July 2, 2020

Dear Hopewell Parent(s) or Guardian(s),

We hope that this letter finds you and your family safe and healthy. I want to thank you for your support and patience at the end of last school year during our school closures. As we prepare for the 2020-2021 school year, the District is working diligently to prepare our Reset and Restart Plan for reopening our schools and welcoming our students in the fall.

The purpose of this letter is to provide families an overview of the District’s initial plans for re-opening, share a timeline for these plans, request your feedback on the overall plans, and to identify your intentions regarding transportation. The following information is included in the initial plan, but may change as new guidance is provided by our Commonwealth, Pennsylvania Department of Education, CDC, and Department of Health, as well as stakeholder feedback.

Re-opening: Green-Yellow-Red

As we enter the 2020-2021 school year, the District is preparing to have all students return to school. Understandably, there will be many health and safety mitigation protocols in place to support the well-being of students, staff, and families. This phase would be identified as "green" and it will include face to face instruction by assigned teachers. Instruction will be very similar to what our students experienced "pre-Covid" with some changes involving shared resources and social distancing to the maximum extent possible.

If the Commonwealth identifies the county or state as "yellow", a hybrid approach is being considered. Students would attend their school for instruction by their assigned teachers on Tuesday/Thursday or Wednesday/Friday, with alternating Mondays. When students are not in class, students will have a District issued device and will work on assignments from the previous day's lessons and activities. Parents will be asked if they have a preference on which days is best for their child to attend. Students with an IEP may attend school each day in order to receive all necessary supports and services.

It is the District’s hope that the Commonwealth or Beaver County will not return to "red", but if we were identified, "red" would indicate "stay home orders" and all staff and students would return to homes and instruction would occur in the home setting. Unlike this past year, much more synchronous instruction will occur so that teachers are "live" with their students. Students would have required assessments that would be graded. The skills and expectations for learning would follow the Hopewell curriculum. The student's teachers, however, would be the same teachers they have in "green" or "yellow".

Parents who wish to have their child participate in a cyber program have the option through Hopewell Area School District. The program would contain a set curriculum that the student would work through each day. Lessons are self-paced and include readings, assessments, activities to complete, and many other research based features to promote learning. A Hopewell teacher would be assessing the student when work is completed, but the teacher will most likely not be your child's assigned teacher if he or she was in school. The assigned teacher can assist the student if the student is struggling, but the cyber option, like other cyber programs, is best suited for a self-paced learner. A student involved in our cyber program remains a Hopewell student, can participate in all Hopewell activities, and would be considered a Hopewell graduate.
Viking CONNECT

Through the Board’s vision and understanding of the need for students to have devices as we enter the 2020-2021 school year, the District will provide a Chromebook for all students in grades 3-12 as part of our Viking CONNECT 1:1 initiative. Details will be forthcoming regarding expectations for students and families to participate in Viking CONNECT. Students in grades K-2 will be provided an iPad if we are in the “yellow” or “red” phase. At this time, we can provide an iPad per family, but we are hoping to be able to provide a device for each of our littlest Vikings, if resources are available.

Timeline for Final Plans

At the June 22, 2020 Board of School Directors meeting, the Board approved an initial re-opening plan. The summary of these plans is posted on the website. I encourage you to review this summary document which identifies many of the changes that may occur when we return to school in the fall in “green”. Over the coming weeks, we will be holding focus groups with stakeholders in order to gain feedback on certain aspects of the initial Reset and Restart Plan. Feedback and suggestions from these meetings may be included in the final plan. Parent input will be sought via survey data through July 17 and each parent will be asked to provide intentions for transportation in order for the District to prepare for increased traffic and bussing routes.

Parent Feedback Needed

The initial summary of the Reset and Restart Plan will be posted on the website. Also, a link to a survey will be available on July 6. This survey will provide stakeholders the opportunity to share concerns, ideas, recommendations, or questions to the District’s leadership team. Specifically, we know that facial coverings, cafeteria services and transportation are top concerns for many parents, so we especially want to hear from you on these topics and many more. This survey will be open from July 6 through July 17, 2020.

Also posted on the District’s website is a very important survey for parents regarding your intentions for instruction and transportation in the fall. We will need every family responding to the survey as our on-going plans will be based on the information provided.

Reintegration to Athletics

Hopewell’s athletic programs are restarting. At the June 22, 2020 Board meeting, the Board approved the District’s Reintegration to Athletics Plan that is necessary for school athletics to begin summer conditioning programs and activities. Our outside conditioning programs began on June 29 and our indoor conditioning programs will begin July 6.

There are health and safety precautions in place to protect our athletes and coaches. If interested, please read the plan which is posted on the District’s website. In addition, although not required by the state, we have created a Reintegration of our Marching Band plan, which is aligned to our Athletic Plan, in order to keep our musicians safe as well.

On behalf of the entire District, thank you for your continued patience and support as the District navigates so many changes. The safety of our Vikings is our top priority!

Stay safe and healthy!

With Viking PRIDE,

Dr. Michelle Miller

Superintendent