

Dear ONE Troy,

I know that many of you are eager to hear more detailed information about our plans for school this Fall. As we told you on July 17, our collaborative teams are working hard on multiple aspects of our Return to Learn Plans and we intend to present that work to our Board of Education and our community during the first week of August. We have scheduled a Board Meeting for **Wednesday, August 5 at 4:30pm**, which will be streamed live for you to see the planning, process and recommendations for the start of our school year. Specific details on where you can access the stream will be sent out early next week.

As you might imagine, we are continually refining our plans based on the current state of COVID-19 in our community. It's helpful to think of the start of school as a dial, which we can adjust based on the status of the virus and the expert advice of public health entities in our county and our state. To this end, we have been asked by some of you whether a "hybrid plan" is still being considered by the District. Using feedback from parents collected this spring, we designed three different options varying from fully virtual to fully in-seat. One of the options on our dial does include a gradual transition to in-seat learning, with smaller groups of students attending in person on specific days, and others assigned to access the classroom learning from home. Those smaller groups would then rotate, according to a prescribed schedule. This plan is one option the Board will hear more about on August 5, along with details of the fully virtual plan and a full in-seat option. Our goal remains to have students in school, but how we get there will depend on many factors, some out of our control.

Once the Board has had a chance to weigh in, additional information will be sent to families on **August 6**, along with a form for questions and an invitation to online Community Conversations on **Monday, August 10 and Tuesday, August 11**.

We understand that you may be hearing about learning options from other communities and are anxious to know the details of what to expect in the TSD, but we ask for your patience until those dates. Our focus is to develop the best possible plans for our students and families, and that sometimes means taking a little extra time to ensure that every aspect of our options has been thoroughly and carefully considered. I think that you will find that our plans are unique and allow for true classroom communities to be developed, with maximum flexibility for families based on your needs.

Regardless of how innovative or flexible our plans may be, we also know that this is a stressful time for parents and students, with so much in our world beyond our ability to change right now. Please know that we are committed to doing all that we can to provide our students with an experience that ensures their learning and attends to their well-being in a true "ONE Troy" manner. We look forward to sharing the hard work of our teams of administrators, teachers and support staff on and after August 5.

Thank you for your support,

Kerry

Kerry Birmingham
Director of Communications and Strategic Initiatives
Troy School District