

We hope you are having a safe and enjoyable summer. We wanted to provide you with another brief video update on our planning for the 2020-2021 school year.

On Thursday afternoon, we received additional guidance from the Pennsylvania Department of Health and the Pennsylvania Department of Education. A link to the state guidance has been emailed to all families. The district's core pandemic response team is reviewing this guidance and determining the changes which need to be made to the recommendations made by the pandemic response subcommittees.

The district's health and safety plan will be presented and approved by the Board of Directors the week of July 27. When a meeting date and time have been selected, families will be notified. Due to current restrictions on indoor gatherings in Pennsylvania, the meeting will be held virtually.

One key aspect to keep in mind is that when a plan is approved by the board of directors, that does not mean that plan is finalized. We expect to make regular modifications to that plan as new information and guidelines are released up to the start of school and throughout the school year.

We want to provide a brief overview of our instructional vision for the 2020-2021 school year.

As of today, we intend to offer South Park families two educational options for the 2020-2021 school year.

Prior to the start of the school year, families would be able to select an in-person instructional track. The delivery of instruction in this track would be determined based on the current phase of reopening in Pennsylvania (green, yellow, or red), the current dynamics of the coronavirus pandemic in our community and our region, and/or the ability of the district to meet the guidance released by the state this week. At the start of the school year or at any point during the school year, students enrolled in the in-person instructional track could experience:

- In-person learning five days a week in South Park classrooms with health and safety protocols in place and mitigation efforts implemented
- A combination of in-person and online learning in a to-be-determined hybrid schedule. Students would be assigned either an A group or a B group. While A group students learn in the classroom, B group students learn online.
- 100% virtual learning if a school or all schools are once again required to cease in-person operations either temporarily or for a prolonged period of time.

The second educational option is a 100% virtual learning choice. Families who prefer to keep their children home will have the choice to select a completely virtual educational option. While

details about what this virtual learning option will look like for students in each school building are being developed, it is important to know that a 100% virtual learning option in the 2020-2021 school year will not resemble the remote learning our students participated in during the spring of 2020. We are confident that enhancements to virtual learning through new platforms and partnerships will significantly upgrade this option.

A complete educational plan describing these two options in greater detail will be shared with families later this month. You will then be asked to select one of those two options for your child. The educational plan will detail the selection process and the options to switch into or out of either of the options at certain points in the school year.

We are sharing this preliminary information with you now because we are getting many questions about whether there will be a completely virtual option for the 2020-2021 school year. The answer is yes.

Last week, we informed you that we would be sending home an electronic transportation form to all families, asking whether you would be able to regularly drive your child to and from school. Our transportation department has completed the form. However, we are temporarily delaying the release of the form. We now intend to send that out early next week.

We know that the school year is on all of your minds right now, and the uncertainty surrounding this pandemic is likely causing stress for many families. It is hard to forecast the changes that will happen in our community and region this fall. This is why our plan must be and will be robust, comprehensive, and flexible. We will not simply cut and paste recommendations to check the required boxes on a template. Our plan must be thoughtful and thorough and must account for the concerns shared with us in our surveys, meetings, and conversations.

Over the next two weeks, as we introduce you to our plan, outline our options, and ask for your help, we hope you will see our commitment to ensuring our students learn, thrive, and grow in educational environments that prioritize their health and safety and the health and safety of our staff and community.

In the meantime, the actions we collectively take now will make a difference in the coming days and months. Heed the advice of local, state, and national health experts. Wear a mask or face covering. Avoid large gatherings. Monitor your health. And stay home when you're not feeling well.

It will take all of us working together to move forward.

Thank you for watching and have a great weekend.