



Committed to Excellence

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SUPERINTENDENT

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Dear Trumbull Public Schools Community,

Every month I will do my best to update you on some of the more important items occurring in our school district. I hope that you find these informative and responsive to important topics in our district. One item recently accomplished is a new [Reopening Resource Page](#), on the TPS website, where you can access information related to the reopening of our schools. We are also putting the final touches on a web-based version of our reopening plan that should make accessing information easier for our families.

Reopening Trumbull Public Schools

Last night at the BOE meeting, I publicly informed everyone that we will be bringing our youngest learners (K-2) back to school on a more regular basis starting Monday, October 19. This means that for students in grades K-2 they will have the option to attend school every day except Wednesday. Wednesday will continue to be a full remote learning day for all students. As required by the State Department of Education, parents still have the option to choose the Temporary Remote Learning Option for their children. Parents also still have the option to Home School their children. I will be sending a survey to the parents of all students in Grades K-2 this afternoon to gather additional information to make October 19 run smoother. I should note that students who are currently on TRL in grades K-2 who would like to make a return to 4-day learning will need to wait for clearance by their respective school.

District Goals

At the BOE meeting last evening the BOE unanimously adopted the 2020-2021 District Goals. You can read these goals on our [website](#). We hope that by sharing these goals we may collectively work together to accomplish them. I will provide a status update (mid-year report) to the BOE at the beginning of 2021 and will publish that update on our website soon after. I will present a final report during May/June and publish that update as well. While these goals do not represent everything that needs to be accomplished, it does provide significant insight to the focus of the district's energy for the remainder of the school year.

School Cleaning

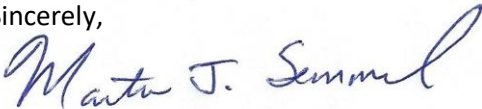
Keeping our schools clean should always be a priority. The CDC and DPH have outlined a number of cleaning and disinfecting strategies for schools. Most important, is keeping high touch surfaces like door handles, railings, and sink faucets clean throughout the day. To that end, our custodial team has identified and cleans these high touch surfaces frequently throughout the day. All of our spaces will also receive a daily cleaning at the end of the school day. The guidance from the CDC and DPH does not suggest that extra cleanings need to occur over the weekends. To help School Superintendents and local health officials, the State Department of Public Health has provided weekly webinars where we receive updates regarding the latest health data and get our specific questions answered. During these calls, the DPH has made it abundantly clear that the research on COVID-19 strongly supports that

transmission is occurring person to person via droplets. They constantly remind our group that transmission from hard surfaces seems very unlikely. Furthermore, they state that the COVID-19 virus does not last much beyond 24-48 hours outside of laboratory settings. The original Reopening Plan did include overtime for custodians to clean on Saturdays throughout September. However, given the facts discussed above, coupled with the fact that this overtime was never budgeted makes eliminating these overtime hours the right decision. If you have any specific concerns about how well your own building is being cleaned on a daily basis, you can reach out to your building principal or our Maintenance Supervisor, John Morello.

Later School Start Time Committee Update

The TPS Later School Start Time Committee has been meeting based on the plan endorsed by the Board of Education on July 14. Please see [that section of the TPS website](#) for: a list of the committee members; agendas, minutes, and recordings of prior meetings; upcoming meeting agendas; and earlier presentations to the BOE.

Sincerely,

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

Martin J. Semmel, Ed.D.