



# West Irondequoit Central School District

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Sept. 23, 2020

Dear Families of Grades K-6 Students,

Thanks to the “can do” attitude of our staff and you, our students are settling into their respective pandemic learning models and off to a solid start. Together, we’ve tackled many obstacles to create new systems and structures to support our students academic, social and emotional needs given the circumstances. At every turn, there has been new information or changing guidance requiring flexible thinking. Thank you for trusting the process.

More K-6 families opted for the 100% remote learning model than we initially expected. Based on data from August, we expected 250 grades K-6 students to learn remotely. Since then, this number has increased to 380 students. To meet that number of more than 100 additional students, we’ve had to collapse in-person sections to accommodate the requests. The District has been committed to preserving the option for families to change their learning options. In August, we expected this to include the option for students to change from remote to hybrid at the 10-week mark and from hybrid to remote at any time. Since then, we’ve learned that the initial response rate to 100% remote learning will limit our ability to deliver on the vision we had in August.

Where does this put us? Below are the key points to understand:

- At grades K-5, we have approximately 20 seats available across each grade level to accommodate students moving from remote to hybrid learning AFTER the 10-week mark.
- These seats are distributed unevenly across our buildings. This is due to the unique variance to the hybrid learning requests by building and grade level. This means that at 10 weeks, students requesting a return to hybrid learning will be placed in their home neighborhood schools on a **first come, first served** basis. Some students **may not** be placed back at their home school building **for this year only**.
- At grade 6, space is even more limited and complex. We will need to analyze the number of requests to return to hybrid learning to determine how to best proceed.
- Due to the higher than expected number of requests, our 100% remote learning classes are near capacity. This now constricts our ability to deliver on the vision to allow students to switch from hybrid to 100% remote at any time. We must now limit requests to the 10-week mark. At that time, we will assess how many students are requesting a move in both directions and make decisions from there.

Please accept my regrets and apologies for overextending ourselves initially. Our District’s mindset is rooted in a spirit of service and erred on the side of flexibility that we now know isn’t possible. Understanding these limitations, we suggest the following events for families considering a change. They are:

1. **SUBMIT QUESTIONS:** Families may submit questions regarding these grade K-6 changes by **Friday, Sept. 25** via this Microsoft link: [https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=2jBOXgFFtk-7qhRfh908zenny9OGgBFEu2yFzv\\_9RjFUQ0ZMUDdGR1RMRkYwUTM3NzJRuzNGOVpHQi4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=2jBOXgFFtk-7qhRfh908zenny9OGgBFEu2yFzv_9RjFUQ0ZMUDdGR1RMRkYwUTM3NzJRuzNGOVpHQi4u)

2. **ZOOM WEBINAR:** We will host a video webinar on this at 6 p.m. **Monday, Sept. 28** to address questions submitted on the form above. Join the webinar via the link below and use the passcode:  
(<https://zoom.us/j/95887394550?pwd=WFVuWklMdkdOcjlpdjBTTkxSdjFOQT09> – Passcode: 707689
3. **REQUEST CHANGE AT 10 WEEKS:** Families must submit their request to change their learning model by **Monday, Oct. 19**. Access the request form via this link:  
<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=2jBOXgFFtk-7qhRfh908zRMKoBEAfxpNueQvkHngTXRUMU43OVMxS1ZDOFdPU0E4N1AzNFI0TkIWri4u>

Students requesting a change will begin their new learning model on Monday, Nov. 9. If the number of requests exceeds our ability at this time, we will accommodate as many as possible and reconsider the remaining at the 20-week mark.

4. **REQUEST AT 20 WEEKS:** Families will be given a final chance to request a change to their child's learning model at the end of 20 weeks. They must do so by Monday, Dec. 21. Access the request form via this link: <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=2jBOXgFFtk-7qhRfh908zRMKoBEAfxpNueQvkHngTXRUQUIRN1Q3MFZUT0VKSvcyTjJRWTlyOUpHWS4u>

Students requesting this change will begin their new learning model on Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2021. This will be the FINAL chance to request a change for the 2020-21 school year.

Thank you for your continued patience and partnership. This news will likely catch some by surprise and again, I am sorry. We continue to do our best to stay ahead of the changes and are doing our best to manage a structure that is new to us all while putting student and staff safety first.

Gratefully,



Aaron R. Johnson, Ed. D  
Superintendent of Schools