



LITTLE SILVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Mr. Michael E. Ettore
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October 7, 2020

Dear Little Silver Families,

Given how unique and busy September was for all of us this year, I am not surprised that the month flew by so quickly. Now that we are into October, I am proud to report that the teachers and students have worked hard to settle into their routines and establish the type of academic structure that is conducive to learning. Just as important, the teachers and students have also been developing working relationships with one another that will hopefully grow stronger throughout the year.

Feeling confident that we would have a successful transition into phase three of our Reopening Plan with the Kindergarten and first grade students, I worked with the administrative team to create a proposal that will enable us to take the same gradual approach with the remainder of our students in both schools. With the support of the Board of Education, the timeline below reflects the district's plan for moving forward into phase three of our Reopening Plan (fully virtual Monday followed by *all* students being able to attend school on an early dismissal schedule from Tuesday-Friday)

- **Week of Oct. 5 - K&1 and all pull-out resource room (POR) students at PRS**
- **Week of Oct. 12 - Grade 2 along with all in-class resource (ICR) and Tier 3 intervention students at PRS as well as Grade 5 and all POR students at MPS**
- **Week of Oct. 19 - Grades 3 and 4 at PRS along with Grade 6 and all ICR students at MPS**
- **Week of Oct. 26 - Grades 7 & 8 at MPS**

Because we are moving into phase three of our Reopening Plan sooner than expected, those families that chose the fully remote learning plan to start the year will have the opportunity to reconsider that decision. In order to make this change, an email to your school's principal is required for planning purposes. However, parents should know that virtual learning is not an option to be utilized for convenience purposes.

A significant factor that enabled us to move forward with the above plan is the addition of plexiglass barriers for each individual desk or work station. Originally, the plan was to have MPS students carry these barriers from class to class, but the items are simply too heavy for that to be a reasonable expectation. The good news is that the products we ordered are extremely sturdy and should provide an effective secondary form of protection for our students. In terms of cleaning the barriers, our custodial staff will take care of that task each afternoon. However, we simply do not have the capacity to have



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our custodians do this in every classroom between each class period. As a result, I am asking that families consider making a donation of disinfectant wipes to the schools that can be used to clean the barriers as needed during the school day.

Although I am optimistic about the above plan being successful, it is important to remember that one or more positive cases of Covid-19 could cause some level of quarantine within our schools. Worst case scenario would be the need to revert back to phase one of our plan (fully remote instruction each day) for a grade level, a school or even the entire district. With this in mind, please continue to exercise good judgement with regard to your child/children's social interactions outside of school.

The above transition plan represents the type of progressive, yet gradual approach that I believe our district is ready to take. Our staff and students have done an outstanding job of wearing masks and limiting close interactions with one another as much as possible. Additionally, our plexiglass barriers will provide the second layer of protection for individual student work stations. I would be remiss if I did not also mention the outstanding work being done by our custodial staff to keep our schools, especially student bathrooms spaces, sanitary and safe each day. All of these factors contributed to the timing of our forward movement into phase three.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher, your principal or me.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael E. Ettore".

Superintendent