



Archdale-Trinity News

USPS [432-990]

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Decision needed from Randolph County parents

BY DANIEL KENNEDY

RANDOLPH COUNTY — A decision looms for parents of middle and high school students in Randolph County that will determine where children will spend the time remaining before school returns to campus full time at all county schools.

Stephen Gainey, RCSS superintendent, explained to students and parents in a Sept. 11 video chat that they will have until tomorrow to decide whether to participate in exclusively remote learning or to join those on campus who are engaging in a hybrid instruction plan. After Sept. 25, students will continue on either Plan B, a mix of remote and in-person instruction, or Plan C, exclusively remote

learning, until the state clears all students to return to campus full time.

Students will remain on their assigned plan up until the state allows school districts to bring middle and high schoolers back to campus five days a week.

"I've been asked several times today if a child chooses [a plan], is that going to be in place for the remainder of the school year," Gainey said in the video chat. "Well, yes, right now it will be in place for the remainder of the school year. Because right now, all our school system knows is that we're on Plan B [for middle and high schools], as outlined by the state of North Carolina.

"However, I want to make sure all parents and students know that if the

state of North Carolina allows us to go to Plan A and bring all students back to campus at the same time, we're going to do that."

The two plans, B and C, that exist currently, will "no longer exist" as soon as RCSS gets the green light, Gainey said. Additionally, traditional grading methods are in place for the 2020-21 school year. The pass/fail option implemented by the state in the spring is no longer utilized.

The ultimate goal, Gainey said, is to get everybody on school campuses at the same time and to resume in a business-as-usual fashion as soon as possible.

"We will have school like we did

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prior to the school closure on March 14, 2020,” Gainey said.

If parents wish to change the plan their child is on for as long as the option remains available, they must contact the child’s

principal to notify him or her of the desire to switch the student’s plan. All changes are final as of the end of the school week.

“Whatever plan a student is on as of Sept. 28, the student will remain on that plan as long as the school system is held to the parameters outlined by the state’s Plan B,”

Gainey said.

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