



November 12, 2020

Dear Families of the Tyrone Area School District:

As we continue to navigate through this unpredictable time, I want to take a moment to thank you again for your patience, understanding, and cooperation. While our jobs as educators have been very difficult, we understand that parents and students have experienced stress and anxiety over the constantly changing situation as well. We are grateful to all of you for following guidelines, being vigilant to signs of illness, and communicating with school personnel with questions and information.

Our current, in-person instructional model continues to be our preferred instructional option. However, we cannot ignore the reality that, at any given time, we may be required to close a classroom, building, or the district for a short or extended period. As positive cases of COVID-19 are growing in our area, it is our responsibility to prepare for as many different situations as possible. In addition to the hybrid model where students attend in the face-to-face environment on a part-time basis, the district has developed two different plans that could be implemented in the event of classroom/building/district closure. Depending upon the situation, a combination of these models may be necessary. Specific instructions about how students and teachers should proceed would be communicated at the time the change is made.

1. Off-Line Remote Learning Day

- This model involves a combination of paper/pencil and virtual work. The type of work provided will be determined at the building level and instructions will be provided at the time the model is implemented. Students will be instructed by their teachers about how to access this material. There would be no live instruction by the teachers on this day. This model would most likely be implemented in the event of a closure that lasts 1 to 3 days. *This includes the possibility of a cancellation for inclement weather – i.e., snow day.*

2. Virtual Instruction

- In the event of a longer-term closure (2-3 or more days), the district will implement a virtual learning model that involves live instruction by the teachers. In this model, students would follow a schedule that closely mirrors their regular school schedule. This model would allow students and teachers to remain connected during this time period and it would provide a more structured environment than existed during last spring's shutdown.

District administrators and teachers are aware that there could be unanticipated issues to work out, in order for families and students to be successful. To this end, **TASD is planning to practice the Virtual Instruction model (#2 indicated above) on THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2020 for students in grades K-12 only.** This means that school buildings will be closed to

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students on this day and instruction will occur in a virtual environment. PreK and daycare will continue to operate normally. This session will give everyone an opportunity to collect feedback and make adjustments should it become necessary to implement this model.

Over the next few days, you will receive more specific communications from your child(ren)'s building principal(s) that will provide more detailed explanations of everyone's expectations for the day. Once again, this is a **practice session** which will allow all of us to better prepare for this type of instruction if forced to implement this model for a temporary period of time in the future.

A challenge that we have faced through this pandemic is to expect the unexpected. We will work to maintain our current, face-to-face instructional model as long as we possibly can while still protecting everyone's health and safety.

To summarize:

- There will be **NO IN PERSON SCHOOLING for Grades K-12 on THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2020.**
- The day will count as a day of school as students and teachers will participate in a practice run of their schedules during virtual instruction.
- Further, more detailed instructions will be provided to you at the building levels over the coming days.
- As those details are presented, please reach out to the building principals or your child(ren)'s teacher(s) with your questions.

Thank you again for your support as we strive to balance the health and safety of our students with their academic environment. Please continue to be vigilant and safe in your interactions with others and observe the recommended safety guidelines for yourselves and others.

Sincerely,

Leslie A. Estep
Superintendent of Schools