



## North Stonington Public Schools

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SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

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BUSINESS MANAGER

February 26, 2021

Dear North Stonington Public Schools families,

There is a lot to be happy about this week. We began the first phase of our full-return with students attending school every day except Wednesdays. It was awesome to see most all of our students back as it has been almost one-year since the last time we were all together. The other fantastic news was the Governor has announced that beginning Monday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, all school personnel (administrators, teachers, secretaries, paraprofessionals, custodians, coaches, etc.) will be able to register to be vaccinated. While food services workers and bus drivers are not technically under our employment we are required and we will gladly include them with our staff in this phase. Basically, it is any individual who will have contact with students in one form or another who are eligible.

As a reminder, beginning Monday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, all North Stonington Public Schools students will return to a full-in schedule, five-days per week. We will continue to make available for any family that chooses and would like to remain fully virtual can continue in that model. In addition, any student who wants to remain in the hybrid can as well. For the remainder of the school year, based on a student or family's comfort level, you can choose to be full-in, hybrid or virtual.

The administrative team met this week and we discussed using virtual days instead of snow days for inclement weather now that we are full-in. They were asked, "What worked best educationally?" As a result of our discussion, when I have to cancel school, we will move to a virtual day. For continuity, we all felt it was the best decision. I wanted everyone to be aware.

**IMPORTANT:** Now that we are in full-return, it is especially important that we do our best to keep not only your child protected from COVID-19 but all other students and staff. If you suspect that your child is exhibiting COVID-19 related symptoms or, for that matter, not feeling well in general, please keep your child home. In addition, if someone in your home has COVID-19, please do not send your child to school. Contact your physician for a conversation to see if testing is necessary. There are plenty of testing sites in the area and Ledge Light Health District (LLHD) would be happy to identify one for you. The wait time for the test and results is very short. We also ask if your child has been tested due to exhibiting COVID-19 signs, please do not send your child to school until a negative result is confirmed. We all want to be sure that we do not place any student or staff in jeopardy of their health as we want to keep all students and staff in school where they belong.

As we have since last June, we will continue to review the town's data and adjust our plan accordingly. On behalf of the administrators and Board of Education, we'd like to thank everyone for your patience as we look forward to returning to a full-return five days a week and most importantly, resuming our normal lives.

Sincerely,

Peter L. Nero  
Superintendent of Schools