



TWINSBURG CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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August 15, 2020

Good morning Twinsburg Schools Family:

During the coming week, our educators and many members of our classified staff return from summer break. This time of the year is always exciting as we await the return of our Tigers. Of course this year is different as some students will return to our campuses and others will learn virtually through our Twinsburg Virtual Academy. Whichever your option, I know that our staff members will provide the support and care your child needs to have a wonderful school year.

Yesterday morning, I met with our principals to finalize staffing assignments. It was a bit of a puzzle as we determined which teachers have virtual teaching assignments and which teachers will teach our on-campus students. Those assignments were based upon the information you submitted through your Declaration Survey. At this point, please consider your child's selected option as secure for the first semester of the coming school year.

Parents of returning students, recall that last spring, I sent a postcard to you and asked you to let us know if you would prefer your back to school information mailed byway of the US Post Office or if you would prefer your information emailed. To that end, our back to school mailer which will include your child's Snapcode along with other important information, will be placed in the mail early in the coming week. Parents who preferred to receive this same information via email will receive that correspondence on Thursday, August 20th. On Thursday, parent access to PowerSchool will open for the school year. The reason there is a lag in opening the portal this year has to do with the fact that all of our Student Handbooks need to be updated with information pertinent with reopening our schools during this pandemic. I will recommend these revisions to the Board of Education on Wednesday evening. Upon the Board's hopeful approval, the Student Handbooks will be posted and then the parent access portal will be open. As you can see, everything has a greater degree of "choreography" this year!

Likewise, in the coming week, our principals will mail to you via the US Post Office school specific information. For our elementary school families, this will include classroom assignments. For our middle and high school families, this includes schedule pick-up and school picture information. The mailers will also include details regarding our *Soft Reopening Week* which is scheduled for the week of August 31st.

Speaking of the high school, yesterday evening, Principal Laura Hebert sent information to high school families who have students involved in our music programs. The purpose for her correspondence was to let parents know that our



high school Band, Orchestra, and Vocal Music students will be scheduled for these classes during “zero period” which means from 7:00 a.m. – 7:45 a.m. daily. I’d like to take a minute to explain the reasons why it is necessary to schedule our high school music students in this manner:

- First and foremost, we desire to offer comprehensive academic opportunities for our students. This includes a full menu of classes including those in the visual and performing arts. Due to space constraints caused by the six-foot social distancing requirements, grades were realigned and our ninth grade students will have classes at George G. Dodge Intermediate School, while students in the tenth through twelfth grades will have classes at RB Chamberlin Middle School. Within the RBC campus, we do not have a classroom or learning space large enough to hold our Tiger Marching Band which is inclusive of our students in the ninth through the twelfth grades, therefore, it was necessary to locate a space to fill that need. The only location large enough, beside Tiger Stadium, is the auditorium at Twinsburg High School;
- The scenario is similar with respect to our high school Orchestra and Vocal Music programs. Again, these are programs that include ninth through twelfth grade students, thus we needed to find a time in the school schedule to bring the students together, while also remaining cognizant of the capacity constraints;
- Our Instrumental Music staff is shared at the 4-12 grade levels and in the case of Band, at the 5-12 grade levels. With social distancing requirements, we have more sections to cover on campus as well as with our virtual classes. The best position for the Music staff to hold their high school classes is during the zero period as this allows our educators to begin their day with the high school students before working with our middle and elementary school students; and
- Although some have suggested that high school Band, Orchestra, and Vocal Music should hold their classes after school to avoid the zero period, I do not believe that is favorable given the fact that students may also have athletic practice, other extracurricular activities and perhaps part-time jobs.

I realize that we are asking not only our high school students, but also all of our students, to “do school” in a very different manner this year. I wish that we could all go back to what we are used to and what we all love, but unfortunately, this pandemic has caused many changes. I truly appreciate your understanding and your patience as we are doing all that we can to continue our tradition of excellence while also working through many constraints. The most important thing is providing rich opportunities for our students while remaining focused on everyone’s health and safety.

Enjoy the weekend!
Kathi Powers
Superintendent

