



## TWINSBURG CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

11136 Ravenna Road · Twinsburg OH 44087-1022

Phone: 330.486.2000

Fax: 330.425.7216

Kathryn M. Powers, Superintendent  
Martin Aho, Treasurer  
Jennifer C. Farthing, Director of Curriculum

Timothy Sullen, Director of Human Resources  
Denise P. Traphagen, Director of Pupil Services  
Andrea Walker, Director of Student Wellness  
Chad C. Welker, Business Manager

June 26, 2020

Dear Twinsburg Schools Family:

It has been several weeks since I last sent an update. I hope you are enjoying this summer and are finding opportunities to relax and to rejuvenate!

The purpose for this letter is to provide information about some of our summer programming as well as to update you with regard to the school district's reopening for the 2020/2021 school year.

As you know, school districts in Ohio have been closed due to Governor DeWine's "Stay at Home Order". This order expires next week, on June 30<sup>th</sup>. It is anticipated that Governor DeWine will provide guidance regarding the reopening of school districts prior to the expiration of this order. As you might imagine, we anxiously await this guidance document as we remain intent upon doing all that we can to support safe and healthy learning and work environments for our students and for our staff members.

During a recent phone conversation with our State Superintendent Paolo DeMaria, school superintendents were advised to, "Plan for the worst, hope for the best, and be prepared to pivot on a dime". To that end, we have been working through multiple scenarios as related to the reopening of the school district. Behind the scenes, District administrators have been analyzing the feedback you submitted through the Parent Surveys. Thank you very much for providing this valuable feedback as it is informing our plans. Additionally, as we anticipate social distancing to be a requirement in the coming school year, District administrators have measured every classroom and meeting space in all five (5) of our school buildings to determine the capacity for each room. This exercise was more than a mere calculation based upon the rooms' dimensions as we had to consider the placement of the teachers' materials and instructional spaces, locations of doors, room configurations such as pillars, and the placement of technology. Further, we have been working with one of our local business partners, Mr. Todd Courtney of Crown Composites Tooling, and his associates, to engineer Plexiglas shields which may be needed as we return to school. Perhaps the most exciting of all has been the recent approval by the Twinsburg Board of Education to provide a Chromebook to every student in grades PreK-12 in the coming school year. By providing this 1:1 environment, our teachers and students will be able to integrate the use of technology in classroom instruction in a consistent and equitable manner.

The anticipated release of Governor DeWine's guidance document next week will further define our District's plan for the 2020/2021 school year. I am hopeful that the majority of our students will be back on our school campuses, however, please know that we will provide virtual learning opportunities for students whose parents desire for their child/children to continue to learn remotely during this ongoing pandemic. It is our intention to be as flexible as possible and as responsive as possible to our families' needs.

To that end, following the anticipated release next week of the guidance document from Governor DeWine, and after we finalize our plan for the reopening of our school district, I will send another survey to our parents. The next survey will define the configuration of our school district's grade bands as well as the school

schedule for each grade band. Parents will be asked to declare their intentions with regard to their child/children's "learning assignment" for the 2020/2021 school year. Meaning, I will ask for your decision regarding whether your child will return to our school campuses or whether it is your intention for your child to remain learning remotely as they did during the fourth quarter of the 2019/2020 school year. I will also ask feedback regarding your child's transportation needs to and from school. Your submission of this information is critical so that we can move forward in our planning.

In the meantime, we submitted plans for our summer programming to the Summit County Public Health Department. Thoughtful consideration regarding healthy and safe environments was included in each plan. I am pleased to inform you that the Summit County Public Health Department authorized our plans for the following summer programs:

- Kindergarten Screening and Registration
  - July 31<sup>st</sup> and August 3<sup>rd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> - By appointment
  - Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday from 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
  - Tuesday from 11:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
  - Please check the District website for updates
- Process for Conducting Initial Evaluations/Reevaluations for Students with Disabilities
- Early Entrance Evaluations
- Tiger Skills Camp
  - July 20<sup>th</sup> – August 7<sup>th</sup>
- Extended School Year (ESY) Services
  - July 20<sup>th</sup> – August 7<sup>th</sup>
- Phase 1, Twinsburg High School Fall Sports Conditioning
  - Began on June 15<sup>th</sup>
- Phase 2, Twinsburg High School Fall Sports Conditioning
  - Begins on June 29<sup>th</sup>

With regard to our Twinsburg High School athletic conditioning sessions, please know that we are strategically and methodically commencing athletic opportunities for our students. Our coaching staff is intimately involved in this planning process. Likewise, Mr. Bonitz and Ms. Gossett have developed a Phase 1 plan for our annual Tiger Marching Band's Band Camp. That plan will be submitted to the Summit County Public Health Department for approval. As we move forward, opportunities for our students will be expanded, but only once plans are developed and authorized by the Summit County Public Health Department.

Thank you for your continued support, patience, and partnership as we develop our District's plan for the reopening of our school district. I truly appreciate the feedback you provide through the Parent Surveys and through other methods of correspondence. In turn, I am committed to providing you with clear, consistent, and timely updates as I truly recognize the importance of this information for your family.

Stay well and remember, we are #TigerStrong and #TigerProud and together we will get through this pandemic.

Kathi Powers, Superintendent