

July 27, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Thank you for your continued patience as we work through the very challenging question of how to safely open our schools. As you likely know, our School District is proposing a fall reopening using a Hybrid Model in order to achieve 6 feet of social distancing. Haverford Online is our K-12 fully online learning option for any families that would like to keep their children at home during the pandemic. Haverford Online registration can be completed [here](#). Presentations about our plans can be found on our [website](#).

Thus far we have received responses representing 3,641 students whose families have filled out a [Preference Form](#) to assist us in our planning. We will have 626 students participating in Haverford Online and 3,015 will participate in the hybrid model. If you have not done so yet, we ask that you please remember to complete this form by **Saturday, August 1st**.

In order to provide answers to as many questions as we can, we are offering drop-in sessions about our proposed Hybrid model with Q/A at each level, as well as an information session provided by our Pupil Services staff:

Hybrid Model Information sessions with Q/A will be held on the following days:

- Elementary - Tuesday 7/28 at 5:00-6:30 PM
- Middle School - Tuesday 7/28 at 7:00-8:30 PM
- High School - Wednesday 7/29 at 5:00 - 6:30 PM

Pupil Services Information Session with Q/A (Special Education, Gifted, English Learners, 504) will be held: Wednesday 7/29 at 7:00 - 8:30 PM

Zoom links for all sessions are available [here](#).

Our school board is expected to vote on our Reopening Plan on July 30 at 7:30 p.m. That meeting can be accessed [here](#).

We've received many questions and comments each week, and are working to respond to the best of our ability. "Frequently Asked Questions" are posted on our website and contain answers to many of the questions. At the end of this note you'll find four new, important questions that I hope will address some current concerns.

As educators, we want to provide the best possible experience for our students. Thank you for your support as we work with changing medical and state guidance to make the best possible decisions for our district.

Sincerely,
Maureen Resuche Ed.D
Superintendent

Q: Why has Haverford moved to a hybrid model, when some school districts in the region are still planning to go back five days a week, and others are opening with a fully virtual model for all students?

A: The Haverford School District administration, like every district in Pennsylvania, must make their own choice about how to safely reopen schools. Haverford was planning for a full, five day a week reopening with 3 feet of separation between students, per the Chester County Department of Health guidelines. (Delaware County is without its own health department but has been assigned to Chester County.) Given the new July 16 PA Department of Health guidance that states that schools should provide a minimum of 6 feet of distancing between students (and staff) to the maximum extent possible, coupled with the increase in Covid cases, we feel compelled to follow this prevailing guidance. The CDC, CHOP, and American Academy of Pediatrics (along with several other major national organizations) advocate for a return to in-person school – but only with safe social distancing, as defined by 6 feet. We simply do not have the space in our school district to provide this distancing when all students are present. The only way we can provide this is with a hybrid model.

Q: Will this model be in place for the entire year?

A: We are hoping to be able to transition all students back to school in person, five days a week with moderate social distancing and other Covid mitigation procedures. We will frequently reevaluate in conjunction with the Chester County Department of Health to ascertain when it may be safe to bring more students back to our classrooms.

Q: If the guidance keeps changing, how do you know that it won't change again?

A: The trajectory of the virus is obviously unknown, which is why we need to have multiple models that we can move in and out of throughout the school year.

Q: If enough parents select Haverford Online, can you then provide enough social distancing space to bring students back 5 days a week?

A: Half our student body would have to select the fully online option in order to provide enough space to make that work. We don't anticipate that will happen.