

July 16, 2020

Dear School District of Haverford Township Parents/Guardians, Students, and Staff,

As we move through the challenging process of planning for the opening of our school buildings, I want to be sure that we're communicating as thoroughly as possible. I know this is a time that is filled with anxiety and concern.

As a school district our goal is to return students to our schools in as safe and positive a manner as possible while following local, state, and national guidance. Unfortunately, this guidance is often conflicting, and continues to change.

We recognize there are numerous family situations and dynamics that make this issue extremely emotional and challenging, as well. We know that none of our suggested plans are ideal, and ultimately it will be impossible to find a path forward that suits every one of our families and students. However, we have thoughtfully and carefully planned throughout the summer. We know that any plan we put forth may have to be adapted, based on the trajectory of the virus and state direction.

- Please visit our [website](#) to view a timeline of our planning and approval process.
- Earlier this month we presented an overview of our plans for returning to school in the "Green" phase (following the state's pandemic phases.) Very broadly, that plan includes 3 to 6 feet of separation throughout the school day – with all students in school five days a week. This model follows the Chester County Health Department and World Health Organization guidelines. All students and staff must wear masks when 6 feet of separation can't be maintained (per the PA Department of Health.) Buses will run with 2 students to a seat. A number of other mitigation and sanitizing procedures will be in place. Students will also have the option to elect [Haverford Online](#), our fully virtual, in-district cyber program led by our own teachers. This is different from spring pandemic remote learning.
- Tonight we will present plans to our School Board for a hybrid model that we are proposing as another option. This would bring students into our schools in cohort groups, every other day, with Fridays being a day for virtual learning for all students. This model is based on research conducted by the Mid-Atlantic Regional Educational Laboratories and allows us to reduce capacity and maintain 6 feet of separation in our schools. Masks would still be required, and other cleaning/mitigation efforts would remain in effect. Busing would still run with fewer students.
- Tonight we will also present details of our Haverford Online program. The presentation will be posted on our website, and we'll have more details about the program coming to our website in the next few days. Registration will open for Haverford Online later this month. We will also live stream a parent/guardian information session about this program on July 21 at 5 p.m. If you have questions about Haverford Online after viewing the board presentation, we ask that you submit them to

HaverfordOnline@haverfordsd.net. Responses will be made into a *Frequently Asked Questions* document and reviewed at the live session.

- We expect to post details of our Proposed Opening Plan on our website on July 20, and expect our School Board to vote on an opening plan on July 30. Also on July 20 we will be sending a survey to our parents to gather more feedback on these proposed opening plans and tentative parent/guardian plans for the fall. That survey will close on July 27. We understand this is a very condensed timeline. We're working as quickly as possible to assimilate guidance and direction, gain clarity from the state, and adapt our plans to the changing trajectory of the virus. The first day of school is still scheduled for August 31.
- If you would like to provide comments and/or suggestions on the Opening Plan, we respectfully ask that you please provide comments in the survey that you'll receive July 20, so that we can best compile, organize, and track feedback for consideration as we move forward. Your input is valuable to us, and this is the best way for us to gather a volume of feedback in a meaningful way.
- If you have general questions about the opening of the 2020-2021 school year, you can email OpeningHaverford@haverfordsd.net. We will do our best to respond to these questions in a timely manner. However, we have been inundated with emails and appreciate your patience as we work to respond.

There are many unknowns in the coming school year, but we will do our very best to provide a positive, safe, nurturing experience for our students.

Any plans that we develop must have fluidity. None of us expected to find ourselves in this situation, and as we move forward we truly must expect the unexpected and be prepared to adapt. We remain committed to our mission to educate and to inspire a community of lifelong learners who become well-rounded global citizens.

Thank you very much for your patience and support.

Sincerely,
Maureen Reusche, EdD.
Superintendent