



Safe & Smart RESTART

EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES

A NEW YEAR AHEAD

A message from Michael Flynn, COO

This year will always be known for its heartache and its challenges. My thoughts remain with everyone who has experienced loss due to the pandemic and who continues to struggle physically, financially or mentally. My boundless thanks to our healthcare workers who have always been our heroes. I hope that you remain safe and well.

I also believe that this year will be remembered as a time when we came together in support of one another. This year more than ever, we have experienced the power of community. From the city dwellers singing from balconies, to the socially distanced birthday and graduation drive-by celebrations, we have found ways to stay together while we stay apart.

We have witnessed time and time again that when a community joins together and shares a common goal, the outcome can be life changing, and, this year especially, life-saving. We really can do wonderful things.

As we head into 2021 weary but hopeful that there are better days ahead, may we bring that spirit of community with us.

May you and your families have a happy, healthy new year ahead.

Community Service Thrives at Wilson Tech Campuses



From the very first day of school, our Wilson Tech students have been doing an outstanding job with regard to health and safety protocols. They are diligent about wearing facial coverings, keeping themselves socially distant and practicing good hand hygiene.

Recently, the students in the Fashion Merchandising/Design class took their positive efforts a step further when they distributed the seasonal face masks they created to the community (*see photo*

above). The talented students in both the morning and afternoon sessions worked on the project as part of their instruction in sewing and pattern use. Now their work is keeping others safe.

Recognizing that the ongoing pandemic is bringing hardship to so many Long Islanders, the students and staff at the Wilson Tech Huntington campus are also doing their share. Throughout the month, they will be collecting donations for Toys for Tots and Island Harvest.

Making the Holidays Bright—and Safe!

The holidays, like everything else this year, will be different, but that doesn't mean they can't be fun.

To keep each other safe, we will be staying home more and avoiding large gatherings and so we will need to be a little more creative. Here are some ideas that our Western Suffolk BOCES staff have come up with that you might want to consider to help brighten your holidays this year:

Crafting lessons: Gather your most creative friends and relatives on a zoom call and have them “teach” a craft class. Email the supply list ahead of time so everyone is ready.

Holiday sing-along: Invite neighbors and friends to bundle up and join a socially distanced, outdoor sing along. Not only will you enjoy some crisp fresh air and some great music, it's the perfect chance to enjoy hot cocoa with marshmallows!

Gingerbread house competition: Challenge your children and their friends to create unconventional gingerbread houses from whatever they have around the house, such as scrap cardboard, plastic building blocks or all those boxes you have from online shopping. Have the creators share photos of their work with three unbiased judges and see who wins bragging rights in categories like Most Original, Most Creative or Best in Show.

Secret Guest Storytime: In the days leading up to the holidays, designate 7 p.m. as storytime and ask family members from far and wide to join a

zoom in costume to read a favorite holiday book. It's a great way to get in some extra reading time and everyone will love guessing the guest.

Kindness cards: This has been a difficult year for so many people, especially seniors who haven't been able to see their families. Consider sending handmade holiday cards to your local senior center or assisted living facility.

New Year's Party Games: Celebrate the end of 2020 with a virtual game night. A quick internet search will turn up bingo cards, word searches, scavenger hunt lists and so much more for fun way to ring in the new year!

Case Summary as of 11/30/20:

The following is a list of positive COVID-19 cases by individuals who attend K-12 classes and/or work in Western Suffolk BOCES buildings/schools during November. Please note there was no identified in-school transmission with any of these cases.

11/8: Staff, Brennan HS

11/8: Staff, Brennan HS

11/15: Staff, Jr/Sr HS

11/15: Staff, Wilson Tech Huntington

11/15: Student, Wilson Tech Huntington

11/16: Student, Jr/Sr HS

11/16: Staff, Jr/Sr HS

11/16: Student, Wilson Tech Huntington

11/16: Staff, Jr/Sr HS

11/21: Staff, Jr/Sr HS

11/23: Staff, Wilson Tech Npt/Republic

11/23: Staff, Wilson Tech Dix Hills

11/30: Staff, Wilson Tech Northport

11/30: Staff, Wilson Tech Dix Hills

Don't Forget to Check In!

As part of our overall effort to keep our schools safe, parents are expected to answer the questions below each day.

If any of the answers is “YES” for your child, or if your child has a temperature of 100.0 degrees or above, your child should not go to school.

Does your child have a temperature of 100.0 degrees or greater?

Parents are expected to take their child's temperature daily.

Has your child been diagnosed with COVID-19 in the past 14 days?

Positive COVID-19 test results should be reported to your child's school.

Does your child have any of the COVID-19 symptoms?

Symptoms include loss of smell or taste, shortness of breath, cough, headache, fatigue, muscle pain, body aches, sore throat, congestion, runny nose, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea.

Should your child remain at home as a result of recent travel outside of New York State?

The New York travel advisory can be found at coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-travel-advisory

Has your child been in close contact with someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 in the last 14 days?

Please follow all health department directives.

Keep Connected!

Western Suffolk BOCES will be sharing information throughout this school year in a variety of ways, including phone calls, texts, emails, this newsletter and website posts. To keep up with the latest news, please update your contact information.

If you have changed your phone number or not yet shared your preferred email address, please visit wsboces.org/restart today to submit the changes. Thank you.