



August 12,2020

Dear Parents and Butteville Families.

On behalf of the administration, Board of Trustees, teachers and staff, I would like to let you know that our Board of Trustees made a very difficult decision at their meeting on Tuesday night, August 11. They decided that Butteville will start the year on a 100% distance learning model. This decision is based on two major factors: safety of students and liability concerns. Early last week, a state bill that was supposed to protect schools from liability issues and costly litigation involving COVID-19 didn't pass. Without liability protections and continual changes with reopening guidelines at the federal, state and local levels, the Board has decided that it is best for us to start the school year using a distance learning program. The Board wants you to know that this is not an easy decision and that they will reevaluate our school reopening plan every four weeks as new information becomes available. The Board's intent is to get students back to school as soon as we safely can do so.

What does this mean for you?

- First, your teachers have had time to work on their skills to become more effective using distance learning platforms. We have met weekly all summer long via zoom meetings to discuss and update our online teaching strategies.
- Second, teachers return to school next week to start planning out the new year while also attending distance learning professional development.
- Third, they plan to meet and greet with you and your child the week of August 24. In this meeting teachers will hand out chromebooks, Ipads, academic materials and weekly instructional schedules including office hours.
- And finally, teachers will plan weekly interactions with students through an assortment of virtual meetings, lessons, and check-ins.

We expect bumps in the road as we go forward, but hopefully it will only take a short transition period to get students back into a hybrid platform or in-person instruction. Our school mission is to seek and explore avenues which allow students "to achieve their highest potential in a safe, positive, and supportive learning environment." I have all the faith in the world that our teachers will continually provide excellent educational experiences even during distance learning. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we all go through this uncertainty together.

Sincerely,

Eric Bragg, Principal

Len Foreman, Superintendent