

August 5, 2020

Good Evening Auburndale District Families,

I hope all is well with you and your family. I wanted to let you know as soon as I could that the Auburndale School Board of Education decided this evening to approve a plan for reopening the school for in person education for grades 4K-12 beginning September 1, 2020.

Board Approves In Person Plan

We are very excited to get our students back into our buildings for school and have been working hard all summer to make sure we can do this in as safe a way as possible in order to protect our students, our staff and our community. In order to bring our students and staff back together we have put several protocols and practices in place. Some of these are behind the scenes, maintenance working extra hard, providing daily cleanings and ionization applications throughout the buildings, parents choosing to transport their students to school to cut down on bus ridership, adding bus routes to reduce numbers there, etc. Other protocols will be more direct, and some will require patience and compassionate reserve on the part of our students, staff and families. None of these decisions were made lightly, and all provisions and practices are the result of hundreds of hours of consultation and work with local and state health agencies, staff members, neighboring districts, and medical and educational professionals. These protocols include a block schedule in the middle and high school, mask/face coverings being required on busses and in the buildings, strict cohorts in the 4K-8 classrooms, and many others that your building principals will let you know of in the next few days. Please remember all of this is done to keep our students, our staff and our community as healthy as possible and keep our doors open.

District Will Respond to the Health Environment as Needed

Although it is our intention and our Board approved plan to start school in person 4K-12, it is important to remember that the situation in north Wood County and in our district borders could change quickly, thereby forcing us to adapt for the sake of the health of our students, staff and community just as quickly. We may need to shift, depending on the situation, to our Plan B

(4K-8 in person, 9-12 all virtual or A/B days) or even possibly Plan C (4K-12 virtual for a period of time). This may happen, like inclement weather days, throughout the first semester, depending on the situation, though we strongly hope it will not. Note that the teachers and administration have worked tirelessly throughout the summer to fortify a rigorous, meaningful and well-suited plan for a virtual platform of education. This will NOT be the same as the format in March -May, when we were given 72 hours or less to prepare. I believe there is nothing better for our students' education than being in the classroom with our teachers, but our virtual plan is robust and meaningful, and will be a strong approach when and if it becomes necessary.

Rigorous and Meaningful Virtual Option for Families Concerned with In Person

Finally, for families that remain uncomfortable with sending their students to school in person, the District will offer a virtual option. Again, this is the format I spoke of above. It will be rigorous and useful and contain a good deal of live and/or recorded teacher interactions, daily and even per class in many situations. Please contact your building principal if this is an option you would prefer.

Thank you all for your support and dedication to our district and its mission to educate and care for our most important asset, our youth. We will work to have a detailed plan available on the website by next week, and your building principals will be letting you know a lot more of the specifics very soon. I so look forward to seeing and being with the wonderful students and staff that fill these buildings with joy, hard work and the beauty of witnessing learning happening all around us. I wish you the best and look forward to seeing you soon. Please email, jdelikowski@abschools.com, or call me with any questions you may have, or even just to say hello! All the best! - Mr. D

Mr. James Delikowski
District Administrator
School District of Auburndale