



Building Partnerships for Tomorrow

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October 8, 2020

Dear Parents and Family Members:

It is with great enthusiasm that I inform you of the next phase in the District Restart and Recovery Plan for Union County Educational Services Commission.

Effective Monday, October 19, the following UCESC schools and programs will begin welcoming back students for hybrid in-person/remote instruction according to the following early dismissal schedules:

Crossroads School:	8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	
Project SEARCH Program:	9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.	(Effective October 26, 2020)
Lamberts Mill Academy:	9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	
Westlake School:	8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	
Work Readiness Academy:	9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	

In regards to our alternative high school programs at Hillcrest Academy – North and South Campuses, students will remain on full-time remote learning while we work closely with Elizabeth Public Schools to develop a coordinated plan for resuming traditional instruction.

Parents can expect to receive follow-up letters from your child's Principals and Directors that contain specific details regarding cohort assignments, dates and schedules. Additional information about our hybrid learning model can also be found in the District Restart Plan posted on the homepage of our website at www.ucesc.org.

We recognize that early dismissal and cohort schedules are particularly challenging for some families, but this model is necessary to ensure social distancing requirements are met in all classrooms and provide teachers time needed to fulfill remote learning responsibilities for students at home.

Our Principals, Directors and Supervisors have worked tirelessly over the past few months to develop robust hybrid programs and I assure you that each remains equally committed towards meeting the goal of returning all students to full-time traditional placements as soon as possible.

Likewise, it is important that we remain mindful of the evolving nature of the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite our best efforts, circumstances may dictate the need to resume full-time remote learning at various times during the year. For now, we remain hopefully optimistic this will not be necessary.

As we reopen schools, I would like to remind you of several of the health and safety protocols that will be required to safeguard against the transmission of COVID-19 in our learning community:

- Students will undergo a health screening immediately upon arrival including a visual check for COVID-19 symptoms and a temperature check using a contactless digital infrared thermometer. Students who demonstrate flu-like symptoms and/or a temperature of 100.4 degrees or greater will be evaluated by the School Nurse to determine if the child must return home.
- Students are required to wear face coverings at all times while in school or riding the school bus, to the greatest extent possible and practical, unless doing so would inhibit a student's health. Parents are responsible for supplying daily face coverings, preferably made of multi-ply tightly woven cotton. Please note that bandanas, neck gaiters, masks with vents or valves will not be permitted. Disposable single-use masks will be available for students who arrive without a face covering or whose face covering becomes damaged or soiled during the day.
- Students will be required to wash hands with soap and water on a regularly scheduled basis. Hand sanitizing stations will also be available in all classrooms, restrooms, and common areas.
- Students are expected to remain home from school and the School Nurse or Principal must be contacted immediately when:
 - The student or a member of the immediate household tests positive for COVID-19 or was advised to self-quarantine by a local health department.
 - The student has come in close contact (within 6 feet for at least 10 minutes) with someone diagnosed with Covid-19 in the past 14 days.
 - The student visited a state on the New Jersey Travel Advisory list in the past 14 days.
 - The student demonstrates symptoms associated with the COVID-19 virus.

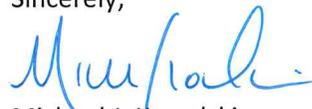
I would also like to remind you of your ability to request a full-time remote learning program for your child once school resumes traditional instruction. If you choose this option, we respectfully require that your child remain on remote learning for 30-days before returning to school.

In order to request full-time remote instruction, I invite you to complete the online form available on our district homepage or accessible via the following link: <https://forms.gle/ps989ALvCGVqnk9u5>.

While this year will undoubtedly be unique, it is important to focus on the consistent fact that our administrators, teachers, therapists, paraprofessionals, and support staff genuinely care about your children and will strive to provide safe, supportive and challenging learning environments.

On behalf of the UCESC Board of Directors, I thank you for your ongoing willingness to work together with patience and flexibility to ensure a successful year for all students.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Kowalski
Acting Superintendent