



Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School

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Maureen Lynch
Superintendent

August 12, 2020

Dear Whittier Tech Community,

The Whittier Tech School Committee chose today to open the school using our hybrid model for the Fall of 2020, while remaining mindful of the fact that we may have to transition to the remote model if the COVID-19 situation evolves to a point that warrants doing so.

Through the hybrid model, students will be broken up into academic cohorts of no more than 10-12 students during their academic weeks and will meet in vocational cohorts during their vocational program weeks of no more than 12 students.

Students will participate in remote learning on Mondays, and will be grouped into group “A” and group “B” cohorts. Students in Cohort A will attend school in-person on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and will participate in remote learning on Wednesdays and Fridays. Students in Cohort B will attend school in-person on Wednesdays and Fridays, and will participate in remote learning on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Using this schedule, our district will remain at half capacity, allowing for social distancing of 6 feet in academic classrooms and between 3.5 and 6 feet in vocational classrooms, labs and shops.

The following initiatives will also be implemented:

- All students and employees of the district will be required to wear a face covering throughout the day. We will be providing socially distanced mask breaks. Students are responsible for bringing their own face coverings. Disposable masks will be available for students who need them.
- Students, with help from their families, will be asked to self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms at home before coming to school and students will participate in a verbal screening of those symptoms upon arrival. Students and families will be provided with a checklist prior to the start of school, and are urged to stay home if sick.
- Any student who develops symptoms at school will be placed in a designated medical waiting room and parents/guardians will be contacted to then pick their student up. Students will be required to get tested for COVID-19 or self isolate at home for 14 days.
- We will stagger entry and release times for students and label specific places of entry to the building and exit.

- Hand sanitizer dispensers have been installed in each classroom, offices and other spaces where needed, including the exterior of the building. Students will be asked to sanitize their hands upon entry and exit.
- The District has developed plans for effective disinfection and cleaning of the building using equipment including a pneumatic fog machine.
- Students may eat in the cafeteria, lobby or outdoors when weather permits and will be separated by plexiglass when in the cafeteria.
- Hallways and stairwells will be designated and labeled as one way.

Please take the time to review our Back to School Plan for more detailed information regarding all of Whittier Tech's Back to School Plans at:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1LTEZEZ1H-oZJJQKpTRUns7X2u8H9_dG8GI3L tadNEJk/edit?usp=sharing

We understand that there may be students and parents that do not feel comfortable with returning to in-person learning to start the year. We will provide a 100% remote learning option for those students who are not comfortable with returning, but please know it is very difficult to replicate the hands-on component of our vocational programs remotely. If you do not feel comfortable returning to in-person learning, please let us know by emailing the Principal at claganas@whittiertech.org or the Director of Pupil Personnel at plowell@whittiertech.org by Tuesday, August 18th.

Over the next few weeks we will be sending out information informing students which group they're assigned to, along with more details about our Back to School Return.

Another important change this year is new transportation guidelines that must be followed. It is important for us to know if your child is planning on using our bus service for the upcoming school year. Students will have assigned seats and we need to manage the number of students on a bus strictly. We will be sending out a survey over the next couple of weeks with information we need to transport our students safely.

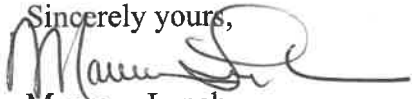
We look forward to starting the school year; however, we will continue to put the safety of our students and staff at the forefront of everything we do. Depending on the virus and concerns within the school we may transition into a Remote Only Learning Plan, and we will communicate with all stakeholders should such a transition become necessary.

We understand that Whittier Tech will look different this Fall. It is our responsibility as a community to follow the state guidelines on how to open our school safely to allow in-person

learning during COVID-19. Thank you for your ongoing support and patience as we continue to work through these unprecedented times.

As always feel free to contact me with any questions and concerns, at mlynch@whittiertech.org.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maureen Lynch", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Maureen Lynch

Superintendent