



HARRISON COUNTY SCHOOLS

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Superintendent



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To: Harrison County Schools' Students, Families, Staff and Community,

As many of you are aware, Governor Beshear has communicated over the past couple of weeks that his administration was working on a way that schools could return to some form of in-person learning in January even if the community is still designated as "Red" on KY's COVID Incident Map. In a press conference on Monday, December 14, Governor Beshear broadly referenced some of his criteria for a return in January. On Tuesday, December 15, the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) hosted a web meeting with state superintendents to discuss planning for a January return to in-person instruction. During this meeting, we learned two important things. The first thing we learned was that in an effort to mitigate further spread following the holidays, KDE along with the Kentucky Department of Public Health (KDPH), was recommending a return to in-person learning no sooner than January 11. Secondly, we learned that KDE/KDPH does not have published guidance ready for distribution to school districts which is necessary for us to adjust/modify our individual plans. KDE shared that the main reason for this latency in providing guidance was because the department is still awaiting the exact language of an anticipated Executive Order by Governor Beshear.

We are now only one day away from our planned winter break. It is impossible to plan for our return options at this point absent KDE guidance and more importantly any requirements written into Governor Beshear's Executive Orders. However, we do want to announce some important information to our students, staff and community with ample notification.

- **Friday, December 18 is the official end of the 2nd nine weeks. Please refer to communication from your school regarding due dates for assignments.**
- **Winter break begins December 21 and runs through January 1. During this time, the district is not running meal service.**
- **The 3rd Nine Weeks will begin on January 4 with Remote Learning. We will remain in Remote Learning through January 9. Meal service will begin again on Wednesday, January 6.**
- **January 11 and Beyond – Once we learn the details of any Mandates / Guidance / and Recommendations, we will work collaboratively to adjust our plans to provide for as much in-person learning as possible. This will always be done with safety as our highest priority. We will notify the public of our plans as soon as possible.**

During the remaining winter months and regardless of our instructional mode at any given time, we will continue to have school via Remote Learning on days of inclement weather. This means that there will be very few if any "Snow Days." There may be times that require school cancellation due to power outages, flooding, or natural disaster. In this event, the district will notify our families, staff and the community. If you have any questions on dates, please refer to the district calendar on our website and/or contact your school directly.

In closing, I want to thank every student, staff member and parent for your support and understanding during these most difficult times. None of us have ever experienced anything like this in our lives. We will prevail and be stronger in the end. As the vaccine gets rolled out across our nation in the coming months, we will see a great reduction in transmission. I know that we still are not where any of us want to be, but I hope and pray that we are seeing the beginning of the end. If all goes well, we will be able to begin the 2021-2022 school year under normal conditions.

Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays!

Dr. Burchett, Superintendent
Harrison County Schools