



North Stonington Public Schools

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Dear North Stonington Public Schools families,

We are completing our first full week in the hybrid plan with full day in-school sessions four days per week with Wednesday being a virtual teaching and learning day. Fortunately, the 2020-21 school year is off to a much better start than the way we ended last year. In the "new normal" it seems that many of the bugs that we witnessed regarding busing and traffic patterns have been worked out. We will continue to do the best that we can to support everyone's technological needs while we wait to receive our 2020-2021 technology order. As you can imagine, we are like every other district, not only in Connecticut but in the rest of the country who prepared for either a virtual or hybrid plan.

Before I go on any further, I want to thank the administrators, department heads and teachers for their dedication and effort as we grow in this process.

I have been getting daily counts on rider participation from our bus dispatcher. The attendance on buses was extremely low in the first few days. However, there has been an uptick in rider participation as we moved to the end of the second week. You can get an idea on bus rider participation by the traffic flow in the morning and afternoon as parents drop-off and pick up their children. Our buses are sanitized in between the runs in the morning and afternoon. Like our schools, deep cleaning of the buses takes place on Wednesdays.

As you know, we developed three reopening models in conjunction with all the districts in our region. We all felt that the hybrid model was best for opening the school year and if the data proved safe for a full-open, we would make that decision in late September. Fortunately, the data supported at the very least a hybrid plan. Since the large majority of our students are learning virtually 3-days per week, we continue to do our best providing technology to those families that are in need. We are waiting on the delivery of a substantial amount of technology. When we do receive it, we will have almost 600 devices, mostly Chromebooks that will be deployed accordingly. Including our present inventory, we will have a total of 720 devices. Some of the technology that we purchased was funded through our 2020-21 fiscal year budget and the rest were purchased through a state grant.

Finally, there is still a great deal of confusion regarding high school athletics. There are changes made sometimes on daily basis. Our Athletic Director (AD) will continue to meet with other ADs and the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC) and will keep the students and parents informed if there are any changes to the present format.

Please be safe!

Peter L. Nero
Superintendent of Schools