



LICKING HEIGHTS LOCAL SCHOOLS

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February 26, 2021

Dear Families with children presently enrolled in the virtual option:

Our educational plan for the 2020-21 school year was reviewed at last night’s Board of Education meeting. We have been closely watching coronavirus cases locally and are heartened by the continued downward trend in the number of reported COVID-19 cases in our community.

At yesterday’s meeting, the board members spent a lot of time discussing our educational plan and reviewed multiple options. In fact, the Board of Education spent over 90 minutes solely focused on and discussing plans to reopen the district. I would be remiss if I did not share the board members collectively understand public health concerns, but also do not universally agree on the educational options. More specifically, the options often provide some level of educational disruption. I share the preceding as support of the school board, but also to highlight the challenges with such decisions within a global pandemic. Furthermore, the Board of Education collectively remains focused on doing what is best for LH students.

During last night’s review and discussion of options, a significant amount of time was spent discussing bus driver shortages. These driver shortages impact our school district, as well as, many other Ohio school districts. Due to these factors, we discussed that families can help with driver shortages by referring any interested applicants to trans-admin@lhschools.org or by calling (740) 927-3340. Additionally, it would help the overall environment if parents could provide transportation to and/or from school.

Licking Heights plans to welcome in-person/hybrid students back “all-in,” beginning Monday, March 22. On this date, we will shift to a 4:1 model, bringing our in-person students back to the building 4 days/week, while still accommodating virtual learners. Please pay close attention to the following schedule because virtual days will now rotate among different buildings.

Building	Virtual Day	In Person Learning Days
Central Intermediate	Monday	Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday
North	Monday	Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday
High School	Tuesday	Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday
South	Wednesday	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday
Middle School	Thursday	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday
West	Friday	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

Additionally and to underscore above, lessening driver shortages could potentially expand future educational options during the remainder of this school year. For example, we may be able to shift to a 5 day “all-in” model in the elementary grades and potentially Central Intermediate. Similarly, there may be other options for middle and high school, but scheduling virtual and in-person students simultaneously presents greater challenges.

Families who prefer to keep their child(ren) in full virtual have the option to continue full-time virtual learning with SchoolsPLP through the end of the school year.

Educational plan (In-person/hybrid v. full-time virtual selection)

[If your child\(ren\) presently attends school VIRTUALLY and you would like to enroll them in the in-person option, please CLICK HERE to complete this survey by Thursday, March 4 by 5:00 p.m.](#)

- Due to the estimated number of students who elect this option, classes may have to be reconstructed. In order to accommodate as many students in-person as possible, your child's teacher(s) may change.
- Social distancing will be implemented at 3 feet to the greatest extent possible. When possible, more than 3 feet will be used.

Student meals and transportation

- All students (in-person/hybrid or full-time virtual) will continue to receive free single-serving breakfast and lunch through the end of the school year.
- **Due to an ongoing shortage of bus drivers, we are asking parents, if possible, to transport their own children to school each day.**
 - All students attending in-person are asked to complete the transportation portion of the above survey, indicating if you require bus transportation to or from school. This will allow the transportation department to restructure bus routes in the most efficient way.
 - Social distancing is difficult to maintain on buses and requires more bus routes.
 - All safety and cleaning guidelines will remain in effect.
 - If you have specific questions regarding your child's transportation, please contact the Transportation Department directly via email: trans-admin@lhschools.org.

School hours

Due to social distancing and the fact that fewer students can ride on buses, as well as, more COVID-19 related cleaning, we will be adjusting the start and end times of South and West Elementary.

- Effective March 22, South and West Elementary will adopt the same building times as North Elementary through the end of the 2020-21 school year.
- The new times for these buildings will be 9:05 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.

Our District's reopening plans are contingent upon public health conditions remaining the same or improving. We continue to work with our local health departments to evaluate data and information each week, as well as, review second-round vaccination logistics for school district personnel.

Thank you for your flexibility as we work through these unprecedented challenges. Our ongoing goal is to return all students to the classroom five days each week. The Board is committed to reviewing the 4:1 model to truly reflect "all-in" when possible, especially as we plan for the upcoming school year.

Sincerely,



Philip H. Wagner, Ph.D.
Superintendent