

September 30, 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Simsbury Public Schools Staff:

As we mark the close of the first month of school, I want to thank everyone for your continued efforts in supporting our students with their transition back to learning both in the classroom and at home. Although there have been some bumps along the way, I am proud of what we have accomplished as we try to attain some sense of normalcy in our lives. At this point in time we are pleased to have welcomed back our K-6 grade students, who were in the hybrid model, to five day in-person learning.

A decision has been made relative to the full in-person return for our hybrid students at Henry James Memorial School. All hybrid students in grades 7 and 8 will return to full in-person learning on Tuesday, October 13. These students will attend school in person four days a week on Tuesday through Friday. We will continue to keep Monday as a distance learning day for all students following the current schedule. This will allow teachers time to continue to support our distance learning students on Monday afternoons. Mr. Baker, Principal at Henry James Memorial School, will be sending out a more detailed communication in the coming days highlighting the particulars of this transition.

We will review the status of full in-person return to Simsbury High School, grades 9-12, the week of October 12. A communication relative to the return of our high school students will be sent at that time. While our goal at Simsbury High School is a return to full in-person learning, similar to our middle school, we continue to be thoughtful in our planning with regard to our largest school community. Our preliminary goal is to transition back on Tuesday, October 27, two weeks after the Henry James transition. Due to the size and scope of the high school, there are several areas we will be further assessing in an effort to ensure a successful shift back to in-person learning.

We have updated our [Return to Simsbury Public Schools Timeline](#) on our website. I am also providing for you the most recent data sent to me by the Farmington Valley Health District, with regard to the CT School Learning Model Indicators. This [chart](#) includes information for the leading indicators over the past two weeks. Please note the decrease, in the 11 towns that comprise the Farmington Valley Health District, from 2.4 cases per 100,000 to 1.6 cases per 100,000. We appreciate all that you are doing at home and in the workplace to keep everyone safe as we move forward into October. Our local data is encouraging.

We recognize the technology issues being experienced, especially at the secondary level. New computers have been purchased for our staff at SHS in order to support the many technological components of our new teaching environment. These systems will be installed this week. We will continue to address technology issues as they occur. If you are having a technical issue, please contact our district IT Department at [helpdesk@simsburyschools.net](mailto:helpdesk@simsburyschools.net).

As the school year progresses, please continue to visit the [Coronavirus Update](#) page on the district website as it is updated regularly and includes all of my communications. I hope all of you remain well.

Sincerely,

Matt Curtis  
Superintendent