

**A STATEMENT FROM THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND THE
SUPERINTENDENT**

During this global pandemic, we are all experiencing profound disruption in our individual lives and our life together as the stakeholders of the _____ Local School District. This has included the closing of school buildings, cancellation of all extracurricular activities, significant changes to graduation ceremonies, and in many other manners. As the 2020-2021 school year begins, our lives continue to be disrupted by the reopening of schools in such a manner that there is a virtual component and classroom component, social distancing, wearing face coverings, limiting some extracurricular activities, and severely limiting the number of spectators who can watch and cheer for our student-athletes.

As Governor Dewine has allowed businesses to open, schools to restart, and activities to resume, we cannot return to “business as usual” and have adopted a specific reopening plan that brings students back to the classroom, in phases. This depends upon the degree of risk that is present in our community. In doing so, we have implemented what we believe to be the appropriate steps to protect our students, employees and the public as much as possible from the coronavirus. What is known about coronavirus is ever-changing. Our goal is to monitor new information and alter our safety practices, as needed.

We recognize that resuming activities as allowed by the Governor’s Responsible Restart Ohio Plan comes with a certain amount of risk. We also recognize that allowing activities to resume at our school facilities comes with a certain amount of risk. We are abiding by the requirements and recommendations of the Ohio Department of Education (ODE), Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and the United States’ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). We will continue to mitigate risks as we are able in the coming days.

Nonetheless, the use of school facilities will expose students, employees and visitors to an increased number of people which increases the risk of contracting coronavirus. If you are unwilling to assume the increased risk you or your family may face, are 65 or older, or vulnerable due to a medical condition or illness, please consider not using school facilities until the pandemic no longer affects our State.

Finally, the future closure of any or all school facilities may be necessary if people do not abide by the expectations requested by ODE's, ODH's and CDC's mandatory requirements and recommended best practices, the Scioto County Health Department and the Superintendent's and Board of Education's COVID-19 rules and regulations. The last thing we want is for Governor Dewine to conclude the benefits associated with attending school and school activities are outweighed by their risks, to close our buildings, cancel our events, and send us back to virtual learning, once again.

PLEASE TAKE ALL PRECAUTIONS, INCLUDING WEARING MASKS, SOCIAL DISTANCING, WASHING AND SANITIZING HANDS FOR 20 SECONDS, VIGILANTLY ASSESSING FOR SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19, AND STAYING HOME, WHEN NECESSARY.