



Warren Township Schools

Shining Brighter Every Day

Matthew A. Mingle, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

August 24, 2021

Dear Warren Township Schools Community,

We are excited and ready for schools to reopen to all students on Wednesday, September 1, 2021!

While our faculty and staff finalize their preparations to welcome students, I am writing to inform you of some details regarding our reopening plan. You will find school-specific information in follow-up letters from the school principals.

We are so proud of the partnership among students, parents, staff members, Board of Education members, and our local health partners. By following the guidance of our school physicians, local public health officials, and state and federal agencies, we were able to reopen schools last year on time with minimal disruptions to student learning throughout the year. **I am asking you all to once again join us in this effort in 2021-2022** as we expand our in-school offerings and return 100% of our students and staff members to our facilities.

There are several important reminders below. Please review this information carefully as some processes may have changed from previous years.

Community Health Conversation

Yesterday, I had a conversation with Warren Middle School Nurse Lisa Lontai, Warren Township Health Officer Kevin Sumner, and School Physician Sean Cook about the reopening of schools. They addressed masks, Delta-variant symptoms, vaccines, and more. [Take a look.](#)

Masks

By order of Governor Murphy, all students, staff members, and visitors are required to wear masks in our school facilities and on school buses regardless of vaccination status. Masks are permitted but not required outside of school facilities. Staff members will guide students in the appropriate times and places to remove masks for breaks, snack, lunch, etc. Warren Middle School Nurse Lisa Lontai put together an [overview of appropriate mask selection and maintenance](#).

Daily Screeners

We will continue the use of a daily screener that must be submitted each morning for each student and staff member.

Hand Hygiene

Students will have access to opportunities for hand washing and/or sanitizer throughout the day including before and after eating, after using the restroom, returning indoors, and at arrival and dismissal.

Cleaning

Cleaning is an important part of keeping our community safe. Our custodial staff will continue its practices of frequent, high-quality cleaning throughout our facilities and on our school buses.

Positive Case Communications

Confirmed positive cases will be communicated to parents on a school-by-school basis and added to the COVID-19 case dashboard on the district website. If your child is a close contact of a positive case in school, you will be notified directly by a school official in addition to the general communication to the school

community. If your child is a close contact of a positive case outside of school, please notify the school nurse as soon as possible.

Physical Distancing, Close Contacts, and Quarantines

Contact tracing is no longer required for students who are 3+ feet apart so long as they are fully masked. To the greatest extent practicable, we will endeavor to keep students 3+ feet apart to minimize the potential for close contacts; however, there will be times throughout the day when students will necessarily come into closer contact.

Unvaccinated individuals are required to quarantine if they come into close contact with a positive COVID-19 case. The duration of the quarantine varies depending on the risk level in place at the time of the contact and can vary from 7 to 14 days. During this time, a quarantined student will be provided access to make-up work for missed classes; however, live access to the classroom will not be available.

Lunch

The Warren Township School District is participating in the National School Lunch Program for the 2021-2022 school year. For this year only, the program provides lunch to each student in a participating school district, regardless of socioeconomic status or determined need as part of federal legislation responding to COVID-19.

Additional information about the school lunch program, including the ordering form for the first few weeks of school, can be accessed by signing into the Genesis Parent Portal.

Parent volunteers are invited to our cafeterias to support handing out lunches. You can indicate your desire to volunteer in the same form where you order a child's lunch in the Genesis Parent Portal.

Vaccines

Vaccines are readily available for anyone ages 12 and up. Our local public health official and school physician urge all eligible individuals to get vaccinated as soon as possible.

Important Dates

8/24	Lunch information available in Genesis Parent Portal
8/26	2pm - Parent Information Session - Register here 4pm - Community Briefing 5pm - Homeroom Assignments and Bus Information Live in Genesis
8/30	First day for staff
9/1	First day for students

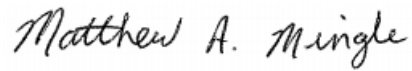
Additional Resources:

- Join us for a parent information session on Thursday, August 26 at 2pm. All are welcome to register [here](#). This information session will be recorded and made available in the Community Briefing email sent later that day.
- Review the information posted on the district's COVID-19 [website](#) including the updated [FAQ](#).
- Review the most [up-to-date Return to School information](#) presented at the August 23rd Board of Education meeting.

I know there is a great deal of information here and many more unknowns. Please do not hesitate to send additional questions to covid19@warrentboe.org. These questions will be forwarded to the appropriate people to be responded to in a timely manner.

Thank you for your continued support. We all look forward to welcoming our students and staff members back to the district next week!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Matthew A. Mingle".

Matthew A. Mingle, Ed.D.
Superintendent