



WEST LONG BRANCH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Administrative Offices

Frank R. Alfano, Ed.D.
Interim Superintendent of Schools

Corey Lowell SFO
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Dear West Long Branch Community:

I hope this letter finds you and your families well as the month of July fades away. I am writing to notify you that there will be an important **Board Meeting on Tuesday, July 28th @ 7 pm to discuss the reopening of schools in September.** The Board will focus and discuss during this meeting our reopening plan as it relates to: **transportation, health/safety guidelines, and the schedule** for all students.

Listed below are the results to the parent survey that was administered in late June. Much of these results that are recorded have been factored into our reopening plan for September. Listed below are the results to the parent survey:

Question 1		192 parents responded to the survey and they represent 276 of the students
Grade	Responded	Comment
PK	17	
K	30	
1	40	
2	31	
3	36	
4	17	At the BME 171 of 330 students were recorded or 51.82% of the students were represented.
5	28	
6	25	
7	23	
8	29	At the FAS 105 of 255 students were recorded or 41.18% of the students were represented.
Total	276	The total students recorded are 276 of 585 students in the district or 47.18% of the district students were represented
Question 2		21.4% of parents are not sending their children to school. That equates to approximately 120 students not showing to school every day. The reasons listed are: Wearing masks -- 94.9% and Social distancing -- 74.4%.
Question 3		18.8% will not send their child to school due to wearing face coverings
Question 4		43.2% will not take the bus
Question 5		50% will drop/pick up their children
Question 6		86.5% of families have sufficient technology. Those families who do not have devices we will supply
Question 7		100% of families have internet access of the parents surveyed
Question 8		61% of students had academic success during remote learning
Question 9		21.4% Experienced no challenges during distance learning; 57.8% Social emotional issues; 31.8% Needed more live sessions; 16.7% Technology issues; 16.1% Scheduling conflicts; and 28.6% Lack of communication



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When reviewing the most significant results of the survey 21.4% (or approximately 125 students) of our parents said they would not send their children to school in September. The reasons noted: face coverings (94.9%) and social distancing (74.4%) were both issues that influenced their decision. Another interesting stat regarding the parents who returned the survey (47.2%), only 56.8% said they would allow their children to ride on the bus to and from school. As for the last four months (March to June) of school during remote learning, 61% of our parents stated that their child had academic success during this time. The main reasons why parents rated their child's distance learning experience at a lower level was due to social/emotional issues -- trying to stay focused throughout the day (57.8%), needing more live session (31.8%) (face to face), and lack of communication (28.6%).

Finally, to prepare for this coming year, there are a few actions you can take now. First, while we understand some of the hardships involved in anything less than a 100% return to school, we ask that you begin to make arrangements to help us bring students to school every day with safeguards and virus mitigation strategies in place. We ask that you please begin to create mask or face covering "endurance" with your children. Please find reusable/washable face coverings that your child is comfortable wearing and gradually build up the amount of time they can tolerate wearing them. Next, please ensure that you have a working thermometer in your home, personal supplies of hand sanitizer (alcohol-based) that your child can carry to school, and any other personal effects that you think will help your child feel comfortable back in a school environment. We will communicate additional information about health and hygiene practices as the summer progresses, but these small steps now will help in the fall, regardless of the type of plan we implement.

Once again, I THANK YOU for your continued cooperation and support during these extraordinary times. Together, as a community, we will do all we can to protect our students, staff, and learning community. If you have questions, please feel free to reach out to the building administration or me. I wish you a happy and healthy summer!

Sincerely,

Frank Alfano

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Interim Superintendent of Schools