

Christopher J. Malone, C.A.G.S.
Superintendent (978) 640-7800
cmalone@tewksbury.k12.ma.us

Brenda Theriault-Regan, C.A.G.S.
Assistant Superintendent (978) 640-7800
bregan@tewksbury.k12.ma.us



Celebrating Excellence



August 11, 2020

Dear Tewksbury Public Schools Community,

I want to thank all parents, students and staff members for their patience and understanding during this time of uncertainty. Information from the Governor, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, and of course the news, changes almost daily and we are all forced to react to ever-evolving guidelines specific to our personal lives and education. The TPS Reopening Task Force continues to meet regularly to help facilitate the District's overall plan, which will be submitted to DESE later this week while the District Leadership Team continues to plan more specifically for the three State options: All-in student return to school model, Hybrid Model, or Remote Learning Model.

On Thursday, August 6th, the School Committee met to vote on which specific model, of the three listed above, TPS would start the school year. The School Committee considered information and data from multiple resources: the Preliminary Opening Plan (submitted to DESE on July 31st), the Reopening Task Force, District Leadership Team, information from the August 5th School Committee Public Workshop, hundreds of parent and staff member emails and phone calls, parent and staff member surveys, and DESE Guidance.

As a result, the School Committee voted 3-2 to begin the 2020-2021 school year utilizing the Hybrid Model.

Although the district has been working diligently on all three model plans and their impact on students, families, and staff, we will now focus on the details of the Hybrid Model at each school and the corresponding Remote Learning (RL) option for families who choose remote. I know parents and students are eager to learn information specific to their school experience, but TPS wants to ensure we have well thought-out protocols that include staff member input as we continue to receive updated DESE guidance and resources. We will take the next two weeks to better describe and define the details and plan for student learning, while navigating the significant safety requirements and expectations that ensure we have the safest and most rewarding educational experience possible for all students. Additionally, we are exploring new resources provided by DESE specific to remote learning and we will continue to negotiate with our Unions to provide the best remote experience possible for students. Once this work is closer to fruition and we are able to provide that information to parents, we will ask parents to make their official decision regarding their children for the fall opening of school (return to school in a Hybrid Model or to choose full Remote Learning Academy).

The start of the school year will be unlike any year in the past and specific information will need to be well thought-out and will be subject to change. We understand that parents want information now, so they can prepare their children and adjust family routines. Any decisions regarding the specific model, or how it would be implemented, will likely not come without compromise or sacrifice for all stakeholders. We are absolutely committed to providing parents with clear information regarding what the Hybrid Model and the Remote Learning Academy will specifically look like so that you can make the best decision possible for your family.

TPS District Strategy

The Tewksbury Public Schools community believes that our educational program will encompass a 21st century teaching and learning approach that promotes consistent growth among our students and staff to achieve academic, social, and emotional success for all students.

Once again, I thank you, and humbly ask for your patience as we continue to address the finer details of implementing the Hybrid Model to ensure we have a practical approach to the challenges, while we negotiate with the teacher's union specific to the teaching and learning for students.

Sincerely,

Chris Malone

Christopher J. Malone
Superintendent of Schools

TPS District Strategy

The Tewksbury Public Schools community believes that our educational program will encompass a 21st century teaching and learning approach that promotes consistent growth among our students and staff to achieve academic, social, and emotional success for all students.