



**Union County Educational Services Commission**

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December 17, 2021

Dear Parents, Family Members and Staff:

I hope everyone is enjoying the holiday season. I am writing to you today to share a very exciting and important announcement regarding Hillcrest Academy South and Lamberts Mill Academy.

As you are aware, we have been working closely with Streetworks Development to redesign the facility that was home to the Lord and Taylor Department store in Westfield into an optimal learning environment for the students and staff of Hillcrest Academy South and Lamberts Mill Academy. All inspections have been completed and the final touches are being put on the facility.

Barring unforeseen circumstances, we anticipate that the students will return to full-day, in-person learning at 609 N. Avenue West in Westfield at 8:30 a.m. on Monday, January 3, 2022. We intend to occupy this building for the remainder of the 2021-22 school year.

Principals Jason Balsamello and Pablo Samuel, along with Supervisors Anna Kuzdraj and Thomas Van Cleef, and all of the teachers and staff have been working diligently over the past few months to ensure a safe and organized transition to the new building.

In order to prepare classrooms for student arrival, all LMA students will take part in virtual instruction on Thursday, December 23, 2021. Parents can expect communication from the staff at Lamberts Mill Academy with specific instructions for this remote learning day.

All teachers and staff assigned to Hillcrest Academy South and Lamberts Mill Academy should report to the former Lord and Taylor building at 2:40 p.m. on Wednesday, December 22, 2021, for a one-hour orientation meeting. Additionally, all teachers and staff are asked to report to the new building at 8:20 a.m. on Thursday, December 23, 2021, to facilitate remote instruction, meet with administrators and prepare classrooms for student arrival. All staff are asked to park on the west side of the building where administrators will be on hand to direct staff to the appropriate entrance.

Parents can expect to receive a letter from the building principals by December 23, 2021, that confirms the reopening of school and provides additional information related to the transition to the new facility. You can also expect to receive notifications from the transportation contractors and/or student advocates assigned to your child regarding bus pick-up and drop-off times.

On behalf of the Commission, I extend my sincere appreciation to The Town of Westfield; Mayor Shelley Brindle; Westfield Police, Fire and Construction Departments; The New Jersey Department of Education; The Union County Office of Education; Executive Union County Superintendent Daryl Palmieri, Karen Dunn and Kenneth Weinheimer, Executive County School Business Officials; and Justin Puolos and Streetworks Development for all of their efforts to ensure our students have a safe building for in-person learning.

Please contact me at (908) 233-9317 x 1001 or [cdattilo@ucesc.org](mailto:cdattilo@ucesc.org) with any questions.

Thank you for your patience during this process. Have a nice weekend!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carrie Dattilo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Carrie" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Dattilo".

Carrie Dattilo  
Acting Superintendent