

COVID-19 Preparedness

July 29, 2020

Hello Hartford Families!

I hope you are finding ways to enjoy the summer and beat the heat.

Thank you for completing the Family Survey. We had a fantastic response with over 1100 families responding. The results indicate that 60% of families in our district want schools to reopen in person this Fall. Several parents have also expressed a need for a remote option. We are working hard to accommodate everyone's needs and to most of all ensure the safety of our students and staff.

Today Governor Scott announced that the start of school for students will be delayed until September 8. Our efforts to develop a responsible plan will continue up until we reopen. I realize that many of you need to know as soon as possible what the plan is for Hartford Schools. My hope was to have a plan to you a few weeks ago but the guidance that I have been receiving has continued to change almost daily. Originally we were told to plan for all students to be back in the classroom in August. Recently we were told a remote would be acceptable as necessary. The fact is the impact of the virus in the country, state and ultimately our community will continue to change. It is expected that no matter what plan we announce we will need to be flexible and may have to modify the plan as we near September 8.

Currently our planning includes different delivery models to accommodate the needs of our community and the directives from state officials. Our preferred model is to be back in school with strict social distancing requirements in place through the student and staff day, mandatory mask wearing, increased cleaning protocols, enhanced air handling and circulation in every school and strict guidelines about entering the schools and for dealing with sick children or staff. We realize that many parents may not be comfortable sending their children even with these new safety protocols. To accommodate these families we are working on remote options at all levels.

In closing, I want you to know that nothing is more important to me than the safety of your children and our staff. Rest assured we will provide more detailed plans as soon as we can. You can expect another update within 2 weeks or sooner if need be. Thanks for your attention and I hope you will continue to let me know your concerns and needs.

Tom DeBalsi
Superintendent of Schools
Hartford School District