



# LACEY TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

*A Tradition Of Pride · A Tradition Of Excellence*

VANESSA P. CLARK, PH.D.  
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

August 18, 2020

Dear Lacey Township School District Families and Staff:

On August 4, 2020 I presented the Lacey Township School District plan for reopening our schools. During that presentation, I stated that we were preparing to welcome students back to school beginning Tuesday, September 8. I also shared the Lacey Township School District School Reopening Plan, which includes district-specific protocols related to the 10 critical areas of operation outlined in the NJ Department of Education (NJDOE) Restart and Recovery Plan. Since then, we have continued our preparations to open our schools with health and safety as the most important considerations.

The purpose of this communication is to let you know that school will open for all students on Tuesday, September 8, 2020 **on the remote learning model only**. To ensure we meet and exceed the Governor's minimum expectations for in-person instruction, we will move the start of our Hybrid A/B Cohort learning model to Monday, September 21, 2020. Some of our students who require specific specialized programming and services (that can be difficult to replicate through remote learning) will have the opportunity to receive those services earlier.

The schedule moving forward for the Lacey Township School District is as follows:

**September 1 to 3:** All faculty and staff will engage in professional development to start the school year.

**September 8:** School starts on the **remote learning** model for all students.

**September 14:** School starts **in-person** for students who require specific specialized programming and services. Details about this will be forthcoming.

**September 21:** Start of the **Hybrid A/B Cohort Learning Model** for all students who elected this learning model.

An updated school calendar reflecting these changes will be issued for the entire school year in the near future.

An area that we have focused on tremendously is instruction in both the remote and hybrid models. When school closed last March, we had very little time to make the transition to remote instruction. In fact, and I've said it many times, we accomplished in two days what should have taken two years to plan and implement. With that said, our team has worked tirelessly to prepare for the type of instruction that will serve students in both a hybrid and remote setting. The four areas we concentrated on are 1) ensuring that clear expectations are set, 2) providing students with engaging and robust content, 3) ensuring that guidance and support are abundant, and 4) providing students (and families) with quality feedback. We will continue to evaluate our methodology to ensure that all students are afforded the best possible learning opportunities and experiences. During our Board Meeting on Thursday, District Supervisor, Mr. Zylinski, will provide a description of what instruction will look like in both the hybrid and remote instruction models.

Another item that is on everyone's mind is whether co-curricular clubs and activities will take place. These might include activities related to music, art, drama, academics, or special interest topics. Research tells us that participation in co-curricular activities is essential for students in emotional development, social skill development, and overall personality development. Recognizing this importance, we will strive to implement these types of activities when the start of the Hybrid A/B Cohort Model begins on September 21.

Finally, our attention has also been focused on other areas to prepare for school opening. These include purchasing, distributing, and installing safety and health materials across the district, purchasing and preparing devices to ensure equity, purchasing curriculum materials for the implementation of new programs, and planning for staff professional development.

As the beginning of the school year draws closer, we will continue to communicate with our families about important dates and upcoming events. As we have witnessed in the past months, information changes rapidly, and we must be prepared to pivot at a moment's notice. While this pandemic has forced us to think and behave differently, one thing we know for sure is that we want our students back in school, and we want our lives to return to normal. To that end, we are committed to getting there one day at a time.

Continue to stay safe.

Sincerely,

Vanessa P. Clark, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools