



Committed to Excellence

Martin J. Semmel, Ed.D.  
SUPERINTENDENT

6254 Main St., Trumbull, CT 06611  
Tel: 203-452-4301 Fax: 203-452-4305

[msemmel@trumbullps.org](mailto:msemmel@trumbullps.org)  
[www.trumbullps.org](http://www.trumbullps.org)

December 2, 2020

Dear Parents and Staff,

I wanted to share two important updates with all of you regarding our return to in-person learning and our proposed 2021-2022 budget.

### **Return to In-Person Learning**

Our Governor, Commissioner of Education, Department of Public Health, and Dr. Fauci have stated that schools should remain open to the best of their ability during this time. I believe strongly that our students need to have the opportunity for in-person learning to the greatest extent possible. I also want to make sure that we continue to reduce the risk of exposure to COVID-19. To make the most informed decisions possible for the Trumbull Public Schools, I participate in a weekly Zoom call hosted by the State Department of Public Health and State Department of Education. This provides me access to our State level epidemiologists. In addition, I meet with my Reopening Advisory Committee on a weekly basis to review data specific to the Trumbull Public Schools and the Town of Trumbull. I also meet weekly with the PTA Leadership to receive feedback and read all the emails I receive from parents and staff. As you know, on November 13 I chose to close schools for two weeks because of staffing concerns at a few of our schools. The committee requested that I extend the remote learning through December 4 citing concerns about travel and get together over the Thanksgiving break. **This time away from our buildings has resolved all our original staffing issues and, therefore, we will be opening our schools on Monday, December 7 as follows:**

- **Grades PK-5 4 day in-person learning**
- **Grades 6-12 Hybrid Learning model**
- **Distance Learning for all students on Wednesdays**
- **As always, parents have the option to remain in or move to full remote learning**

Moving forward, I do anticipate that staffing concerns could become an issue again. COVID-19 is very contagious and the quarantine guidelines currently in place are very long. With that said, I do not anticipate closing the entire district if some schools are having staffing issues. I may need to close a school or two for a period of time, but not all schools. To reduce the chances that my staff may need to quarantine, I need all parents to be very careful about when they send their child(ren) to school. If your child has any of the [COVID symptoms](#) or had exposure to a positive case outside of school, I need you to keep your child home. We will continue to promote and require all of our mitigation strategies found in our [Reopening Plan](#).

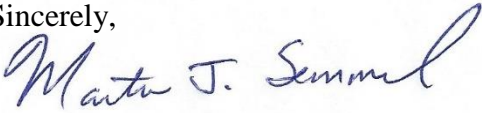
Finally, I do sometimes receive questions about the contact tracing process that we use when cases arise

in the schools. I worked with our Director of Nursing, Lynn Steinbrick, to develop the process you can find on our website [here](#).

**2021-2022 Budget**

After working closely with team, we have completed the Superintendent's Proposed 2021-2022 Budget. The budget can be found on our [website](#). I would ask that you take 5-10 minutes to read the Executive Summary of the budget found in [section 2](#). If you have additional time, feel free to read the specifics of the budget or attend our budget workshop meetings (virtually) on December 3 and 8. These meetings begin at 6:30 PM. I will post my Budget Presentation (Powerpoint) to the budget section of our website by December 3 so you can follow along at home if you desire. We have done our best to develop a responsible budget that rectifies structural issues and adds back staff that are critical to our mission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Martin J. Semmel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping "M" and "S".

Martin J. Semmel, Ed.D.