

July 24, 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope you are enjoying a restful summer break. On Tuesday, July 21, the Board of Education approved the Newtown Re-Entry Plan, a framework for reopening schools in the fall. The plan can be viewed in the following pdf and posted on our website:

<https://www.newtown.k12.ct.us/theme/files/District%20Information/Final%20Re-Entry%20Plan%207-20-20.pdf>. Based on requirements and recommendations provided by the State of Connecticut, the plan outlines the essential health safety measures and mitigation strategies that will be implemented in the weeks leading up to and during the new school year. Please take the time to familiarize yourself with the plan.

Now that our plan is approved, you will be receiving specific details about our distance learning model, which will provide both synchronous (live) and asynchronous modes of learning for students. Each building principal will send communications related to their schedules, bus pick up, drop off and afternoon departures, lunch, and safety protocols, including reminders on the requirements of home screenings, face masks, handwashing, and social distancing.

As outlined in our plan, **we are asking that all parents take the time to screen students, including temperature checks, prior to sending students off to school.** Any student who has a temperature of 100° Fahrenheit or above should remain home. This screening is important not only for your child's well being but for the safety of others. We will be sending out information for families who may need thermometers, as we plan to make these instruments accessible, as needed.

On August 3rd, we will send all families a survey to determine in-person student enrollment and those families who opt for distance learning. This will be important in our planning and the execution of our Re-Entry Plan. At that time, we will ask about your intention to utilize our bus system, as well as needs in technology and home thermometers.

All students either returning in-person or remaining on distance learning will have access to school lunch, although no hot lunch will be served. A box lunch by Whitson's Food Service will be more typical to reduce the need for congregations of students in line. Details on the distribution of lunches for distance learning families will be sent in a future email.

All parents will need to have a contingency plan in place in the event health conditions at the local or State level change. While the Re-Entry Plan calls for an in-person model in the fall, circumstances may change at any time. A Hybrid or Distance Learning model may need to be instituted, either due to cases in our schools, or a rising number of cases across the State. We fully understand that childcare may be an issue, and we will work with you to provide resources and information about daycare providers.

On another note, the Board voted to amend the first day of school for students to begin on September 3, which was changed following the State's flexibility on the 180-day minimum number of school days allowed. This will provide our teachers an additional three staff

development days to prepare for the school year, including training in the protocols that will be necessary for the safety and well being of all our students. **A revised calendar is attached.**

I have held office hours and spoken to many parents with questions. We recognize these are stressful times, but our priority is to continue to provide you ongoing information about our plans. Future communication regarding distance learning and information from building leaders regarding school schedules will help inform your decision about returning your children to school. We promise to do our best to bring students and staff back safely. Your patience and support are appreciated, and we are thankful for your genuine partnership with us.

Dr. Lorrie Rodrigue
Superintendent

NEWTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2020-2021 SCHOOL CALENDAR

AUGUST (4)

M	T	W	TH	F
		26	27	28
31				

26-All Teachers Report
26, 27, 28 & 31 –Staff Development Days

SEPTEMBER 18(20)

M	T	W	TH	F
	1	2	*3	*4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

1 & 2 – Staff Development Days
*3 – Students Report
**3 & *4 – 3 hr. Early Dismissal--Staff Development
7-Labor Day - Schools Closed
28-Yom Kippur - Schools Closed

OCTOBER 22 (22)

M	T	W	TH	F
			1	*2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	*21	*22	*23
26	27	28	29	30

*2--2 hr. Delayed Opening--Staff Development
*21, 22, 23--3 hr. early dismissal-Elementary, Reed and Middle School Conferences

NOVEMBER 18(19)

M	T	W	TH	F
2	*--	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	*18	*19	20
23	24	*25	26	27
30				

*3-Election Day-Schools Closed For Students, Staff Development
*18 & 19-High School Conferences
3 hr. Early Dismissal
*25--3 hr. Early Dismissal
26-27-Thanksgiving Recess

DECEMBER 17(17)

M	T	W	TH	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	*23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

*23--3 hr. Early Dismissal - Holiday
24-31-Holiday Recess

JANUARY 19(19)

M	T	W	TH	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	*15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

1-New Year's Day-Schools Closed
*15--3 hr. Early Dismissal--Staff development
18-Martin Luther King Day - Schools Closed

FEBRUARY 18(18)

M	T	W	TH	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	*12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26

*12--3 hr. Early Dismissal--Staff Development
15-16-Schools Closed

MARCH 23(23)

M	T	W	TH	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	*10	11	12
15	16	17	*18	*19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

*10--2 hr. Delayed Opening--Staff Dev.
*18 & 19-3 hr. Early Dismissal-Elementary, Reed and Middle School Conferences (25 & 26 makeups)
*18-High School Conferences
(25- High School make-up day)

APRIL 15(16)

M	T	W	TH	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	*30

2-Good Friday - Schools Closed
12-16- Schools Closed
*30-Schools closed for Students-Staff Development Day

MAY 20(20)

M	T	W	TH	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	*28
31				

*28--3 hr. Early dismissal--Staff Dev.
31-Memorial Day- Schools Closed

JUNE 9(9)

M	T	W	TH	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	☀11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

☀-Projected last day of school

Please Note:

State of Connecticut mandates 180 calendar days for students. Beyond the projected June 11 date, school cancellation days will be made up by adding days through June 30. **By Mar. 12 if there are more than 8 cancellations, April 30 will be a full day of school.*

Please Note: Shaded calendar days = all schools closed for staff and students

Virtual Open House Dates:

Elementary: Sept. 8 & 9
Reed Intermediate: Sept. 10
Middle School: Sept. 15 gr.7, Sept. 16 gr. 8
High School: Sept. 17

Student Days – 179
Teacher Days – 187
Adopted: March 3, 2020
Revised: July 7, 2020
Revised: July 21, 2020

**State of Connecticut granted flexibility for a minimum of 177 student days for 2020-2021.*