



## NEW PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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January 22, 2021

Dear Parents, Guardians & Staff:

Good Morning! I am pleased to announce that we are moving forward with Phase II of our return to school planning. Phase II will commence on February 1, 2021, at the elementary schools, and on February 3, 2021, at the High School and Middle School, which coincides with the semester change.

The decision to move forward is based on our successful planning this winter, the health of our school community, Department of Health approval, and consensus among the Board of Education and administration to take next steps. I want to thank all of the staff and administration for their planning efforts this winter, and I also want to thank our students and parents who have been steadfast in following our health and safety protocols.

The transition at the elementary schools provides students in groups A and B with the opportunity to attend school five days per week in a half-day format. Zoom sessions will continue in the afternoon. At the High School and Middle School, the hybrid format will continue, but the length of the in-person school day and in-person classes will increase. This afternoon, you will receive a letter from your child(ren)'s principal with specific details of our Phase II programming. If you have any questions regarding this transition, please feel free to reach out to the administration.

I ask our school community, over the next 10 days, to step it up a notch in terms of our vigilance at home and at school so that we can further ensure the success of Phase II. As I walked around our schools this week, many students were aware of this possible transition and they shared their excitement with me to have more time in school. This warmed my heart and made me realize, even more so, why this next step is so critical to our student body, inclusive of their academic success and emotional well-being.

We have been so fortunate as a community this year, and I am thankful for all of your contributions. The return to school full-time for all of our students has been our goal, and will continue to be at the forefront of our planning. I am optimistic about the future, and will continue to evaluate the possibility of this achievement before year's end. Thank you for all of your support, and have a wonderful weekend!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Miceli, Ed.D.".

Superintendent of Schools