



September 30, 2020 Family Update: Re-Entry Update

Good Evening,

Thank you for your patience. I'm sure waiting for this re-entry plan has not been easy. The many words of encouragement and kindness you have shared with our teachers and administration has meant a lot, thank you!

After review of family survey data and extensive staff discussion, here is the Cider Mill Re-Entry Plan:

1. **2 Models (100% On-site & 100% Remote):** Due to our large class sizes and the need to keep 3 feet of space between student work spaces, we are only able to offer the 2 Models- 100% on-site and 100%-remote options.

I know this is disappointing for some families. CM staff were also in support of making the three models work; unfortunately, high student enrollment (in grades 4-5) and other logistical factors made offering the hybrid model impossible. In some cases, it resulted in on-site classes being increased to 22-25 students.

2. **Grade-level Teams:** The great news is that in almost all cases (grades 3-5), students are able to remain within their grade-level teams- this made our teachers VERY happy. There will be some changes to homeroom teacher assignment. Due to potential staffing adjustments, there may be some slight shifts in 5th grade. Again, we will do our best to minimize impact and always ensure students are placed with close peers. We want to remind families that we wanted our children to get to know a full team to provide us with flexibility - and it is now serving us well.
3. **3rd Grade** will begin re-entry on Monday, October 5th. If your child is moving homerooms, families will receive an email from the Administration tomorrow (Thursday, 10/1/20) by 3pm.
4. **Grades 4-5** will re-enter on Tuesday October 13th. Families will be notified about changes to homeroom assignments by mid-next week at the latest (we need final information from the Superintendent, health department, Board of Education).
5. **# Students/Class:** Each teacher within the grade-level team will have approximately 19 (or less) students on-site and between 2-5 remote students in their homeroom class. They will continue to team teach with their colleagues as "content experts."

- 6. M, T, Th, F - Full Day & Wednesday Early-Release, Remote Schedule:** Wednesday will continue to be an early-release day and ALL students will learn remotely. We will continue to build upon our remote learning strategies and have the opportunity to deeply clean the building on Wednesday afternoons. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday will remain full days.
- 7. Teachers Teach BOTH On-site & Remote Students:** Teachers will continue to teach both on-site and remote students because pulling classroom teachers to teach remote only student classrooms will increase on-site classrooms up to 21-24 students. We will work very carefully to ensure that these students continue to remain connected to their classroom communities and that we continue to refine the amount of screen and non-screen time for all learners, but specifically our remote learners.
- 8. Students Work from Home while Sick/Quarantined:** Students can join the remote learners and work from home if quarantined or not feeling well enough to come to school. Students will be marked present if they are active while learning from home.
- 9. Switching Models:** If students want to move from remote to on-site learning, we will need time to find appropriate placement depending on the size of the on-site class roster. The director of health is providing a very clear guideline on how many students can safely fit in each classroom. There is a chance I will not be able to guarantee the same on-site teacher if space is a challenge. Please contact the administration, your teacher, and Debbie Cowic (cowicd@wiltonps.org), if you intend to switch your child from on-site to remote learning.
- 10. Lunch:** We are researching alternatives for students to eat lunch out of their classrooms. Students will continue to have recess outside in designated areas and inside in the classroom during inclement weather.
- 11. Sneeze Guards:** Each student will have a personal sneeze guard for their desk. They will continue to use the banker box and their desk for their belongings. The additional sneeze guards are to be delivered on Friday.
- 12. Specials & World Language:** music, art and World Language will continue to take place in students' classrooms. Students will continue to go to the LLC and to PE.
- 13. Arrival & Dismissal:** At this time, we are not changing our Arrival & Dismissal process for next week (3rd grade). Be sure you review the chart below and come at your designated time:

Arrival Times (will lengthen as needed)

	Round A 7:20 - 7:26	Round B 7:26 - 7:32	Round C 7:32 - 7:38	Round D 7:38 - 7:45
Cohort A (by last name)	(A-C)	(D-F)	(G-J)	(K-L)
Cohort B (by last name)	(L-O)	(P-R)	(S-U)	(V-Z)
Bus Drop-off	Buses will drop off as they finish their run.			

Dismissal Times (lengthen as needed; for BUS and PICKUP)

	Round A 2:00 - 2:06	Round B 2:06 - 2:12	Round C 2:12 - 2:18	Round D 2:18 - 2:25
Cohort A (by last name)	(A-C)	(D-F)	(G-J)	(K-L)
Cohort B (by last name)	(L-O)	(P-R)	(S-U)	(V-Z)
Bus Numbers	28, 3, 23, 16, 11, 5, 8, 7, 17	32, 26, 30, 20, 21, 1, 12, 35	22, 10, 25, 2, 31, 24, 40, 19, 29	15, 14, 6, 27, 34, 18, 4, 9, 33

14. Buses: there are still many busses with barely any students on board. We want to be careful and maintain social distance and safety, but we can definitely fit more students on some of our buses. Fran Williams (williamsf@wiltonps.org) is able to review your bus route and share how many students are on your bus. This can help you determine if switching to the bus might be an option for your family.

15. Cohorts: The grade-level team continues to be the largest cohort for each student. With the loss of the hybrid model (cohort A/B) it is now the full 65 +/- students per 3-person team.

16. Website for COVID-19 Data: [Covidactnow.org](https://covidactnow.org) - one website referenced by Dr. Christine Macken, our town Physician.

Again, thank you for the support of our teachers. More than anything, they wanted to keep every one of your children in their homeroom classrooms. It simply was not possible with the shift to full in-person. We will work very hard to form new connections where needed - please reach out if you need support.

As we move into next week, with a full on-site community, we will have another communication with additional logistics as needed.

Take care,

Jen, Catherine and Lauren