



Ms. Shauna C. DeMarco
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Dear Tenafly School Families,

This letter is to inform you that **Tenafly Public Schools will need to begin the 2020-21 school year, on September 8th, with full virtual instruction for all students, district-wide.**

Over 81 staff members have submitted leave requests due to underlying health conditions and family needs related to COVID-19. Unfortunately, this makes us unable to guarantee a safe, in-person start of school at any level for September 8th. The staff that have reported that they intend to take leave time in lieu of returning to in-person instruction, given the current framework of our plan, vary in certification and contribution. Many of the services offered by these staff are required in a school whether that school is at full capacity or is serving only a few students. For this reason, we will begin the school year in remote fashion for all students at all grades.

We know this news is disappointing, but wanted to share this with you as soon as we knew this to be the direction we would need to take. We will be shifting the focus of next week's planned professional development to full virtual instructional practices. Additionally, we will analyze the staffing data, along with other presented concerns and relevant information, in order to determine how we will return our students to school safely, efficiently and expeditiously, granting highest priority to our youngest students as well as those with special needs.

As soon as definitive details have been determined, they will be communicated to you. We will also share out a detailed communication regarding our district's Full Virtual Plan early next week. Any school visitation or orientation plans for students have been cancelled.

*At this time, please note that **this Full Virtual Plan will require students and staff to follow the full-day schedule traditional to each school.** Each day will be a full school day for students and staff, whereby everyone follows the time and content of their schedule. Students in kindergarten and grade 1, along with select special education classes, will see slight modifications in order to reduce students' screen time.*

We sincerely regret the inconvenience and disappointment that this news brings. Our commitment to providing students with a rich, robust virtual learning experience, along with restarting our schools for in-person instruction, will remain our highest priority.

Sincerely,
Shauna C. DeMarco
Shauna C. DeMarco
Superintendent of Tenafly Public Schools