Edward Wehrer  
Superintendent

September 28, 2020

Dear Steel Valley Families,

I hope this letter finds you and your loved ones well. Over the last several weeks, our staff and students have adapted very well to the synchronous, remote learning model. In the future, if we need to switch to remote learning because of weather, some type of emergency, or another order to close, we can do it synchronously and effectively. That is a big plus for us.

We are going to continue with our current synchronous, remote learning model until the beginning of the next grading period. We now anticipate that students will return to our buildings on November 4, 2020, when the second grading period begins. In the meantime, administration will be working with our staff to refine our plans on how best to move forward. We want to bring our students into our schools safely, we want to provide as much live time with teachers and paraprofessionals as possible for our remote learners, and we have to do this in a financially responsible fashion because of our budget constraints.

Over the next few days, representatives from Steel Valley will be contacting you to ask the question: Do you prefer in-person or remote instruction for your children? You may have different choices if you have more than one child. I realize we did earlier surveys, but quite a bit has changed since then, and we need to have accurate information on our families’ preferences.

Bringing students back into our schools means that we have to be ready to implement fully the procedures and safety measures that are outlined in our Health and Safety Plan. In order to practice those procedures and to test the capacity of our technology infrastructure during full Zoom remote instruction with students in the building on their devices, we are going to hold an in-person Transition Day for kindergarten, 5th grade and 9th grade students on Wednesday, October 7. All teachers and paraprofessionals will be expected to be in the buildings for that morning, and students will be dismissed early. Details for each grade level will be forthcoming.

The district’s board of directors, administration and staff stand together in supporting student achievement. We would like to thank the community for its patience, understanding and support during these uncertain times. The district remains resolute in its determination to provide an excellent public education to all students in our community.

Sincerely,

Edward Wehrer  
Superintendent