



**Mr. Thomas W. Giard III**  
*Superintendent of Schools*

**Mr. Craig C. Powers**  
*Assistant Superintendent*

Dear WHS Parents/Guardians:

At the February 17, 2021 Special Board of Education meeting, the possibility of returning Waterford High School to full in-person learning similar to the PreK-8 students was discussed. Since that time, we have worked closely with LLHD and the WHS administration on plans to safely return to full in-person learning at WHS. LLHD has updated their guidance with respect to WHS and we are excited to report that they are supporting a phased-in approach to full in-person learning for WHS in addition to PreK-8. Please know that we will continue to maintain the health and safety protocols that have been keeping us safe during this pandemic at the high school. These mitigation strategies include the following measures: strategic use of Plexiglass dividers in classrooms and offices; cleaning thoroughly; social distancing as much as possible in classrooms; a no visitor policy; no school assemblies or field trips; directional signage throughout the buildings to limit face-to-face contact; staggered passing times; and continued contact tracing and quarantining in response to identified positive cases.

**Waterford High School will follow the phase-in to full in-person learning based on the schedule below:**

Week of:	Grades:	Learning Model
March 29	Grade 9 - 12	Students will remain in Hybrid Cohorts of 1 & 2 Cohorts will be in person on alternating Wednesdays
April 5	Grade 9 - 12	Students will remain in Hybrid Cohorts of 1 & 2 Cohorts will be in person on alternating Wednesdays
April 12-16	Grade 9 - 12	Spring Recess
April 19	Grade 9 - 12	WHS returns to full in-person learning for all students 5 days a week

Fulltime distance learning remains a choice for all families per the State of CT and any families wishing to revert to distance learning may do so by filling out the [distance learning form](#). Conversely, any family who has been on fulltime distance learning wishing to return must notify their school's administration as soon as possible. There will be no option for the hybrid model during full in-person learning. Students are either full-in or full distance learning. In the coming days, there will be more information on our distance learning model and expectations. Distance learning will maintain some synchronous learning but will see increased asynchronous learning as about 75-80% of our students will be in the classroom.

District Messages, FAQs, Presentations and District Forms can continue to be accessed on the Waterford Public Schools website at [School Learning Model Update – Spring 2021](#). We will continue to issue parent FAQs as we collect questions and feedback. Parents/Guardians can also find our full original reopening plan which covers all three learning models (full distance, hybrid, full in-person) at [Fall 2020 Reopening Plan](#). The original reopening plan's practices, protocols, and procedures remain in effect as we transition to a different learning model.

Please feel free to contact me during this time of transition. The reopening schools email ([reopening@waterfordschools.org](mailto:reopening@waterfordschools.org)) remains active and of course, parents/guardians may reach out directly to their child's school administration with questions/concerns. WHS will be issuing their own communications in the ensuing days concerning any changes to logistics such as arrival, dismissal, etc.

As noted before, we ask that staff, students and families continue to utilize the mitigation strategies that have been in effect throughout this school year (social distancing, mask wearing, hand washing etc.). We look forward to working collectively to bring our school community back together and in a safe and thoughtful manner for staff and students based on the latest guidance from the experts. We are excited to bring all of our students back to campus and move forward in reopening WHS to full in-person learning.

Sincerely and be well,

Tom

Thomas W. Giard III  
Superintendent of Schools