has been developed by our administrators with input from the School Re-Opening Task Force and includes three levels of learning for students:

- a full return to school;
- a hybrid plan that reduces the number of days in the school building and adds remote learning; and
- a remote-only learning plan for all students.

Although we begin the school year with a FULL RETURN, the state has requested each district develop plans in case COVID-19 infection rates necessitate a pivot to remote learning for all students. We also understand that some families will opt to keep their students at home when school starts and use our remote learning option from the first day of school. The details of our district reopening plan will be forwarded to parents and staff and will be posted at the school website (www.northstonington.k12.ct.us). Please look for that plan by July 31st.

As board chair, Christine Wagner, indicated in her July 1st letter, a survey will be sent to families to understand your intentions for your children this fall. Once you have read through our district's plan, we must know your plans so that we can best support you and your children. Please complete the survey to tell us about school return, transportation needs, and home technology.

These are challenging times and our administrators are working hard to ensure that our schools are prepared and our staff is ready to greet your children on August 31st. Please read the district reopening plan when you receive it and contact your school principal or a member of the Board of Education if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Jen Welborn for the North Stonington Board of Education