



LITTLE SILVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Dear Little Silver Families,

I hope that everyone is doing well and enjoying the month of August. In this week's update letter, I would like to highlight the work of the teacher Think Tank group that was assembled a few weeks ago. This group has been working collaboratively and has made excellent progress to date. In addition to the creation of instructional plans and expectations that should lead to a greater degree of consistency among teachers at each grade level, the Think Tank group has also been involved with the development of our live streaming work. The practice of live streaming will allow students at home to attend class in a virtual manner and have access to their teacher in real time. Not only does this practice enable students to receive some degree of live instruction from home, it also helps to maintain a stronger connection between teachers and students on a more frequent basis. Of course, in order for live streaming to work, classrooms must have appropriate technology in place to support this practice. Due to the creative and diligent efforts of our network technicians, a structure was created for classrooms to support live streaming. However, we quickly realized that our current inventory of hardware was lacking the components to make this happen. Enter the Education Foundation of Little Silver (EFLS). Thanks to the incredible generosity of the EFLS, all of the necessary components to support live streaming from classrooms are being purchased and should be ready for use in early September. I am proud and grateful to be part of a school community where this type of mutual support truly exists. The final phase of the Think Tank's work will be testing the live streaming approach with the help of a small number of parent volunteers. The upcoming dry run of our process will give us valuable feedback that will be used to make adjustments where needed.

As you may have seen on our district website, the official Reopening Plan is now posted along with two slide decks that provide families with information related to all of our reopening efforts. The slide decks were created as a way of streamlining the key points of the official plan in a more concise manner. All of this information can be found under the link entitled "Back-to-School Plan" along with a special email address (lsrestart@littlesilverschools.org) that has been created for community members to send us their questions, comments and concerns related to our reopening plans. The admin team and I have already fielded and responded to several questions sent to us. As I suspected, many of the questions being submitted are similar and pertain to the same areas of concern. For those particular items, I will be creating an opportunity for the community to hear my responses during the evening of Tuesday, August 25. My intention is to have a Superintendent's Update event where I will provide responses to many of the frequently asked questions. In order to cover as much information in an efficient and timely manner, there will not be an open Q&A format for this event. For this reason, I encourage community members to submit questions no later than Monday, August 24. A link for participating in this event will be sent to all families as we get closer to the date. The chance to ask questions in real time will



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occur during the Board of Education meeting on Thursday, August 27 during the public discussion portion of the agenda.

Finally, I believe it is important to comment on the latest decision made by the Governor where he stated that districts now have the option to open the year in a fully remote manner. Those districts that have decided to move in that direction tend to be much larger in size and have certain challenges such as busing and a lack of A/C in their schools. Not having to contend with those challenges makes it much easier for me to move forward with our current plans. The only way I would move our district back to phase 1 (100% fully remote learning) is if the Governor orders that to happen, as he did back in March, or if the Department of Health strongly recommends that action based on a dangerous increase in positive Covid cases in our community. My hope is that we will continue to make positive progress that will make it possible for me to move our district forward into phase 3 and eventually phase 4 of our Reopening Plan. In order for that to happen, we must continue working together.

For now, stay well and continue to enjoy all that summer has to offer!

Respectfully,

Superintendent