

# WANAQUE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

PATRICK McQUEENEY  
SUPERINTENDENT OF  
SCHOOLS

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BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/  
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SAMANTHA NASH  
DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM,  
INSTRUCTION, & PROFESSIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT

STEVEN SERRA  
DIRECTOR OF  
SPECIAL SERVICES

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Thursday, July 22, 2021

Dear Wanaque School District Learning Community,

As you may have heard, Governor Murphy's Executive Order 175 and the New Jersey Department of Education's Road Back Plan guidance have expired and new guidance was issued, The Road Forward, for the reopening of schools in September of 2021. Therefore, the Wanaque School District's Safe Return Plan has been amended to reflect the changes created by the new guidance and the expiration of Executive Order 175. A revised Safe Return Plan has been developed through the collaboration and feedback of our administration, staff, Board of Education and community. The amendments to the Safe Return Plan will be shared and discussed at our Board of Education meeting this coming Tuesday, July 27, 2021 at the Wanaque School at 7:00 pm.

Important aspects of the revised Safe Return Plan include:

- Masking for all staff and students in our school buildings and on school grounds will be **optional**. As per CDC order, masking on all transportation is still required.
- Students will be spaced 3' apart in all instructional spaces and during lunch to the maximum extent practicable.
- Students will attend normal lunch periods. Seating will be 3' apart and staggered to avoid students seated face to face while eating and drinking.
- Plexiglass barriers will be available in all instructional spaces and during lunch for use as needed by students or staff. Tables used in our primary grade classrooms will have plexiglass affixed to tables where students are seated facing one another.
- Parents will be asked to monitor their child for any COVID-related symptoms at home. An online acknowledgement of COVID-19 symptoms, procedures for reporting illnesses to school and required quarantines will be done through our Realtime students information system multiple times during the course of the school year. Daily screening forms will no longer be required.

These changes will be reflected in the district's Safe Return Plan found on the district website after July 27th when it will be officially presented to the Board of Education and our community. That said, it is my office's expectation that we all remain respectful and supportive of one another and our personal choices. In the future, should the Governor, the New Jersey Department of Education and/or the New Jersey Department of Health require school districts to pivot back to mandatory facial coverings due to communal or school spread, then adjustments will be made accordingly.

I thank you for your continued support of the health and safety of our entire learning community. Your cooperation and understanding as we continue to work together for the decrease of COVID activity in our schools and our community is appreciated. We wish you a relaxing and healthy remainder of the summer.

Sincerely,



Mr. Patrick McQueeney, Superintendent of Schools  
Wanaque Public Schools