



Winthrop Public Schools

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Lisa A. Howard
Superintendent of Schools

August 18, 2020

Good Afternoon,

As you may be aware, last night the Winthrop School Committee met to reconsider their decision regarding the reopening of the Winthrop Public Schools. After considerable discussion, including reviewing the most recent COVID-19 data for Winthrop and its surrounding communities, reviewing the updated number of staff needing accommodations and the number of students requesting a full remote learning option, the Winthrop School Committee reversed the August 3rd decision to return to school in a Hybrid Learning Model and voted to start the year with Full WPS, Remote Learning Model PreK-12. This decision will be reevaluated on November 13th to determine our ability to transition to a Hybrid Learning Model.

We are working closely with our staff and the teacher's union to finalize and implement the remote learning design that is reflective of the lessons learned this past spring about what worked well and what needed to improve. In the new remote learning model we will continue to find creative ways for families and students to meet their new teachers, establish relationships and devise strategies to serve students with the greatest needs, particularly students with disabilities, English learners, students with emotional challenges and others who struggled with being fully engaged last spring. Anything other than full in-person learning will be challenging for us all and will require flexibility, creativity, patience, perseverance, and a positive attitude to achieve success. Nothing can replace the in-person learning experience that we are all accustomed to, but I am confident that the WPS will take this challenge on and do what is best for every child.

We are aware that families have many questions and concerns about the Remote Learning Model. Individual school Principals will be reaching out to families this week to provide information related to upcoming parent forums during which time they will share the details of the remote learning plans such as schedules, expectations, attendance, participation, access to technology, social emotional supports and plans to service students in our high needs subgroups. In the meantime, some information regarding what Winthrop's updated Remote Learning Plan will look like, including individual school schedules, can be found by clicking this link: <https://www.winthrop.k12.ma.us/Page/3286>.

Of paramount importance is the understanding that, as a nation and within the Commonwealth, we have not yet controlled the pandemic. What we do know is that we are unequivocally determined to get our students back to in-person learning as it is safe to do so. Please continue to access our website - Return to School information tab and check your email frequently for the upcoming information from your child's principal.

Sincerely,

Lisa A. Howard, Superintendent of Schools

