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March 5, 2021

Dear Pennsbury School District Community,

I hope this letter finds you well and looking forward to spring. We recently learned of a statewide plan to vaccinate all school employees and contractors over the next month. This news, combined with decreasing COVID-19 case counts and a reduction in the positivity testing rates, allowed the administration and Board of School Directors to revisit the Continuity of Education plan to expand our in-person opportunities for learning. At a special meeting last night, the Board approved the administration's proposal to return students in grades PreK-12 to in-person instruction four days a week while maintaining the fully remote learning option for families who feel this better meets their needs at this time. The plan that was approved is as follows:

Phase 4: Elementary School (Grades PreK-5)

- Return 4 days a week (Monday through Thursday) beginning March 29, 2021
- Friday continues to follow the current remote, synchronous schedule for all elementary students
- Full remote instruction option remains for families

No changes for general education students should occur prior to March 29th. Time is required to transition safely. Additionally, to prepare for this transition, the schedule for elementary students will be modified for the week of March 22nd-March 26th as follows:

- Monday, March 22 (Cohort A reports)
- Tuesday, March 23 (Cohort B reports)
- Wednesday, March 24 (*Asynchronous day for all elementary students)
- Thursday, March 25 (*Asynchronous ½ day in the morning; Parent-Teacher Conferences in the afternoon)
- Friday, March 26 (Students off; Parent-Teacher Conferences all day)

MISSION

Recognizing our proud traditions and diverse community, the Pennsbury School District prepares all students to become creative, ethical, and critical thinkers for lifelong success in a global society.

**Additional information regarding the posting of assignments for the asynchronous days will be shared by staff closer to those days of instruction.*

Phase 5 : Middle and High School (Grades 6-12)

- Return 4 days a week (Monday through Thursday) beginning April 12, 2021
- Friday continues to follow the current remote, synchronous schedule for all secondary students
- Full remote instruction option remains for families

During the week following spring recess, the three instructional days (Tuesday, April 6th through Thursday, April 8th) will follow the current instructional schedule. Note April 5th is the last day of spring recess and April 9th is a grading day. As a point of clarification to the discussion at the Board Meeting last night, the week of April 6th through April 8th will follow the current hybrid/remote schedule for secondary students. It will not be a week of remote learning.

When these changes take effect, the “hybrid model” of instruction, which offered students an opportunity to enjoy 2 days a week of in-person instruction, will no longer be an option. The times for daily student and staff schedules at all levels will remain the same for the remainder of this school year.

To help facilitate planning, families will receive a commitment survey that will lock in a family’s decision for the remainder of the school year. The elementary survey will be sent by each respective elementary principal to his/her school community. The survey will be open from Monday, March 8th through Thursday, March 11th. The secondary survey will be sent by each respective secondary principal to his/her school community and be open from Monday, March 15th through Thursday, March 18th.

Some additional information will be included in the principals’ communication to support families’ decision-making process. This will include transportation ridership data, including maximum capacity with two riders per seat compared to how many students are participating in cohorts A+B. Knowing the importance of social distancing, the principals have also worked hard to measure learning spaces to determine how many rooms will likely be able to provide 6+feet, between 3-6 feet, or less than 3 feet of distancing between students under the premise that all students in cohorts A+B would choose to return for 4 days of in-person instruction.

Continuity of Education

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As always, we are grateful for your partnership. This has been a challenging twelve months, but together we are coming out of it with a spirit of hope and optimism for brighter, healthier days ahead. It also goes without saying that many innovative ideas in education have advanced quickly that will forever change the way we teach and learn. I look forward to seeing how that influences continuous improvement for the Pennsbury School District in the years ahead.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William J. Gretzula". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "W" and "G".

William J. Gretzula, Ed.D.
District Superintendent
Pennsbury School District