

Sept. 18, 2020

Dear parents, staff, and community members,

I again want to thank everyone for their patience and understanding regarding the challenges of this school year. If you missed our previous announcement about the return to our hybrid plan in October, please [click here](#) to review that information. Well, we've now completed three weeks of remote learning, and as a reminder, we are now looking into implement both remote learning and in-person options for families.

We originally introduced our reopening plan in July, but have made a few adaptations to this plan to accommodate changes in the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) guidelines, new information as it became available, continued feedback from all stakeholders, and the transition from full remote learning. Today, we're releasing the revised version of our [Continuing Together: Plan for Hybrid Learning](#) plan so that parents can make a choice between staying with full remote learning from home or moving to a program which includes both learning from home and limited in-school instruction. Please pay close attention to the schedules, including modification to the original 7th and 8th grade proposal.

We'd like you to review this plan carefully and make your selection for the remainder of the first trimester (November 20). Please login to the [D64 Powerschool Parent Portal](#) (where you completed school registration), click on the FORMS icon, and select the Fall 2020 option for each child in your family **by noon on Friday, September 25**. If you need assistance with logging in to the PowerSchool Parent Portal, please contact your school office or email helpdesk@d64.org.

If you have enrolled your child in the Jefferson Preschool Program, please keep an eye out for a separate survey from Ms. Halverson regarding the 2020-21 school year.

For those parents interested in the Park Ridge Park District's before and after school *Beyond the Bell* program, unfortunately, we will not be able to have this program start immediately when we return in October. We do understand that this is a need for some of our families, and we will look to add this component as soon as we are comfortable that it's safe to do so. [Please click here](#) to see an update from *Beyond the Bell*.

I want to share with you that the move to in-person learning will cause anxiety for some. Staff, administration, parents, and students have not experienced school as we knew it since the middle of last March, and there will be concerns with accepting students back into the building on this larger scale. That being said, the majority of our parents want in-person instruction, our current

metrics are in an appropriate place, we've put into place all of the recommended guidelines from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and more, and we have seen other school districts in the area make this move successfully.

Finally, many staff members and parents have sent me links or plans from other districts and how they may construct aspects of their plan that are different from ours. Please know that each district is unique in its staff needs, the size of its buildings, the programs they have, and the challenges they face. I appreciate these resources, and each week I spend time consulting with other districts and other superintendents, as we all learn from each other.

Taking in all factors, we have designed a plan that we believe will work well for our needs in District 64. We will continue to learn from others and will make adjustments to our plan when necessary. Thanks for taking the time to read through our revised plan and for choosing the option that best fits your family. I ask us to continue to work together as we manage this challenging school year. I look forward to welcoming many more of our students back into the buildings in a few weeks.

Take care of yourself and each other,
Dr. Eric Olson
Superintendent