



Safe & Smart RESTART

EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES

NEW TRADITIONS

A message from Michael Flynn, COO

Now that the Halloween costumes have been packed away and we have set our clocks back an hour, the countdown to Thanksgiving is on. But, like everything else in 2020, the holiday is going to be different.

This year has been so challenging for so many families and the pandemic has brought great heartache to far too many people. My thoughts will be with all of those who have experienced loss this year.

My thoughts will also be with those who demonstrated and continue to demonstrate great humanity, bravery and kindness during the pandemic, especially the healthcare workers who care for the sick, the store employees who showed up every day so that others could stay home safely, and all the frontline and essential workers.

My sincere thanks to the entire Western Suffolk BOCES community--families, students, staff--for the support you have shown us and for your continued efforts to keep each other safe.

Health Tip:
Facial coverings should fit snugly and cover the mouth and nose entirely.

Elementary Annex in Deer Park Welcomes Students



Among the many changes thus far in the 2020-21 school year is the move of the JEA Elementary School GAP program to the School's new Annex, located in the Abraham Lincoln School in Deer Park.

Students and staff were happy to move into the Annex, knowing that all health and safety protocols are in place throughout the space. The space has large classrooms, which were decorated in advance with student artwork, and all classrooms have sinks for frequent hand-washing. An expansive gym and large hallways provide for social distancing.

Teachers are supporting the health and safety efforts creatively as well. For example, to help maintain social distance and minimize students touching the same items and surfaces, teachers incorporate Zoom in the classroom. Rather than touching the Smart Board, students access the technology through their iPads, which affords greater access overall.

If you ask the students what they have liked the most, however, you're likely to hear about the fun they had at Halloween (*photo above*), especially picking pumpkins in the patch set up in the gym.

NYS Updates Travel Restrictions

Recently, New York State revised its travel restrictions for residents and visitors, effective November 4, 2020. These restrictions apply to travel to all states except: New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Vermont and Pennsylvania.

What follows is the full text of the Quarantine Restrictions on Travelers Arriving in New York as per Governor Cuomo's Executive Order 205.2:

"All travelers entering New York from a state which is not a contiguous state shall quarantine for a period of 14 days consistent with Department of Health regulations for quarantine unless:

"For travelers who travel outside of New York for less than 24 hours, the traveler need not test prior to departure from the state, and does not need to quarantine upon arrival. However, such travelers must continue to fill out the traveler form upon entry; and further shall take a diagnostic test on the fourth day after arrival in New York.

"For any traveler who has traveled outside of New York for more than 24 hours, such traveler must seek testing prior to departure from that state, within 72 hours of departure, prior to arrival in New York.

"The traveler must, upon arrival in New York, quarantine according to Department of Health guidelines for a minimum of three days, measured from time of arrival and on day 4 may seek a diagnostic test to exit quarantine. The traveler may exit quarantine upon re-

ceipt of the second negative test result.

"The Commissioner [of the Department of Health] may issue additional protocols for essential workers, or for other extraordinary circumstances, when a quarantine is not possible, provided such measures continue to safeguard the public health.

"Any violation of a quarantine or isolation order issued to an individual pursuant to the Commissioner of the Department of Health's travel advisory by a local department of health or state department of health may be enforced pursuant to article 21 of the public health law, and non-compliance may additionally be deemed a violation pursuant to section 12 of the public health law subject to a civil penalty of up to \$10,000."

Please be mindful of these restrictions and let our schools know if your child will not be participating in in-person instruction due to travel.

Case Summary for period of Oct. 1-Oct. 31:

The following is a list of positive COVID-19 cases by students and Western Suffolk BOCES staff who attend and/or work in Western Suffolk BOCES buildings/schools during October:
10/2: Student, Wilson Tech Dix Hills
10/15: Student, Wilson Tech Dix Hills
10/23: Staff, JEA Jr/Sr High School
10/27: Student, 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 for their children.

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.

Has your child traveled anywhere recently that is subject to the NY State travel advisory (see details in article at left)?

For information, visit [coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-travel-advisory](https://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.