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June 19, 2020

Dear Quaker Families,

As promised, this is the next in a series of messages where we will share information about our plans to welcome your children back to school in August.

We are doing everything possible to prepare a safe and welcoming environment for our students and staff, and we look forward to having your child in school. At the same time, we realize there are other considerations you could be facing. Whether it's a medically fragile child, someone in your home who is medically fragile, or you simply are not comfortable with our plans, we want you to know that we will work with you to further your child's education as a Plainfield student in a virtual setting. This will include access to the curriculum, meaningful assessments, and guidance from classroom teachers.

In any case, please contact your school principal if you have any concerns, so we can work together to determine the direction that you feel is best for your family.

On Wednesday, we provided the guiding principles that all public school districts in Hendricks County will follow. We appreciate the input offered from Hendricks County Health Officer, Dr. David Stopperich, which aligns with the principles offered by health officials at the state and federal level.

There are two key factors behind our decisions.

1. We believe that children should be in school with as much normalcy as possible, and
2. Science and medical professionals are very clear: if you wear a mask and practice social distancing to the best of your ability, your chances of sharing or catching COVID-19 are greatly reduced.

We understand that parents have their own opinions about requiring students to wear masks. As public school officials, our decisions are informed based on the overwhelming data and direction from medical professionals. Given that, there will be times throughout the day when students and staff will be required to wear masks during specific activities. When seated and working independently, we do not expect students will have to wear masks. We will provide you with more specifics in the coming weeks; we also know that many of these details and scenarios could change between now and late July.

There are some items, however, about which we feel more confident.

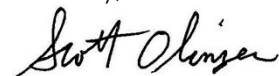
- Students are encouraged to bring water bottles from home.
- Classrooms, school buses and lunchrooms will have seating charts (although please note, this is not very different from previous practices).
- Instructional space is being organized to allow for as much social distancing as possible.
- Our principals are creating additional cafeteria space in order to increase distancing between groups of students. This could mean having secondary lunchroom space in gyms or other large spaces.
- Likewise, principals have created sick child/well child clinics to allow for the isolation of anyone who develops a fever while at school.
- And finally, we cannot stress enough the importance of staying home when you are sick, and for 72 hours AFTER a fever is gone and without the use of fever-reducing medications.

We plan to spend the next couple of weeks taking some time off and continuing to fine-tune back-to-school plans. As I said earlier, I remain convinced that many things could happen between now and early August that could change the plans we are making. You can expect to hear more from us, and specifically your child's principal, after July 13.

As I say in every message, please continue to work with your child on the importance of good hand-washing techniques and social distancing. These simple steps will go a long way towards a successful start to school on August 5th.

And finally, every decision we make today is geared towards making certain that students can be in the classroom this fall. We will be prepared.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott Olinger". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Scott Olinger