



**EVERY STUDENT.
EVERY DAY.**

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August 14, 2020

Dear Parents and Families,

Our teachers and staff have been busy preparing for the start of the school year. We are excited to welcome your student(s) back to school whether students will be returning in person or online. Throughout our planning process for reopening school we have been committed to providing a **healthy and safe** learning and working environment to staff and students. We have also been committed to **providing parents with a choice** between in-person instruction and a fully online program. Finally, we remain committed to **providing a quality education to ALL of our students** – whether they attend in-person or online this year.

Over the past week there have been two important challenges that have impacted our ability to implement our plan and so I wanted to let you know that we will not be to start school on Monday as planned. Originally, we had planned to have our online students enrolled in classes that would be taught by statewide teachers hired through CDLS. However, with the higher than expected numbers of families who have requested the online option across the state and in our district, we learned this week that the state may not be able to serve all of our students with the state's online teachers. The district remains committed to honoring our commitment to offer parents the online option, by having some of our RE-1 teachers teaching our students who are enrolled online through CDLS this year using the CDLS platform and curriculum.

In addition, many of our families registered late or have not yet registered yet so there are a number of students that we do not yet know whether they will be enrolling online or in-person. Traditionally, it is not an issue for parents to enroll on the first day of school, however this year we need to have parents register before school starts in order for us to plan. These challenges have made it difficult for us in our district planning with our teachers, planning for our bus routes, school meals, and other important planning.

In consulting with the Board of Education on how we can best honor our commitments to health and safety and providing a quality education to all of our students (online and in-person) given the new challenges that arose this week, the Board has decided to **postpone the opening of in-person school to August 24th** and August 26th for our online program with CDLS. This additional week will be used to do additional planning with teachers to ensure we can provide a high quality and safe education to all of our students, whether they are enrolled in-person or online.

In order for us to be prepared to successfully start serving your students the week of August 24th we need everyone who has not yet registered to register by Monday, August 17th and let us know whether your children will be attending online or in person. This information is critical to us to be able to plan for both our in-person and online programs as well as busing, school meals, and much more.

I know this has been a challenging year and I appreciate your understanding.

Thank you,

Lori Haukeness