

# Regional School District #10

Serving the Towns of Harwinton and Burlington

HOWARD J. THIERY  
Superintendent of Schools



VONETTA ROMEO-RIVERS  
Director of Teaching and Learning

8/9/2020

Dear Region 10 Community Members,

I hope that you are safe and well and that you have your power back or will soon. The last thing we needed in this already crazy year was a storm like the one we had last week, but 2020 is determined to be a challenging year in as many ways as possible. Despite the storm last week, we continued to work on our plans for reopening. The state recently shifted responsibility for deciding how schools would open to each local school district. After hearing from our community members, the Board of Education and our various state, regional and local partners we have decided to open in the hybrid learning model with plans to transition all students back to full time in school by the end of September. Opening in a hybrid model allows faculty, staff and students to gain comfort with the new environments and routines. This plan will allow us to practice and assess all of the health, safety, operational and instructional elements of the reopening plan that we shared with you previously. This plan continues to put health and safety first but remains committed to returning our students to school where they can learn more effectively. The state Covid infection metrics continue to support the return to school and we will monitor those metrics throughout the phased transition period.

Due to the loss of power and internet, as well as release of this new information, we will extend the period to submit the form notifying us your child will opt out of in-person learning and/or transportation until Friday 8/14. Students who opt out will be provided a distance learning program which will vary at different levels but could include classes taught by Region 10 teachers and commercial online classes through Edgenuity and Virtual High School. Students who are opted out of school will be eligible to participate in sports and extracurricular activities when they occur.

## **Reopening Transition Plan**

Region 10 Schools will transition students back to school with the following phased reopening. The plan begins with Hybrid learning and phases students back into school fulltime over the month of September.

### **Phase 1: Hybrid Learning**

Phase 1 will be Hybrid Learning for K-12. Two cohorts of students, A and B, will alternate days of in-person learning and days out of school. The hybrid days where students are out of school will be a chance to practice, apply and extend the learning from the previous day as well prepare for the next day's learning in school. The cohorts will be divided alphabetically.

Cohort A: Last Names A-K

Cohort B: Last names L-Z.

Families with different last names will be kept together. Schools will contact those families to confirm their cohorts.

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The first two weeks will look as follows:

Monday 8/31 (half day): Orientation day for transition grades K, 5, 9 and new students in the District.

Tuesday 9/1: K-12 Cohort A (In School) Cohort B (Distance Learning)

Wednesday 9/2: K-12 Cohort B (In School) Cohort A (Distance Learning)

Thursday 9/3: K-12 Cohort A (In School) Cohort B (Distance Learning)

Friday 9/4: K-12 Cohort B (In School) Cohort A (Distance Learning)

Monday 9/7: No School Labor Day

Tuesday 9/8: K-12 Cohort A (In School) Cohort B (Distance Learning)

Wednesday 9/9: K-12 Cohort B (In School) Cohort A (Distance Learning)

Thursday 9/10: K-12 Cohort A (In School) Cohort B (Distance Learning)

Friday 9/11: K-12 Cohort B (In School) Cohort A (Distance Learning)

## **Phase 2 Transition Phase\*:**

Phase 2 will be from 9/14- 9/25. On Monday 9/14 students in grades K-6 will transition to being in school fulltime 5 days/week. Students in grades 7-12 will remain in a Hybrid Program. The Monday Distance Learning Day will allow all the students (Gr. 7-12) in a class to be together and meet with their teachers online to begin the week. The hybrid days where students are not in school will be a chance to practice, apply and extend the learning from the previous day as well prepare for the next day's lesson in school.

Mondays: All students Grades 7-12 will attend classes via Distance Learning

Tuesdays: Gr. 7-12 Cohort A (In School) Cohort B (Distance Learning)

Wednesdays: Gr. 7-12 Cohort B (In School) Cohort A (Distance Learning)

Thursdays: Gr. 7-12 Cohort A (In School) Cohort B (Distance Learning)

Fridays: Gr. 7-12 Cohort B (In School) Cohort A (Distance Learning)

Detailed distance learning schedules will be sent out by the Lewis Mills and HarBur Administrations.

## **Phase 3 Transition Phase\*:**

On Monday 9/28 all students in grades 7-12 will transition to being in school fulltime 5 days/week. At this point all students K-12 will have transitioned back to school fulltime.

\* If needed phases one and two can be slowed down and broken into smaller transitions.

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Transition to the next phase will only occur if infection metrics remain in the **low category**. In addition, the following aspects of the Reopening plan will be monitored to assure they are successful and adjusted as needed:

- Bus transportation including mask wearing, loading and off-loading
- School cleaning
- Mask wearing and social distancing in classes
- Mask wearing and social distancing at the start of school, passing times, and the end of school
- Safe lunch systems
- Mask breaks
- Cohorting where planned
- Student and staff daily health self-screening

We believe this plan strikes a balanced approach to returning students to school. It focuses on our community's safety and the need to have students return to learning with their peers in our schools. We will continue to monitor the Covid infection metrics weekly and assess our plans. If the context of this pandemic changes our plans will be adjusted accordingly. If you have questions about your child's specific program, I recommend you reach out to your building principal. You will receive more specific information from your child's school and we will continue to update you in the coming weeks.

Best regards,

*Howard*

Howard Thiery  
Superintendent  
Regional School District 10  
Harwinton-Burlington