



LICKING HEIGHTS LOCAL SCHOOLS

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July 29, 2020

Dear Families:

At last night's special Board of Education meeting, our reopening plan for the 2020-21 school year was approved. A summary of the plan is as follows:

- We have pushed back the first day of school for students from Wed., Aug. 19 to Mon., Aug. 31, to provide additional planning and professional development opportunities for our teaching staff and families. This extra time will be helpful as the Board of Education also approved a new learning management system.
- We have devised an educational plan with two options: hybrid/in-person (tied to county risk levels and community alert indicators) or fully virtual.
- All district families must opt-in to either plan choice and [complete their annual EMA form](#) by Mon., Aug. 3. It is important that families respond as soon as possible so we can build student and staff schedules.

A complete copy of the plan, as well as, a summary of Frequently Asked Questions, are attached to this email and can be accessed here: <http://www.lhschools.org/COVID-19.aspx>. Also, the results from our most recent family survey can be accessed online. This information was used to help finalize our reopening plan. Finally, I want to thank the school district's Curriculum Council, Reopening Study Group of parents and staff, Board of Education, and our local public health experts for helping to develop the plan.

As we prepare for the reopening of the school district, some details such as training opportunities for parents to familiarize themselves with our new learning management system, SchoolsPLP, are still forthcoming. Also, there have been some worldwide delays with the shipping of goods and our new Chromebooks will be delayed, so we are working on a plan to support our students. Watch for more updates that I will share when more information is available.

In the meantime, the following is a link to an overview our new learning management system:
<https://schoolsplp.com>

Additional information and training opportunities will be provided in the future.

As I shared in a previous letter, our school district covers parts of two counties (Franklin and Licking) and includes three health departments: Columbus Department of Health, Franklin County Health Department and Licking County Health Department. There are interactions among these different entities, but also I want to highlight I expect some updates from the Columbus and Franklin County Health Departments to differ from the Licking County Health Department. For example, a change in recommendations for students to be at least six (6) feet apart in public school settings; even with face coverings. In the past, three (3) feet was the standard agreement among our health departments.

As of the date of this letter, only verbal information is available, so we are watching for written guidance from the Columbus and Franklin Health Departments. Please refer to our Frequently

Asked Questions for more information about the hybrid/in-person plan, tied to county risk levels and community alert indicators.

We are in communication with all three of our health departments and are watching to see if the Ohio Department of Health and/or the Ohio Department of Education intervenes and provides more direction. Therefore, I want to prepare parents for potential alterations to our plan, based upon revised guidance from public health officials. For example, some school districts in Franklin County are moving to a full-time virtual option to start the upcoming school year. If such advanced guidance is received, I will provide an update as soon as possible to help our families and staff continue to prepare for the upcoming school year.

Sincerely,



Philip H. Wagner, Ph.D.
Superintendent