

LEHIGHTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

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"Partnering with students, families, and community to provide opportunities for life-long success through academic excellence and individual growth in a safe and supportive environment."

July 2, 2020

Dear Lehigh Educational Community,

Our administration team and staff has been focusing on the start of the school year for this upcoming fall. During this preparation, we continually receive and review guidance from many state and local health officials. We have had many questions and received some answers and/or guidance in relation to reopening of our schools. The information that has been provided stresses the importance for everyone to work together to follow practices such as good hygiene, social distancing and the wearing of masks in public places.

The Lehigh Area School District has a committee at each building level consisting of teachers, specialists, support staff, and administrators. These teams have and will continue to use this guidance, along with the survey feedback gathered from parents, guardians and staff to develop our specific plan for the fall. This plan will prioritize the health and safety of our students and staff, and we will look for ways to provide as much normalcy to the school experience as possible.

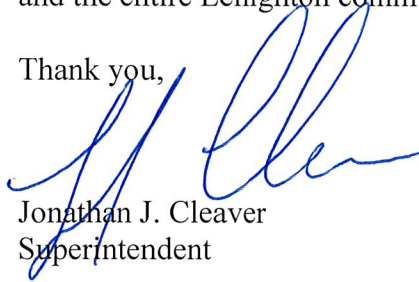
In anticipation of our return to school, we wanted to share information with our Lehigh families to assist in the preparation. Please be advised, the final plan is still in the development stages and we continue to monitor updates from the Pennsylvania Department of Education and other health organizations.

Below you will find several points of reference that will be part of the Return to School Framework that will be presented in late July:

1. Masks—at a minimum all students and staff will be required to have face coverings during transition times throughout the day and/or when minimal social distancing cannot be maintained. With the most recent order from the Governor's office, we believe the masks will again be in high demand.
2. Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)—the district will be transitioning to a BYOD school environment. If you are in the process of updating your technology, our district will focus on the use of an iPad® for students in grades K-2 and Chromebooks® for grades 3-12.
3. Water Bottle—all students and staff will be encouraged to bring their own water to school as the use of fountains will be limited.
4. Temperature Screenings—staff and students will be expected to monitor and check temperatures every day before coming to school.

We will continue to send updates out to our Lehighton Educational Community throughout this process and appreciate all your patience and understanding. This is a situation that we all continue to work through and it is our responsibility to take the recommendations and/or guidance from health organizations to protect the safety and health of our students, families, staff and the entire Lehighton community.

Thank you,



Jonathan J. Cleaver
Superintendent