

Harrisburg Community Unit School District #3

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OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Parents/Guardians,

First, on behalf of the Board, Administration, staff and the entire district I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New year!

This past year has been like no other I have experienced in my 54 years. Our world has gone through so many changes, and we live in a VERY different world than we did just a year ago. I find myself making decisions as a Superintendent and even as a father that I would NEVER make. Sadly, at least for the time being, that is the world we find ourselves living.

Considering these things, our district has had to plan and map out what we think is best for our entire student body, staff and district for the remainder of this school year. These talks have been happening for months and we have debated with each other and the Board of Education on what options are best for all our stakeholders. Those discussions are happening while everyone in the room knows there is NO degree of certainty as to a "right" decision, as we are in uncharted waters.

With that said, we have decided on a path for next semester and wanted to let you know as soon as we made a decision. The district has decided to continue with the same academic schedule we are currently utilizing. This is 8-12 Monday - Friday, unless you decide to have your child be a "remote learner". We have many in - person and remote students who are flourishing with their academics. We ask that you only continue with the outstanding job you are doing and reach out to staff if you begin to have any trouble with your work.

However, we do have students that are struggling for various reasons, so we are implementing some interventions that will be mandatory for some of our students. The items below will be discussed in detail in a mailing from your child's school if your child is identified as someone in need of these interventions.

- 1. Any student (remote or in-person learning) that is identified as currently failing or in danger of failing will be REQUIRED to attend mandatory tutoring/ credit recovery from 1 - 3 p.m. Monday - Thursday in person until those grades are improved to a passing grade. We will wear masks, adhere to all social distancing, and follow all required IDPH guidelines to the best of our ability during these sessions as well.**

- 2. The District will pick up remote learners who cannot make it to their school and provide transportation home to ALL students who are involved.**

- 3. THIS IS MANDATORY TO FAILING STUDENTS, Should you refuse your child to attend the tutoring, you will be asked to sign a document that this was offered and you understand that by refusing this service it is very possible your child will be retained and not promoted if they do not make the needed improvements in their scores.**

- 4. Should your student miss an EXCESSIVE amount of the tutoring sessions (as determined by your child's building administrator) your child will be dropped from the tutoring program. Furthermore, if your child is also a remote learner, you will be required to return to in-person learning at that time, unless you can provide a note from a Doctor identifying an underlying medical condition that prohibits you from attending.**

- 5. Finally these interventions DO NOT guarantee your child will be promoted. Your child must attend and meet ALL the requirements of these interventions which includes, but is not limited to; attendance each day, completion of work, work meeting minimal academic standards to be considered passing, not being a disruption or behavior issue during these intervention sessions.**

These guidelines are being put in place to assist the students who have fallen behind and or refused to complete the assigned work to be successful during the first semester. Our hope is you can help us make your child successful and meet their requirements to be promoted for the year.

Superintendent
Mike Gauch