

August 7, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Our School Board of Directors voted last night to approve the administration's recommendation for a fully virtual opening for the start of the coming school year. This decision was made based on current health data trends in Delaware County, Haverford Township in particular, that show a concerning increase in positive COVID case counts.

I know that many parents will be disappointed by this change and that it presents significant child care concerns for some families. We are gathering information about local childcare providers and hope to share a list of some child care options with parents next week.

Our district will work as hard as possible to make the start of the school year a successful one for all students. A few weeks into the school year, we will evaluate and attempt to determine as to whether we can move back into a hybrid model in October, with students attending on alternating days. Our goal and hope is to return students to some form of in-person instruction as soon as possible. We will work with the following experts to help us identify metrics to make the determination of when it's safe to return: Chester County Department of Health, CHOP's Policy Lab, and Dr. P.J. Brennan, Chief Medical Officer and Senior Vice President of the University of Pennsylvania Health Systems, Board Certified in Infectious Disease and Internal Medicine.

Dr. Brennan spoke at our School Board meeting last night, and you can watch an excerpted section with him [here](#). You can also watch the meeting in full [here](#).

As a school district, we must remain agile and be able to move in and out of different instructional models based on the virus trajectory. We are completely dedicated to doing the very best we can to make this school year a positive one for our students.

The health and wellness of our students and staff continues to be our top priority. The Pupil Services department is currently investigating the safety implications of bringing in some students who receive an intensive level of special education supports and services. This decision will be made in conjunction with the recommendations of health care providers.

Those who have registered for Haverford Online by the deadline will still be able to participate in the program as it is described on our website and in our board presentation on July 16. Families who indicated a preference for Haverford Online or completed a registration form received an email today, Friday, August 7, asking them to reaffirm their plan. This form must be submitted by Monday, August 10 at 6 pm.

In the coming weeks, you'll be receiving additional communication from the district and your child's school as we prepare for a virtual opening.

Thank you for your patience and support for our district.

Sincerely,
Maureen Reusche, Ed.D.
Superintendent