

Lincoln Park Public Schools

Preparing Tomorrow's Leaders at Lincoln Park Schools Today

James W. Grube
Superintendent of Schools

Nicole C. Schoening, CPA, SFO
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

July 24, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope everyone is finding a way to deal with this summer heat. High temperatures and humidity, the joys of living in NJ. I want to continue to provide you with updates as we prepare for the 2020-21 school year, particularly, the partial opening of the school buildings for some form of in-person instruction. As I previously shared with you, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) has provided districts with guidance for opening schools. The document can be accessed via this link: [The Road Back](#).

Last Friday's correspondence provided information on the 2020-21 school calendar change, as well as insight into what the in-person instructional schedule will look like for our students. The Committee has confirmed that we plan on opening the school year with the **Phase 2** option of the plan. We will open with students in cohort A attending school on Monday and Tuesday, with cohort B attending school on Thursday and Friday. The district will follow the early dismissal schedule. Virtual instruction will take place in the afternoon when the students return home, as well as when they are not physically in the building. We will start the year with Wednesday being designated as a virtual instruction day for all students. If it is determined the plan is working well, we will look to move to the Wednesday rotation schedule as described in the attached slide presentation. As mentioned in last week's letter, although we will start the year in Phase 2, we possibly could move to different phases, dependent on state, county, and local directives.

The Restart Committee continues to meet and discuss other portions of the plan required by the NJDOE. The Committee has determined the daily screening process to be used for staff and students before entering the buildings, as well as what will be required of the staff and students in regards to wearing face coverings. The district will be requiring parents to perform a health assessment on their child every day before arriving at school. The self-assessment will require a temperature reading as well as answering some health questions. If there isn't a negative response recorded, and if your child's temperature reading is below 100.4 degrees (this is the temperature recommended by the CDC), your child will be cleared to enter the school building. The staff will be asked to do the same before coming to work every day. The actual tracking system has not been decided on, as we are continuing to research the best product available to us. The attached slide presentation will give you more details on the requirements of the self-assessment.

The other major decision that was made was the wearing of face coverings. The NJDOE guidance states all staff must wear face coverings while in the school buildings at all times, if medically able. There is some flexibility regarding face coverings and students. With guidance from health professionals, the district's plan will require students to wear a face covering at all times in the school building. There will be scheduled "face coverings breaks" during the day to assist the students' comfort level during the day. There also may be opportunities when face coverings will be able to be removed for a short period of time, if the safety of all can be assured. We are asking parents to assist us with getting your children used to wearing face coverings for extended periods of time, by extending their use over the summer before they return to school. There is more detail on face coverings in the slides attached.

The surveys that have been completed by both staff and parents have been helpful to us in developing the plan for the opening of the 2020-21 school year. I want to stress that your answers on these surveys are only for planning purposes. Once we provide you the completed plan, we will be requiring you to commit to what your decision will be for your child's return to school in September. The options will be 100% virtual, hybrid, (**AA & BB** Cohorts), and homeschooling. The homeschooling option would require the parent to

choose to educate their child at home, removing the educational responsibility from the district. Once again, we will not be asking you to commit to anything until the entire plan is completed and you have had time to review it.

The Restart Committee will be meeting again next week with the focus being on the cleaning and disinfecting procedures that will be followed in each building, as well as transportation procedures. The administrative team and the teaching staff continue to work on both the in-house instructional schedule as well as what the virtual instruction will be in September. The emphasis has been and will continue to be on a greater structure to the virtual instruction and as much interaction between the students and the staff as possible. There is still a great deal of work to be done in this area and when we have definitive answers on how the virtual instruction will be presented we will share it with you. Updates will continue to be sent weekly as parts of the reopening plan are finalized.

This past Tuesday I hosted a virtual meeting which provided parents an opportunity to ask questions regarding the plan to open schools. The feedback was positive and it was suggested that I continue to host informational virtual meetings. On Tuesday, July 28th, from 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM, I will be hosting another virtual meeting through the Zoom platform for any parents who would like to ask questions regarding the four phases of the instructional plan, school calendar, health self-assessments, and the wearing of face coverings. You can register for the meeting at [Lincoln Park Phases of Opening](#). There is a maximum number registrations allowed in the webinar format in Zoom, so I am also going to look into posting a Q&A from the meeting on the website, for any parent not able to register or attend the meeting. Also, if you want to submit a question to be addressed during the virtual meeting, click on the following link [Zoom Meeting Questions](#) and we will compile the list of questions before the meeting begins. There will still be the opportunity for questions to be asked live during the meeting. Please keep in mind that the focus of the meeting will be the district's phases of opening, school calendar, health assessments, and face coverings procedures. Other aspects of the opening plan will be answered, once the entire plan is completed in early August.

Please take the time to review the slide presentation accompanying this letter. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact my office. Thank you for your time and continued support. Best wishes to you and your family for a safe and enjoyable summer.

Respectfully,

James W. Grube

James W. Grube
Superintendent of Schools