



# Wissahickon School District

## *True Blue with a Heart of Gold*

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September 18, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Now that the 2020-21 school year is underway, I wanted to provide a couple of key updates.

- As of this morning, we have had a total of three (3) confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 in the WSD schools. One student at Lower Gwynedd (in-person), one student at WHS (virtual) and one employee at Stony Creek (in-person). In the two in-person cases, the school community was immediately notified (no personally identifying information, of course) and the proper response protocols were activated (e.g., an expanded cleaning effort). Also, the Montgomery County Office of Public Health (OPH) was immediately provided with a list of people (if any) who may have been in “close contact” (defined as within six feet for 15 or more consecutive minutes) so that their contact tracing operation could begin. We will continue to communicate with individual school communities, as needed and as soon as a positive case is known. As for the district as a whole, regular total count updates will be provided at each public Board meeting during the Communications Committee report.
- We continue to plan for a return to (optional) in-person instruction in Grades 6-12. Our target for having this start is the beginning of Marking Period 2 in November (details will be shared shortly). Additionally, we also plan on offering some sort of “change of preference” opportunity to K-5 students, with a targeted switchover date in those grades probably in January. Please know that any changes at this point, including these, require much, much more than meets the eye. And, neighboring districts often have completely different circumstances, so what they offer (or purport to offer) is going to look different than what we offer, or can offer, here. None of us has the “right” solution, much less a perfect one. We are all, however, doing what is necessary to move things forward as best we can.

In closing, I think it's time for a heartfelt “Nice Job!” to our students and staff! Despite a hiccup here and there, we are adapting, innovating and getting this done. We are teaching, and learning, and virtually back in school. While we look forward to the day when we're literally back in school, in the meantime, I'd say it's OK to look at the glass as being half-full. Not entirely full, but we're getting there, and as a history teacher might say, not without a welcome dose of “luck, pluck and virtue.”

Warm regards,

*James A. Crisfield*

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