



TWINSBURG CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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April 23, 2021

Dear Tiger Family,

This evening, I would like to provide PRELIMINARY information regarding the District Reopening Plan for the 2021-22 school year. As you know, in March, I asked parents, staff members, and students in grades 6 - 12 to provide feedback regarding a number of topics including the District's method of communication during the pandemic, social distancing, professional development, school options, capacities on school buses, and questions regarding Prom.

First and foremost, survey results indicate that our parents are confident in our staff members and in our school community! Thank you, as that means the world to us!

Looking toward next year, the results show inconclusive preference with regard to social distance measures. Further, the results indicate that the majority of parents intend to send their children back to on-campus classes in 2021-22. That is great news!

There is a small percentage of parents who desire a virtual option. At this point in time, Ohio legislators have not authorized a virtual learning option, however, after recent conversations with Columbus lobbyists, I believe that a virtual option will be authorized, however, Boards of Education will need to authorize criteria for participation. I will present more information about the criteria for participation in the Twinsburg Virtual Academy during the May 5th Board of Education Meeting.

With regard to social distance measures...the CDC still requires that teachers remain six (6) feet away from the students they teach. Although the most recent CDC guidance would allow students to be seated in classrooms at a social distance measure of just 3 feet, one to the other, our survey feedback indicates that a large percentage of our school family would not support a 3-foot social distance measure.

Thus, our classrooms have been recently re-measured to determine the best use of space, ensuring that our students are seated less than six (6) feet from one to the other, but also seated greater than three (3) feet, one to the other. What we have determined is:

- Students in Preschool - grade 8 will be seated at a social distance of at least four (4) feet; and
- Students in grades 9 - 12 will be seated at a social distance of at least four and one-half (4.5) feet.

This will ensure that all students who wish to return to campus will be able to do so, on an every day basis.



With regard to space...we continue to be challenged by the small classroom spaces at George G. Dodge Intermediate School. With a social distance measure of at least four (4) feet between students, we cannot fit three (3) full grade bands on that campus. Remember, not only must we have regular education classrooms available, but there are specialists' classrooms, intervention rooms, and other support services to consider.

After analyzing all the data, the PRELIMINARY plan looks like this:

- Wilcox Primary School - Preschool - Grade 1
- Samuel Bissell Elementary School - Grades 2 & 3
- George G. Dodge Intermediate School - Grades 4, 5, and 1/2 of Grade 6
- RB Chamberlin Middle School - 1/2 of Grade 6 and Grades 7 & 8
- Twinsburg High School - Grades 9 - 12

Separating sixth grade between two (2) separate campuses will bring challenges, however, there are other communities who have neighborhood schools in which grade bands are split between separate schools. We believe that we can create an environment with programs and services that will be equitable and equal on both sides of Ravenna Road.

Attached to this email is the powerpoint I presented to the BOE on Wednesday evening. It will give you some basic information about next year. Having written that, I want to let you know that this plan is in its infancy stages and there is always the likelihood that it will change, given the ever evolving nature of the pandemic.

It is my intention to present to the Board of Education a more defined plan on May 5th so that means we have a lot to do in the next week! I will be collaborating with our staff members as we have many details to work through including:

- Start and end times at each school
- Transportation routes
- Defined criteria for participation in the Twinsburg Virtual Academy
- Breakfast, lunch & recess protocols
- Staffing
- Development of Master Schedules

In June, I will ask our parents to select their children's school option for the 2021-22 school year. Prior to doing so, we will host virtual Community Forums to answer questions that you may have about the coming school year.

Even though most of our students will return to their "usual" school homes, we are still teaching in a pandemic, which means this is not a return to "business as usual" but rather "business in a new normal". At the center of all decisions will be the health and safety of our students, staff members, and their families. We have been "through the war" and although it is not over, we have been successful because of your support and your confidence in our school community.

Sincerely,
Kathi Powers
Superintendent

