



TYRONE

AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Soaring Forward to Explore, Challenge and Succeed
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Dear Tyrone Area School District Families:

The Tyrone Area School District continues to actively plan for the return of staff and students to our schools for the 2020-21 school year. We continue to work through a variety of options to prepare for possible changes in the requirements that allow public schools to return for face-to-face instruction. Preparation for a safe and healthy return of students **and** staff is our priority as we develop our *Reopening Health and Safety Plan*, as required by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

At its meeting on July 14, 2020, the School Board approved the *TASD Reopening Health and Safety Plan*. This plan was developed using guidance from a variety of educational and health-related sources, as well as responses gleaned from the district's parent and staff surveys and will continue to be modified based on further recommendations. The plan can be viewed in its entirety on the district website. With this first step complete, the district administration and staff can now begin more detailed planning for our return. We fully acknowledge that one plan will not appeal to everyone nor will it completely eliminate the risk of the transmission of COVID-19; however, we must work together to provide the safest environment possible for our staff and students to resume a face-to-face learning environment. **Currently, Tyrone Area School District is planning for a full return to school for students on August 25 (K-12) and August 27 (Pre-K).**

Please find an update below of some of the items contained in our plan at this time:

- Under Blair County's current "Green" designation, we are planning to return to school on a regular schedule with our students. District administrators continue to develop a modified schedule to implement if increasing COVID-19 cases require us to decrease the number of students in the buildings at one time. More details about that plan will be released in the following weeks.
- Increased cleaning and sanitizing protocols will occur both during the school day and in the evenings in classrooms, buses, and other areas with particular attention paid to high "touch points" (doorknobs, desktops, handrails, etc.).
- Staff and students will be encouraged to wash and/or sanitize their hands frequently during the school day.
- Classrooms and other learning spaces will be configured to maximize physical distancing to the extent feasible, while maintaining necessary social opportunities for students.
- Transitions will be limited and/or staggered, when necessary, to reduce the simultaneous movement of students.
- TASD is working collaboratively with transportation and food service contractors to provide safe and healthy environments upon arrival and dismissal and during mealtimes.
- Parents/caregivers should perform symptom screenings and temperature checks on their children each day, prior to leaving for school. Students who present with symptoms or a fever of 100 degrees or higher should NOT attend school.
- Staff and students showing symptoms during the school day will be isolated in areas separated from others and will be sent home.

- Parents and staff will receive information regarding the signs and symptoms of illness on a continual basis and will be asked to notify school health personnel with concerns.
- Outside visitors to the schools will be limited and phone calls, emails, and virtual meetings will be encouraged.
- As per the current guidelines from the PA Departments of Health and Education, students and staff are required to wear face coverings (masks or shields) when the appropriate amount of social distancing cannot be maintained (buses, hallways, in various classrooms). Exceptions will apply as indicated in the Governor's order.
- Protocols for staff and students who are at higher risk for illness will be established on a case by case basis.

The T ASD will continue to monitor public health conditions and new guidance leading up to and throughout the school year. Please understand that the path of the virus in our area over the next few weeks will ultimately impact our plans.

Families who do not feel comfortable with their children returning to school full time may consider the online options provided through the Tyrone Area School District Cyber Academy. The T ASD Cyber Academy is open to students in Kindergarten through 12th grade and allows students to remain connected to T ASD staff and resources while providing flexibility for learning. The T ASD Cyber Academy is separate from the remote learning in which students participated this past spring. In addition, approved Home Education programs are an option. Further explanations about these options and how to inquire about them will be provided in a future communication. Parents are encouraged to contact school staff to discuss individual options for children with conditions that place them at higher risk.

Stakeholders have a MUTUAL RESPONSIBILITY in monitoring and reporting health concerns, and we need to work together as a community to keep everyone safe. We ask for your patience and flexibility as we move into the 2020-21 school year. Please expect a variety of communications from both the district and school building levels as we move through the next few weeks. These communications will work to provide answers to the questions you have. As always, we will work together to meet the educational, social-emotional, and safety needs of our staff and students.

Sincerely,



Leslie A. Estep
Superintendent of Schools

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