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RSU 57 prepares respectful, responsible and creative thinkers for success in the global community.

September 3, 2020

Dear Parents,

Deferring & Reconfiguring the PreK-5th Grade School Start

After thoughtful conversations with building administrators and directors, our team concluded that we need to defer/reconfigure the staggered start of PreK-5th Grades in order to put the necessary pieces in place for a successful school opening. As you know, our staff has been working around the clock to prepare for this complex task. Although we could be ready for the planned staggered start on the 8th, doing so would result in significant added pressure on our facilities staff. Some of our furniture and supplies have just arrived. It is critically important to have all of our safety precautions in place, primarily the new furniture, that allows for proper spacing before we open.

To provide some details: We are anticipating the arrival of over 200 individual student desks this week to use in classrooms and tables for cafeterias that will need to be distributed and assembled. We are awaiting receipt of additional supplies, receiving and erecting tents we purchased for outdoor learning, and placing additional floor markers in our corridors. We are working around the clock to install cameras to facilitate simultaneous remote learning and deploying teacher and student technology ipads, laptops, etc. The assembly, distribution, and installation of all these things takes time. We have not been able to control delivery dates, supplies have

been scarce, and we've had to move items from central locations out to each of our schools, upon receiving deliveries.

As such, the following schedule reflects our revised start schedule for our PreK - 5th grade elementary schools:

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|---------------------------------|--|
| Tuesday, September 8th | Building-based, Staff only/ *PreK & K School Bus Orientation |
| Wednesday, September 9th | Building-based, Staff only/ *PreK & K School Bus Orientation |
| Thursday, September 10th | IN PERSON ONLY START Grades 1st - 5 th |
| Monday, September 14th | IN PERSON ONLY START Grades Pre K & K REMOTE START Grades 1st - 5 th |
| Wednesday, September 16th | REMOTE START Grades PreK & K |
| Thursday, September 17th onward | REMOTE & IN PERSON ALL PreK-5th |

Essentially, slowing the opening of our PreK - 5th grade elementary schools and 'rolling up' grade levels at a slower pace, as supplies to outfit the spaces arrive, are assembled, and are put into place for a safe and comfortable start to the year.

*In conjunction with PreK and K screening at MHS East, we welcome our PreK and K parents and children to attend a School Bus Orientation September 8th and 9th between the hours of 8:30AM – 1:30PM.

Thank you for your understanding.

Larry Malone