



PORT WASHINGTON Union Free School District

MICHAEL J. HYNES, Ed.D. 516-767-5005

Superintendent

MARY M. CALLAHAN 516-767-5010
Assistant Superintendent for Business, District Clerk

Administration Building
100 Campus Drive, Port Washington, NY 11050
FAX 516-767-5007

CHRISTOPHER B. SHIELDS, Ed.D. 516-767-5050
Assistant Superintendent for General Administration

ELAINE FENICK 516-767-5050
Human Resources Administrator

DAVID MEOLI, Ed.D. 516-767-5040
Interim Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum,
Instruction and Assessment

August 19, 2020

Dear Port Washington Staff and Families,

Thank you for your patience and understanding throughout this summer as we continue to refine our reopening plans to best ensure a robust educational program and the health and safety of your children and District personnel. I would like to share with you the District's recent developments regarding plans to reopen schools for the 2020-21 school year.

As you all probably are aware, the classroom experience will be different this year than in any previous year. Smaller class sizes, wearing of masks, social distancing and more. It is critical that our District staff, from our administrators to teachers, to paraprofessionals, to facilities personnel, know exactly what will be expected of and from them in this "new normal." To ensure we have the proper time to orient our District staff to new protocols and procedures, including safety protocols, schedules, roles and responsibilities, assignments, and IT infrastructure, to name a few, we have decided to delay the opening of schools for students to Tuesday, September 8, 2020. This will give us two additional days—Thursday, September 3 and Friday, September 4—for professional development and building preparation for the return of our students.

Additionally, please note that there will be a virtual Board of Education meeting and Community Town Hall tomorrow—Thursday, August 20, 2020—at 7:00 p.m. I encourage all families to join us to become more familiar with recent developments related to the District's instructional plans.

As the month of August is coming to a close, we know many families might be thinking of taking a final summer vacation. We want to remind everyone of Governor Cuomo's quarantine rules regarding individuals traveling to New York from any state that is on the state's travel advisory list. This quarantine applies to both New Yorkers who have traveled out to any of these states and are returning to New York, as well as non-New Yorkers first traveling to New York. The most up-to-date information on states included on the Governor's travel advisory list can be found at <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-travel-advisory>.

We realize this is an unsettling time for all in our community. We thank you immensely for your continued patience, insight and partnership throughout the last several months to provide us with the framework for a sound and productive new school year.

Stay safe. Be well,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Hynes".

Michael J. Hynes, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

MJH/ze/da