

NEW BRIGHTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

3225 43rd Street • New Brighton, PA 15066-2697 (724) 843-1795 • (724) 843-6144 Fax • www.nbasd.org

July 21, 2020

Dear New Brighton Area School District Families,

We hope that you and your family are safe, healthy and enjoying some outdoor activities during this beautiful summer. Please accept our thanks for your continued support and patience as we determine options for the safest and most academically rigorous return-to-school for the 2020 – 2021 year. Your survey responses, comments, and suggestions have proven invaluable in planning. We recognize that the information available guiding Coronavirus decision making changes daily and we are actively pursuing decisions that take into account the most up-to-date data available from experts. We continue to work closely with all of the school districts in Beaver County and to review the guidance from the Pennsylvania Department of Health (PA DOH), Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

As parents, many of us know all too well that Covid-19 has caused stress, frustration, and uncertainty for all families. For some families, it has brought economic hardship, food insecurities, and worse. It is also clear that the need for continued flexibility will most likely not end in the near future. As we move forward in the decision making process our focus is on both educational needs and the basic needs of families and the community to have the security and structure that school provides. We hope you recognize that we are doing our best, we will remain flexible and capable of change as the data changes, and we will work with each family as we move forward to provide the safest and most academically challenging environment possible.

Re-Opening School in 2020 – 2021

The School Board, Superintendent and Administrators have made the decision to re-open school under a Hybrid Model. This model will involve our students being split into two cohorts-Group A and Group B in all grades K through 12. This will allow us to maintain approximately 50% of our population in each building at any given time. Students in Group A will attend school in-person on Monday and Tuesday, and students in Group B will attend school in-person on Thursday and Friday. When not attending school in-person, students will be expected to work remotely and Wednesday will be a virtual learning day for all students. This plan also allows us to maintain approximately 50% of our population for class size and transportation purposes, greatly helping us achieve social distancing and mitigating the impact of the virus on our community. We are working in conjunction with our bus company to determine the most efficient and effective bus runs and the Building Principals are actively working on the groupings. We plan to release the groupings for students in early August.

Cyber/Online Education

We recognize that some families may desire a fully virtual education and do not wish to return to in-person learning at this time. The New Brighton Area School District has a fully aligned, online curriculum ready and available for any family that chooses this option. By participating in our online learning program your child will remain a student of NBASD, will receive a NBASD diploma, will be eligible to participate in athletics and extra-curricular opportunities offered through NBASD, and as a parent you will have all of our resources available to you. If you are interested in this option, please

contact your child's Building Principal to learn more and begin the process. We will also post a survey in the coming days where you can indicate your interest in this program. We are here to support you and maintain your connection to the New Brighton Area School District in a manner that meets your needs. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have questions about the NB online learning curriculum or others.

School Calendar

The School Calendar will receive a revision to accommodate the needs of the Hybrid schedule and allow families some additional time to plan. The first day of school for students in A group will now be Monday, August 31, 2020. The students in B group will attend school for the first time on Thursday, September 3, 2020. A new school calendar is posted on our website.

1-to-1 Technology Initiative

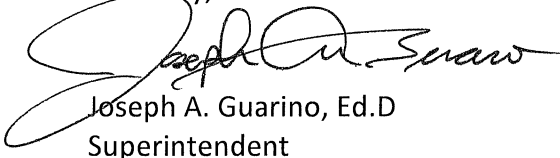
We are pleased to announce that we are moving forward with a 1:1 Technology initiative to start the school year. All students in grades K through 12 will receive a device to use while a student in the New Brighton Area School District. This device can be used at school and at home, and will be used by students in the Hybrid model, as well as for those who choose a full cyber option. We will provide devices and information to students and families at the start of the school year.

Further Information

We will continue to utilize the Coronavirus Page of our website to post information and updates. We will send out School Messenger and Social Media messages when new information is posted and we will keep our families up-to-date as we move ahead. We recognize that between now and August 31, 2020, much can change, so we will maintain our flexibility and be ready to adjust if necessary. Please know that our Health and Safety plan includes options for both fully virtual schooling and total in-person instruction. We are prepared for whatever might come our way. We also hope to start a video series to highlight some of the new routines that students and families can expect to see when they return to school helping you and your children become comfortable and feel safe in the processes.

Once again, we thank you for your support in this process. We know that there is not a solution that works for everyone and we hope you will stand with us as we navigate these waters and make decisions in the best interest of our entire school community. Your children, our students, are our most important priority.

Sincerely,



Joseph A. Guarino, Ed.D
Superintendent