

# WEBUTUCK CENTRAL SCHOOLS

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January 25, 2022

Dear Webutuck Family,

At last evening's Board of Education meeting, the Board of Education approved a plan concerning the asbestos abatement that needs to take place in the High School auditorium.

As you are aware, on the weekend of January 15th we had a deep freeze. As a result, our High School lost power for a few hours. Unfortunately, a heating unit located in the ceiling of the auditorium had a coil burst. Subsequently, thousands of gallons of water pumped through this unit and into the ceiling of the auditorium compromising the ceiling and flooding the auditorium. The District consulted with a number of professionals to assess the damage. It has been determined that since the ceiling is compromised and there were contained areas of asbestos above the ceiling, that an emergency asbestos abatement is needed immediately. This emergency abatement will begin next Thursday, February 3rd. It is expected that this abatement will be completed no later than Sunday, February 27th.

Unfortunately, the construction area needed to set up, stage, and complete this project impacts much of the space in the High School building due to the centralized location of the auditorium in the High School. **As a result, we will need to keep our students in grades 7-12 on a "Full-Remote Instructional Model" until Monday, February 28<sup>th</sup>.** If the abatement project finishes earlier, we will send out correspondence to bring students in grades 7-12 back earlier.

The District has been developing a plan with a number of professional services: BCA Architecture (District's architectural firm), The Palombo Group (District's construction management firm), Belfor (District's mitigation and restoration company), Quest (District's air sampling and monitoring consultant), and Needham Risk Management (District's safety & risk consultant). This "team" has determined that with proper strategies, such as constructing hard barriers, consistent air quality testing, restricting unauthorized personnel from entering the construction area, and the further distance of the EBIS building from the auditorium, that we are able to bring in our **5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders in a safe manner. 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students will be able to return for "Full-In-Person Instruction" tomorrow, Wednesday, January 26, 2022.**

**The District is very confident that these students will return to a safe and protected environment.** That being said, if there are any families that are unsure of sending their 5th or 6th grader to “Full-In-Person Instruction” in the EBIS building, we are asking that those parents contact Mr. Pascale, EBIS Building Principal at 845-373-4100 ext. 2212 to discuss a remote “Synchronous Remote Learning” opportunity.

**Again, although we have been assured that returning our 5th and 6th grade students to the EBIS building is safe, the District will take into account parent concerns. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 845-373-4100 ext. 5506 to discuss any questions or concerns.**

Sincerely,

Raymond Castellani  
Superintendent

RC/tmt