

Ms. Shauna C. DeMarco  
Superintendent of Schools  
Email: SDeMarco@tenafly.k12.nj.us

500 Tenafly Road, Tenafly, NJ 07670-1796  
Tel: 201-816-4501 - Fax 201-816-4521

August 3, 2020

To: The Tenafly Public Schools Community

From: Shauna C. DeMarco, Superintendent of Schools

Re: Updated Plan for the Reopening of Our Schools

Thank you, staff, students, and parents for your verbal, written, and survey feedback since the presentation of the Return to School Plan at the TBOE Meeting on July 20, 2020. We have considered all such feedback including survey results gathered from over 1300 respondents. This has resulted in the following five enhancements to our plan:

1. We have **developed single cohorts for select grades/classes** regardless of student numbers:
  - a. District-wide **Kindergarten and Grade 1 Students will be in single cohorts**, receiving onsite instruction daily from 8:40 - 1:10.
  - b. **Self-contained, special education classes will receive in-school instruction daily** (minimum 4 hours, max 5 hours - TBD by class/level)
  - c. **Additionally, if the number of students seeking onsite instruction in any grade level district-wide results in the need for only one cohort at the given grade level, then all students in that grade opting for onsite instruction would attend school on all school days,**
2. We have **eliminated the full-virtual Wednesday** in Grades K-8
3. We have **increased the livestream experience** for all students in all grade levels, including grades K-5.
4. Any student participating in the **Full Virtual Program will livestream in their assigned class(es)** with the teacher(s) and classmates they would have been with had they returned to school.
5. We have **established dates to assess our movement** through the phases of the Return to School Program.

These enhancements come without compromise to the health and safety measures set forth in Phase One of the original plan. All precautions set forth remain in place, including:

- Pre-entry screening measures
- Mask wearing requirements
- Distribution of face shields to all students and staff
- Implementation of plexiglass barriers
- Repurposing of spaces
- Increased outdoor learning and activity areas
- Social Distancing measures

- Cleaning Procedures
- Single-session days that eliminate the need for onsite lunch

The rationale for enhancements 2 and 4 can be found via the links below:

- [Rationale for Removal of Full Virtual Wednesday in K-8](#)
- [Rationale for Inclusion of Full Virtual Cohort in Assigned Class\(es\)](#)

The dates established to assess our movement through the phases of the Return to School plan can be found here: [Assessing our Movement through the Phases](#)

For specifics related to each grade level band, including sample schedules for both in-person learning, at home cohort learning, and full-virtual learning, please see [Tenafly Public Schools Academic Plan for the Reopening of Schools](#).

For those interested in the K-12 Full Virtual Program, please thoroughly review this [Overview of the TPS Full Virtual Program](#) . This document includes a link to the [TPS Full Virtual Program Enrollment Form for September 2020](#) which is **to be completed ONLY by those parents enrolling their child/children into this program. Enrollment forms are due back by this Friday, August 7** so that we can best plan for our onsite cohort groups.

We thank you for your thorough review of this communication and all of its related documents.

**Remember, ONLY if you are seeking to enroll your child/children into the Full Virtual Program, complete the [Full Virtual Enrollment Form](#) by August 7. All other students will automatically be enrolled in the Onsite Program.**

**Communication of assigned cohorts will be released to parents on/before August 8th.**

Thank you for keeping in mind that further enrollments into the Full Virtual Program could potentially result in students in a given grade attending school in a single cohort, 5 days per week. This change is possible at any time, so thank you in advance for your flexibility.

Should you have any questions pertaining to your child/children and these programs, do not hesitate to email your child's principal for further information and assistance. Parents of Special Education students are encouraged to email your child's case manager and copy Suzanne Bassett, Assistant to the Superintendent for Special Services, on your email: [sbassett@tenafly.k12.nj.us](mailto:sbassett@tenafly.k12.nj.us)

We look forward to welcoming you home to our schools, either onsite or from a distance, on September 8.

Sincerely,

*Shauna*

Shauna C. DeMarco  
Superintendent  
Tenafly Public Schools