

# NORTHAMPTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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## SCHOOL COMMITTEE

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**John A. Provost, Ed.D.**  
Superintendent

**Camie Lamica, CPA**  
Business Administrator

March 26, 2021

Dear Caregivers:

I am writing to share some important information about the transition to fully in-person learning in our elementary schools which will occur on April 5, 2021. Eighty-seven percent of our elementary students will be participating in in-person instruction. We will continue to honor the wishes of parents who wish to keep their children home by transferring them to the district-wide remote classrooms.

As we continue to implement disease mitigation practices, masking and frequent handwashing will continue to be a staple of our school day. We will continue to avoid practices such as circle time and keep our classrooms free of items such as carpets and reading nooks that tend to bring students into close proximity with each other. We are also ordering tents to encourage students to spend more time outside.

**Elementary school times and bus routes will remain the same once fully in-person learning begins.** There may be some half-days scheduled before the end of the school year, but Wednesdays will normally be full days for in-person students. There will be more students on busses and in classrooms. With this in mind, I would encourage families to take advantage of our walking school busses and would ask caregivers to consider transporting their own children if they can to reduce the density of student seating on busses.

In order to provide time for staff preparation for the transition to fully-in person learning, **Thursday, April 1st and Friday, April 2nd, will be fully remote, asynchronous learning days for all ELEMENTARY students. Students in grades 6-12 will continue to follow their normal hybrid schedule on these two days.**

With April vacation quickly approaching, I would like to take the opportunity to remind everyone of the CDC guidance to “delay travel and stay home to protect yourself and others from COVID-19, even if you are vaccinated”. The full CDC travel guidance can be found at this [link](#). The MA travel advisory can be found [here](#).

I look forward to welcoming students back to fully in-person learning. I know we will end the year on a high note and be ready to start the next school year right.

Sincerely,

John A. Provost, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools