



August 14, 2020

Dear Warren Woods Schools Staff and Community,

Over the last week, we have continued to carefully consider the uncertainty facing our community, state, nation and world. As you may have heard today in the Governor's Press Conference, Macomb County has the highest rate of cases per million in the Detroit Region with 82 cases per million people per day and a positivity rate of 7.4%. Based on the most recent stakeholder input and Macomb County Health Department briefings, it has become evident that we need time to practice and refine our safety protocol implementation prior to bringing students back for in person learning. ***In light of this, ALL students will begin the 2020-21 school year with remote learning through September 25, 2020.*** Parents will still have the choice to continue in a 100% virtual environment for the entire first semester if they choose. [Please see attached diagrams for clarity.](#)

The fall 2020 remote learning plan will look very different from the online learning that took place in the spring. Starting August 31st, 2020, all students will be engaged in rigorous lessons taught by Warren Woods teachers, based on state standards. All K-12 instruction and communication will take place utilizing Schoology and will include many opportunities for students to engage with their teacher and peers online, in both recorded and live lessons with their class. Some [sample schedules](#) that districts around our county are attached.

The decision to start in a virtual environment will pose challenges, but I am confident we will develop creative and innovative ways to overcome these as we continue to work together. We recognize that those who need in-person learning the most may face challenges in this initial virtual schooling experience. As such, we plan to offer in person supports for some of our at-risk students; students with IEPs, those who need OT/PT services and those who benefit from other in person interventions will be provided face to face supports from our highly qualified staff members.

I anticipate that this decision will be met with a range of reactions, from frustration to praise from our community. I understand and offer reassurance that we are prepared to deliver the highest quality virtual experience possible for our students given this extraordinary situation. The Board of Education and leadership team will regularly monitor the environment and guideline recommendations to ensure a safe return for those who wish to continue the school year with face-to-face instruction.

Our district leaders feel this recommendation is a necessary change since announcing our Return to School plan two weeks ago. We have been closely monitoring the impact of COVID-19 on Michigan's communities noting the evidence within Macomb County over the last two weeks. We continue to receive feedback from stakeholders encouraging the District to take a stronger position with respect to student, family and staff safety.

We ask that you complete a [SURVEY](#) to indicate if your child will return to face-to-face as soon as the district allows or if your child will continue in the virtual environment for the entire first semester. **Please complete your decision by August 21st, 2020.** Here is the survey LINK: <https://bit.ly/3iGpjUr>

Thank you for your continued patience and understanding.

Sincerely,

Stacey Denewith-Fici