



# PORT WASHINGTON Union Free School District

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September 25, 2020

Dear Port Washington Community Members:

We are expanding upon our educational offerings by moving forward with a Fully Virtual Learning Platform (FVLP). Beginning October 13, elementary certified teachers will be dedicated to our fully virtual K-5 students. As I promised earlier this month, all families with elementary-aged students will now have the opportunity to choose this FVLP option or to default to the in-person instructional model that all five of our elementary schools will officially begin this upcoming Tuesday. Our administrative team has devoted a significant amount of time and resources to make the FVLP as educationally sound and rewarding as possible. Parents should, however, be aware that the preferred method for meeting the academic, social and emotional needs of children is in-person instruction.

As you make your decision, please note carefully the following:

- Students in the FVLP will be grouped by grade level with students from across the five schools.
- Once you opt into this program, you are committing your child to the FVLP for the academic 2020-21 year.
- We are capping our “virtual elementary school” at 400 students (there are 293 currently learning remotely).
  - Each teacher will serve one grade level with 30-65 students
  - Each class when instructed via Google Meet can have up to 30 students depending on how many children “opt in”
  - Preference will be given for medically fragile students and families
  - If your child(ren) are currently learning remotely, you **MUST** still complete this process and opt them into the FVLP if you want them to continue learning remotely
- Students will receive live instruction from their dedicated grade-level teacher on Google Meet and/or Zoom and one asynchronous (video, project-based work, etc.) special every day. They will also continue to receive assignments and materials on their District supplied device through Google Classroom.
- Students who are English Language Learners or who have Individual Education Programs will have their services delivered remotely by ENL teachers and special education teachers, respectively.
- There will be dedicated administrators for each grade level for communication purposes.

In order for us to move forward, we will have a four-day opt-in period starting Tuesday, September 29, at 8:00 a.m., and ending on Friday October 2, at 3:00 p.m. On Monday, a district e-mail will be sent out to all families with instructions on how to sign up for this program on Tuesday.

Families whose children are enrolled in the FVLP will be notified no later than Wednesday, October 7, and, as stated above, our FVLP will begin on Tuesday, October 13.

We look forward to this exciting new addition to our educational services here in the Port Washington Schools.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Hynes", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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

MJH/dm/da