

July 10, 2020

Dear parents and guardians,

I hope this summer finds you well and that you are making great memories as a family.

I am so excited to be here in Altoona! The stretch between April and July felt like a long one, but I am grateful for the warm welcome I have received from staff, students, families, and the community. Thank you so much for that.

One of our great priorities for our summer work is planning for the fall reopening of schools. As we plan, we are doing so with specific priorities in mind:

- High levels of health and safety practices
- Instruction that is student-centered, flexible, and responsive to needs
- Support of social and emotional needs

We are receiving a lot of information from various health organizations. We are grateful for that expertise in helping us to develop our plans.

It is likely that there are certain questions specifically on the minds of our families, like how we will monitor student health, how we will keep our schools clean, and whether or not students will need to wear masks for portions of their days. We are working on plans to address these questions (and others) right now and are using the guidance from health officials to lead our work.

The greatest question likely is in regards to what school attendance will look like. We are currently planning for three different scenarios:

- Full attendance: everyone here with elevated health and safety measures
- Intermittent full virtual: everyone learning remotely in a virtual format
- Hybrid: students attending alternate days in smaller groups and participating in virtual learning when they are not attending

We don't know which learning context we will be able to start the year in yet. This is the most complicated of all decisions and we are using care to monitor how local orders will continue to impact the ways in which we are able to gather staff and students. It is important that we follow our local orders and guidance in order to keep health and safety at our forefront.

There is *a lot* to plan for, but I am confident that we are building a quality plan to ensure that our schools are healthy and safe places for staff to work and for students to learn. I will continue to provide updates to you as we go. I expect that we will be able to communicate our plan to our families by the end of the month.

September will surely be a unique and memorable start to the school year, but we will be ready!

My best,



Heidi Eliopoulos
Proud Superintendent of the School District of Altoona