



PINE GROVE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Promoting Growth, Achievement, Success, and Direction for ALL Children!



*Heath W. Renninger
Superintendent*

July 16, 2020

Dear PGASD Parents/Guardians:

I hope this communication finds you healthy and enjoying the summer despite the continued COVID-19 pandemic. Over the past few weeks, we have been working diligently to develop our School District's Health and Safety Plan in order to bring students back to school safely. The District's Pandemic Team consists of over twenty individuals from all areas including parents, community, support staff, professional staff, administrators and health care. The team is closely reviewing guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the World Health Organization, the Pennsylvania Departments of Health and Education, and information from the American Association of Pediatrics.

Our forthcoming district plan will specifically detail health and safety considerations for cleaning and disinfecting; social distancing and safety protocols; and monitoring student and staff health. Much discussion remains as to how we will implement the July 1, 2020 guidance from the Department of Health that face coverings should be worn inside schools and how we successfully socially distance in classrooms, on school buses, in hallways, and cafeterias.

The other major purpose of this plan is to communicate to our students, parents, faculty, and our community the potential instructional models that may be utilized in order to keep transmission of COVID-19 as low as possible. One of the primary goals of this plan is to be able to have multiple instructional formats available that will allow us to quickly transition into a different learning format, if necessary depending on the spread of the virus and state guidance. **Because of this, I would encourage parents to plan for all three scenarios** briefly summarized below. The ultimate starting format will be determined by our school board in early August.

1) Total Reopen - Each school would reopen fully for all students and staff with health and safety precautions in place to the greatest extent possible. Socially distancing of six feet will not be attainable in most areas of the school.

2) Blended Format - This instructional format balances in-person learning with virtual learning. This format allows for greater social distancing measures and limits the number of students in a classroom/school/busing environment to approximately 50% of the total reopen model. Students would be designated as a red or grey team member. Students on a designated team would be on-site for in person learning for a number of specified days and in a virtual asynchronous learning for a number of specified days. When students are not on-site, they would participate in asynchronous learning.



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3) Total Remote Format - In this learning format, all students will be off-site in remote instruction. Students will engage in synchronous and asynchronous learning activities with a student-assigned device. A schedule for synchronous learning would differ for each building.

Our Cardinal Virtual Campus (CVC), Pine Grove Area's Full-Time Cyber School offers students and their families an opportunity to opt out of any of these above formats in order to enroll in our own full-time online platform. Cardinal Virtual Campus (CVC) is open to all district students in Kindergarten through 12th grade. All students entering this program must commit to the program for a minimum of one semester (90 days). Due to the extreme costs associated with the district needing to reimburse cyber charter programs outside of Pine Grove Area and the financial burden that enrollment of our children in such programs has on our district and the community, we ask that parents who are currently considering outside charter school options please take time to learn more about our in-house CVC program. Every dollar we send to cyber charter programs outside of the district are dollars taken away from Pine Grove Area programs and services. If you are interested in learning more about the Cardinal Virtual Campus for the upcoming school year, please contact Mr. Vince Hoover at 570-345-2731, ext 358 or cvc@pgasd.com.

Unfortunately, this virus will not disappear by Wednesday, August 26, 2020; but, as being witnessed currently, its level of spread will change. Realizing Covid-19 will be present throughout the foreseeable future and outbreaks may be determined and change, flexibility will be our upmost priority. Although we cannot identify a concrete format at this time, the district remains committed to adjusting its approach as needed and welcoming students back August 26, 2020. I will continue to communicate our plans over the summer as final decisions are reached and plans completed. I remain grateful to our wonderful community for all your support.

Respectfully,

Heath W. Renninger, Superintendent