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July 10, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope this letter finds you well and your families safe and healthy. Although it may seem "months away," the start of the school year will soon be upon us. I want to take this opportunity to share information about the beginning of the 20-21 school year.

First, I would like to thank everyone for their responses to our recently conducted survey. The input that you provided was shared with our Health and Safety Planning Committee and provided the committee a great deal of guidance. As you probably already anticipated, the survey revealed strong opinions in all aspects of COVID-19.

Our Health and Safety Planning team has been working diligently to create a plan to ensure our students and staff safety. Unless conditions unexpectedly change, we plan to return to traditional in-person face-to-face instruction in August.

Our committee has identified ways in which to increase distancing between students in classrooms, decrease the large number of students in cafeterias, increase appropriate cleaning and sterilization of buildings, and develop common-sense approaches to keeping students and staff safe. Although we cannot guarantee six feet of distancing, we believe our plan will be able to maximize everyone's safety to the best of our ability. Bus transportation remains a challenge when trying to meet the need for distancing.

Our "return to school" planning remains very fluid as every day there are changes in previously released guidance and requirements. There is also a great deal of new guidance that becomes available as we learn more about COVID-19. We remain committed to making the return to school safe for all.

During our survey, a few responses indicated a desire to not return in August to face to face instruction. Please feel free to contact me to discuss any concerns that you may have or other options that are available to you through the district.

COVID-19 is a community problem. Anything that you can do to prevent the spread of COVID-19 greatly reduces the possibility that we will experience issues in our school. We will continue to share school opening updates throughout the summer.

Please stay safe and enjoy the summer.

Sincerely,



Michael D. Pawlik

Superintendent of Schools