

July 8, 2020

Dear New Brighton Families,

I hope that this letter finds you and your family safe and healthy. Through these most uncertain times, I want to thank you for your support and patience. We are actively planning for the 2020-2021 school year and the District is working to prepare our plans and meet the requirements of the PA Department of Education and PA Department of Health.

I wanted to provide our community with an update on the planning and the goals as we move forward. The feedback provided in recent parent surveys has been invaluable in our planning and when combined with the guidance we are receiving from state and federal experts, we are confident we will have a plan in place that will support our students and their needs.

The first step in the process is to submit a Health and Safety Plan to the Department of Education. This plan will outline crucial logistical steps in protecting the health and safety of our students, staff, families. We are tasked to outline the steps we will take in both Green and Yellow phases, and outline our goals for education. We hope to work through this process and have a plan in place by the end of July. As the details of Covid-19 continue to change, our plan must change with it so this is a fluid process and cannot be finalized too early.

And, while our goal will be to return students to their classrooms, we recognize that the impact of Covid-19 may not allow that to occur and for some families that will not be what they feel is the best option. Along with our Health and Safety Plan, we are also actively working to ensure we have a full cyber option in place. This option will support all students should we face another school closure and it would also be available if a parent wishes to have their child participate in cyber education. This option will allow families to choose a cyber option that keeps them enrolled in the New Brighton Area School District. A student involved in our cyber program can participate in all New Brighton activities, and would be considered a New Brighton Area School District graduate.

I am certain we will achieve great things in the coming school year. We are working hard to plan for the many situations we may face and we are pleased to announce that for the 2020-2021 school year we will have a much more robust technology platform. We will have iPads available for all students in grades K-2 and Chromebooks available for all students in grades 3-12. This technology, when combined with our teachers' passion and care for our students, will allow us to flourish.

Finally, let me once again thank you for your patience and flexibility. I wish I could provide all of the answers to the many questions we all have, but this virus continues to impact us and we must take our time to appropriately address the many factors that go into ensuring our students, staff, and families are healthy and safe for the start of the 2020-2021 school year. We will release additional information later this month as our plans are finalized and we will continue to adjust as we learn more.

Stay safe and healthy,

Joseph A. Guarino, Ed.D.  
Superintendent