July 31, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

This letter will continue to provide you with updates as we prepare for the 2020-21 school year, particularly, the partial opening of the school buildings for some form of in-person instruction. As I previously shared with you, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) has provided districts with guidance for opening schools. The document can be accessed via this link: The Road Back. The Restart Committee continues to meet and discuss other portions of the opening plan required by the NJDOE. The Committee has created protocols for the cleaning and the disinfecting of the school buildings as well as some procedures that will be put in place to continue to assure the students’ and staff’s safety. Transportation protocols were also discussed and continue to be developed. The attached slide presentation provide more details of the reopening plan.

The Virtual Instruction Plan continues to be developed as well. The plan will include teachers’ live streaming instruction of the four core subjects: Math, Language Arts Literacy, Social Studies, and Science. The special areas and electives instruction will be taught in the afternoon, which will also include some form of virtual instruction as well. The specific details may vary by grade level. Mr. Meyer and Mrs. Bammer continue to work on developing class schedules as well as developing the instructional platform that will be used in the virtual setting.

As we continue to get guidance and directives from the NJDOE we are finalizing the reopening plan. We believe we will be sending the plan to all parents on Monday, August 3rd. I will ask you to review the plan and make the best decision for your family. The opening plan will provide you with the following three options for the start of the 2020-21 school year:

- 100 % Virtual Instruction (Students will not receive instruction in the school buildings.
- Phase 2 Hybrid Plan – Students will attend in school instruction two days per week, which will be supplemented with virtual instruction taking place for three days per week.
- Homeschooling - Parents will take full responsibility for their child’s educational program.

On Friday, August 7th we will be sending a survey requiring you to commit for at least the first marking period, on what instructional plan you will be choosing for your child. We will also be asking, if your child is eligible for busing, to decide if your child will be riding the bus to school. On August 10th we will review the survey results and start the placement of the students into their educational cohort as well as finalizing the schedule and the bus routes. If a survey is not completed, we will assign your child to the virtual option.

I recognize that the reopening plan is not how any of us wanted to open the school year, but under the current NJDOE directives, it is the best option we can offer at this time. It is also important to recognize that the reopening plan will continue to change as current health conditions change. Also, changes may need to be made to the instructional plan as the virtual instruction develops. The goal will always be to provide the best possible instruction to the children, while focusing on the safety and wellbeing of the students and staff.

On Thursday August 6th from 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM, I will be hosting a virtual meeting through the Zoom platform for any parents who would like to ask questions regarding the Reopening Plan that is being sent on August 3rd. You can register for the meeting at Reopening Plan.
Discussion. Please keep in mind the reopening plan will be modified as we get closer to the start of the 2020-21 school year, as well as after the start of the new school year. The modifications will be made as we continue to follow the directives of the NJDOE, CDC, and local health office.

Please take the time to review the slide presentation accompanying this letter. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact my office. Thank you for your time and continued support. Best wishes to you and your family for a safe and enjoyable summer.

Respectfully,

James W. Grube

James W. Grube
Superintendent of Schools