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September 11, 2020

Dear Norwell Families:

Thank you for your patience as we continue to navigate the uncertainties of this year's school reopening. Our highest priority is to keep our students, teachers, and staff safe while providing a holistic learning environment that continues to foster our students' academic and social emotional growth and achievement.

Although we will be starting our school year in a hybrid model, our goal remains to bring students back to in-person learning as soon as possible. The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, working with our state's top medical professionals, have put comprehensive safety guidelines in place to greatly reduce the transmission of COVID-19. Our school leaders and staff have worked diligently to create detailed school plans to ensure that we are fully prepared to execute all of the recommended safety measures, including: signs to direct staff and students, mandatory mask-wearing, physical distancing, hand washing and mask breaks, additional sanitizing of the school, notification of positive cases, and the ability to transition back to remote learning should it be necessary.

In the meantime, our teachers have received training on the safety protocols and guidance for hybrid learning. We are confident that they can provide engaging instruction both in the classroom and remotely. All of our teachers will be using the Schoology learning management platform for much of their instruction.

Below are a few points to be aware of as we start the year.

#### COVID-19 PASS:

- The COVID-19 PASS is an APP located on each school website. It needs to be completed daily for each child before school. This is a constant reminder to check for any symptoms or reasons a child should remain home. It will send an email that confirms you are able to attend school.
- Please visit this [link](#) before school so that you can experience how it works.
- An email will be sent to each family early in the morning reminding you to complete the COVID-19 PASS.
- Once the COVID-19 PASS is complete an email will be sent attesting that your child is clear to attend school. Middle School and High School students will be able to display the pass on their phones and/or iPads.

- Families that do not complete the COVID-19 PASS will be contacted during the day and reminded to complete the process.

#### Masks:

- Students should bring their own masks to be worn throughout the day. Disposable masks will be available should a student's personal mask become unusable. We are asking students to use standard fitting masks. Gaiter style masks are discouraged.

#### Handbooks:

- Annually parents are asked to complete a sign off via Aspen that you have read the handbook, give various permissions to share information and complete the health information update for each of their children attending Norwell Public Schools. The handbooks (including the COVID-19 inserts) are now available on the [NPS website](#). Please take some time to read the handbook and complete these sign offs for each of your children, preferably before school starts on the 16th, but no later than Friday September 18th.
- For those families whose students are doing a remote only option, we ask that you also complete this process as there are questions related to iPad use and sharing information with various Norwell groups (PTO, etc.) that we need answered.
- Instructions on how to complete along with links to the handbooks and Aspen can be found on the [linked document](#).

#### Schoology:

- The learning management system, Schoology will be used by all K-12 teachers and students for instruction.
- All parents will be provided with a self-paced training module that can be accessed as of Friday, September 11.
- Training and Q&A sessions for parents will be provided by each school within the first week of school.

#### Buses:

- Bus routes have been created and are currently being looked at by the bus company. All students requesting a need or the preference for riding the bus were accommodated. Routes will be published Monday, September 14th in the ASPEN portal and placed on the school website. Students in grades 7-12 will be contacted about paying a \$250 bus fee by the end of October. No refunds will be given for bus fees in the event the school becomes remote; the bus contract must be maintained in case 'in person school' returns and the buses are needed again.
- Bus seats will be assigned. Seat assignments will be available in the ASPEN portal on Monday 14, 2020 in the afternoon.
- For inquiries about whether you requested a bus, please check the ASPEN portal. Any other bus questions or concerns please contact Janet Asnes at [janet.asnes@norwellschools.org](mailto:janet.asnes@norwellschools.org)

#### Website Resources:

- Each school has a section on their website dedicated to information regarding COVID-19 guidance and a presentation for review.

We look forward to welcoming your child to school in-person or remotely on September 16th.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew Keegan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "M".

Matthew A. Keegan  
Superintendent of Schools