



District Update

Start of School

August 26, 2021



Vision

The Watchung Borough School District is committed to inspiring learners to explore, inquire, and collaborate on their joyful journey toward discovery, independent thinking, and creative problem solving. Our culture of acceptance and inclusion provides the foundation for learning and social and emotional growth. Through reflection and ethical decision-making, we continue to learn and grow, embrace differences, and prepare for an increasingly complex, ever-changing world.



District Goals, 2021-22

- Support innovative instruction, design thinking, and problem solving across the curriculum with a focus on enhanced STEAM-related opportunities and scheduling options.
- Enhance student wellness and social-emotional learning with a focus on a growth mindset.
- Ensure a culturally vibrant, inclusive school community that values diversity, equity, and empathy.
- Maintain focus on financial needs of the district with an emphasis on the potential referendum and strategies for increasing reserves.



Seeking a Balance

Vision for Learning and Growing

Full-time in-person learning

Health and Safety Protocols



Health and Safety Protocols

Universal mask wearing indoors and on buses (EO 251)

Disinfection and cleaning protocols

Hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette

Physical distancing

Lunch

Screening for symptoms

Contact tracing

Positive Covid test results

Covid dashboard

Quarantining

Travel

Vaccination requirement (EO 253)



Health and Safety Protocols

Universal mask wearing indoors and on buses (EO 251)

Disinfection and cleaning protocols (continue protocols from last year; daily disinfection of high-touch areas)

Hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette (continue instruction on these important behaviors)



Health and Safety Protocols

Adjustments from last year:

Physical distancing (maximize distance when possible and maintain at least three feet between students in the classrooms, hallways, and lunchrooms, when practicable)

Lunch (maximize opportunities to eat outside and increase ventilation when indoors; minimize time students are together; masks worn when not eating or drinking; seating charts and marked spaces for distancing; PTO to resume lunch sales)



Health and Safety Protocols

Additional adjustments from last year:

Daily Screening for symptoms at home (Genesis at start of the year)

Contact tracing (normally six feet, but exception for students in classroom setting: three feet when masked properly)

Public notices about positive test results (only when there is a potential outbreak)

Covid dashboard (will continue on district website)



Health and Safety Protocols

Additional adjustments from last year:

Quarantining (unvaccinated individuals only)

Exposure as a close contact (within six feet for 15 minutes over 24-hour period)

Travel domestically and internationally (according to [CDC guidance](#))

Remote asynchronous instruction through Google Classroom (if sick or quarantined)



Health and Safety Protocols

New requirement:

Mandatory vaccination (EO 253)

All staff and regular visitors/volunteers must be fully vaccinated by October 18, or submit to testing at a minimum of once per week.



Health and Safety Protocols

Based on CDC, state, and local health guidance and state mandates in executive orders.

Subject to change based on the course of the pandemic.

If you have questions, contact your child's school.

Thank you for your patience and understanding.

