



# OXFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

*“Sailing Toward Success”*

August 25, 2020

## **IMPORTANT MESSAGE**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

First, I want to thank you for responding to our “Re-Entry Information Request” last week where we asked you to select your child’s fall learning option, hybrid learning (Option 1) or virtual learning academy/remote learning (Option 2). **This message is primarily aimed at those of you who selected Option 2 - virtual learning academy/remote learning.** In addition, if your child will be attending Preschool, this message does not apply to you.

As indicated in the School Committee presentation on options for learning this fall, virtual learning academy is designed for those students who elect not to return to school for any in-person learning. As explained, the model is primarily self-paced and designed to engage students in online learning using the K-12 learning management system, Edgenuity, with students assigned a virtual learning academy supervisor.

However, due to the large percentage (almost 24%) of families who last week selected virtual learning academy/remote learning, our staffing needs across the district for in-person teachers for hybrid learning have decreased. **Thus, the virtual learning academy has “morphed” and evolved to where we are now able to use our staff as full remote learning teachers for your children.** What this means is that Virtual Learning Academy has been replaced with this new remote design which we believe is more advantageous for students. Students who have selected Option 2 (remote) will now have an OXPS teacher as their instructor for **their regular school day**. Principals will be working to identify remote learning teachers in their buildings. At the high school level **only**, OXPS remote learning teachers will instruct students in the four core academic subjects and students will take their other four courses online using Edgenuity. At the middle school, we also anticipate that students may take their “special” online using Edgenuity.

**If you selected Option 2 - Virtual Learning Academy, you do not need to do anything.** This message was informational to explain how Option 2 (VLA) is changing. However, I imagine that there are some parents/guardians who selected Option 1 (hybrid) who may now wish to switch to Option 2 because the model design has changed from its earlier form. If you selected Option 1 but now wish to change to Option 2, full remote learning, you must send an email to your child’s principal. They are as follows:

- HS - Gr. 8-12      <mailto:dnugent@oxps.org>
- MS - Gr. 5-7      <mailto:abelhumeur@oxps.org>
- Barton - Gr. 2-4      <mailto:jquinn@oxps.org>
- Chaffee - Gr. K & 1      <mailto:rpelczarski@oxps.org>

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You must respond no later than **this Friday, August 28<sup>th</sup>**. **Include your name, your child's name, and your child's grade.** If you have more than one child who attend different schools, you need to send an email to each principal of the child's school with the above information.

**Please note that the only parents who need to respond are those parents whose child/children are currently enrolled in hybrid learning (Option 1) and who now wish to switch to full remote learning (Option 2). If principals do not hear from Option 1 parents by Friday, they will assume that you are staying with Option 1 (hybrid). Again, if you already selected Option 2, then you do not have to do anything.**

As a result of this, notification cohort groupings for hybrid learning will be delayed until next week. Also, for your planning purposes, the date for school opening has not changed. School will reopen on September 16<sup>th</sup>. Cohort A hybrid students will attend on Wednesday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, and Cohort B hybrid students will attend on Thursday, September 17<sup>th</sup>. September 18<sup>th</sup> is a professional development day for staff with no school for any students. The district's "phased-in" approach has also not changed and hybrid students will move to remote learning starting September 21<sup>st</sup> for at least through the rest of the month. All students who have selected Option 2 will begin with their remote learning teachers on September 16<sup>th</sup>.

As I had indicated in prior emails, public education as we know it today is continually changing and all of us, administrators, teachers, students, and families, will need to be adaptable and flexible to any learning model change. If you have any questions, please reach out to your principals or to me. Again, thank you for your patience and understanding. Our goal continues to remain to provide a safe learning environment for all students that is challenging and enriching for student growth both academically and socially.

With warmest regards,



Kristine E. Nash, Ed.D.

Interim Superintendent of Schools