



NEW PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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June 23, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians and Staff,

At our Board of Education meeting on Monday evening, June 21, 2021, I shared with the Board and the community our tentative plan for the opening of schools for the 2021-2022 school year. Please note that this plan is contingent upon the expectations and guidelines from the Department of Education and Department of Health, which we anticipate will be released in the next several weeks. As information is made available, we will continue to apprise you of any changes.

We are anticipating opening schools, Pre K-12, in September under normal pre-Covid circumstances, including our instructional program. There will be no remote learning via Zoom. The plexiglass dividers in each of our classrooms will be removed, and only located in the cafeterias so that we may serve lunch in a safe fashion. In the event that plexiglass in the cafeteria is not required, we will remove it.

We anticipate that social-distancing will no longer be a requirement so that we can adhere to a full-day instructional schedule and serve lunch to our students. All outdoor activities will be consistent with our current framework of no social distancing and no masks. We will continue to follow our current cleaning protocols, and all water stations will be open.

In terms of travel/ quarantine regulations, we will continue to follow the Department of Health guidelines. All field trips and building rentals will be reinstated.

We understand that as the temperature has shifted and more members of our school community have become fully vaccinated, the topic of our students wearing masks has become complex. We recognize and are cognizant of the different opinions regarding the wearing of masks for our students. Please note, that this is currently not at the discretion of the district, but rather is an Executive Order issued from the Governor's office, which we must adhere to. We anticipate that the wearing of masks by our students for the next school year will be addressed in the forthcoming expectations and guidelines that we will receive from the Department of Education and Department of Health. At this point, our tentative plan anticipates that masks may still be required for the entire school population or for a portion of the school population.

Thank you for all of your support and patience this year! We could not have been successful without your vigilance and adherence to our Guiding Principles.

We are excited about September 2021 and returning to our normal operating procedures. In the meantime, enjoy your summer vacation and please be on the lookout for district updates.

Sincerely,

David M. Miceli, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools