



## 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

July 26, 2020

Dear Twinsburg Schools Family:

I hope this letter finds you well and enjoying this beautiful Sunday. I am sending this correspondence with important updates regarding our District's reopening for the coming school year.

A note of appreciation to our parents who submitted their child(ren)'s school option. As of this afternoon, we have registered 3,909 of our approximate 4200 students with 66% selecting the on-campus option. If you have not submitted your child(ren)'s option, I would truly appreciate it if you would call the Board of Education Office tomorrow and provide his/her information. Our phone number is: 330.486.2000. In the meantime, our staff members will contact by telephone parents who have not submitted their child(ren)'s option.

It is anticipated that a Board Policy Subcommittee Meeting will be held this week to develop a draft policy regarding the wearing of masks. Following that meeting, the full Board will hold a first reading of the draft policy on Wednesday, August 5<sup>th</sup>, with anticipated approval on Wednesday, August 19<sup>th</sup>. As the policy is reviewed by the Board, I will, in turn, develop Administrative Guidelines that align with the Board's policy. The BOE Policy and Administrative Guidelines will then be implemented in our District. I appreciate the Board's diligence and careful consideration as they desire to endorse a policy that will ensure that our learning and work environments are safe for all. I will continue to update you regarding this important matter.

If your son or daughter is a middle/high school athlete or a member of our Tiger Marching Band, you know that August 1<sup>st</sup> is typically the beginning of our fall sports season. Our students have been on our campuses since the middle of June, participating in high school fall sports athletic conditioning sessions and in Tiger Marching Band Camp. In every case, a plan was developed that outlines health and safety protocols. These plans were reviewed and approved by the Summit County Public Health Department. With the ongoing pandemic, the approaching date of August 1<sup>st</sup> is worrisome for our coaching staff, band directors, and our administrators, thus, last Friday, I met with this group to develop a plan that would keep our students and staff safe, and still allow them to participate in these activities. This was a very important conversation and all who participated believe that co/extracurricular activities and athletics are important to the social-emotional well-being of our students. Our plan suggests that students who have been engaged in these activities, along with our middle school athletes once related plans are developed and approved, would continue participating in activities as defined in these plans until Monday, August 31<sup>st</sup> which is our Soft Reopening Week, at which point, activities would be trended up as students prepare for competitive play. If you read this morning's Akron Beacon Journal, you know that the Summit County Public Health Department is recommending fall sports to commence on October 1<sup>st</sup> with shortened schedules for moderate and high risk sports such as football, soccer, and volleyball.

Following our meeting on Friday, I forwarded our proposal to Commissioner Donna Skoda and Environmental Commissioner Tonia Burford at the Summit County Public Health Department. Commissioner Skoda replied that our proposal aligned with the guidance provided on Friday afternoon from the health department. With this

response, I forwarded our proposal to the President of the Ohio High School Athletic Association's Board of Directors Dan Leffingwell who, in turn, responded that the proposal "has great merit as we consider athletics in the near future". Finally, I forwarded our proposal to my Superintendent colleagues in the Suburban League. The proposal received a positive endorsement from that group. Thus, tomorrow, Suburban League Superintendents, High School and Middle School Principals, and Athletic Directors will meet to discuss delaying the official start of the fall sports season while allowing our students to continue participating in conditioning and practice sessions until that date, with the understanding that all will continue to practice our established health and safety protocols. The league will need to be mindful of guidance from the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) regarding tournament play under these unusual circumstances. If consensus is met within the Suburban League, schedules will be adjusted to accommodate the later official start date. If, at any time, our District's on-campus option pivots to the remote teaching and learning platform, all athletics and co/extracurricular activities would need to pause.

Finally, on Wednesday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>, Governor Mike DeWine recommended that individuals who travel to states identified in his travel advisory should quarantine themselves for a period of fourteen (14) days. Governor DeWine's travel advisory is based upon COVID-19 trends nationwide. States reporting positive testing rates of 15% or higher for COVID-19 are considered states with concerning COVID-19 trends. Information regarding the travel advisory including the states with concerning rates of COVID-19 can be found at: <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/families-and-individuals/covid-19-travel-advisory/covid-19-travel-advisory>

To that end, effective Monday, July 27<sup>th</sup>, students who travel to any of the states with positive testing rates of 15% or higher for COVID-19 in the travel advisory will not be permitted to participate in any of our activities including co/extracurricular activities, athletics, Tiger Skills Camp, and our Extended School Year (ESY) services for a period of fourteen (14) days. During that period, students should self-quarantine. Likewise, staff members who travel to the states identified in the travel advisory will need to self-quarantine for fourteen (14) days.

We desire for our students to have opportunities that provide social and emotional support such as their participation in co/extracurricular activities and athletics. I am confident that we can provide a safe environment for all while being mindful of the uncertain nature of the ongoing pandemic. The key to our success is everyone following our established health and safety protocols.

Thanks for your continued partnership and support. I will continue to provide updates as we move closer to the new school year.

Enjoy the rest of your day!  
Kathi Powers, Superintendent