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PARENT NOTIFICATION

July 2, 2020

The health, safety, and well-being of our students and our staff is our highest priority. Everyone wants life to return to normal, including our school environment. That being said, we are faced with not only an extraordinary public health crisis, but also a great deal of uncertainty. That uncertainty, coupled with little scientific data available and a great deal of differing opinions, makes the process of reopening school extremely complicated. To further complicate matters, we need to consider a host of ancillary issues as well as guidance that is frequently changing and can also conflict with existing state and federal law.

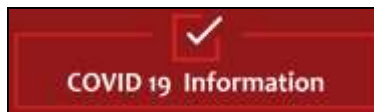
Bear Creek Community Charter School is working to develop a plan that will allow for in-person instruction to the greatest extent possible, **based on current circumstances**. Because of developmental concerns relating to primary-aged children, our goal is to provide as much continuity for in-person instruction as possible for students in Kindergarten through Fourth Grade. Bear Creek Community Charter School will place a greater emphasis on integrating technology into the educational process in all grades. Due to physical space limitations resulting from social distancing requirements, students in Grade 5 through Grades 8 may be exposed to a hybrid-learning environment, to include a combination of in-person instruction and distance learning.

Other aspects of school operations are also being evaluated such as movement of students and staff within the building, use of outdoor areas, serving of breakfast and lunch, school health services, etc. Every aspect of regular school operations will be reviewed to determine what changes need to be made to comply with state and federal requirements associated with COVID 19, all in an effort to keep students and staff healthy and safe.

The first day of school for the upcoming 2020-2021 school year is Tuesday, September 8th. A great deal may change over the next thirty to sixty days, including infection rates, state and federal guidance, as well as local district transportation plans. We will be incorporating the latest information into our plan, with the expectation that we would be able to release the plan to our parents and other stakeholders on or around August 15, 2020. Realize **this is an evolving situation**, much of which is outside of our control - and nothing is set in stone.

In addition to compiling a plan to reopen school, we must also develop a plan for the continuity of education in the event the pandemic worsens locally, and we are forced to move into a more restrictive phase of operations – similar to what we experienced during the fourth quarter of the 2019-2020 school year.

We have developed a web page specific to the COVID-19 pandemic, which will eventually include details of our reopening plan, resources for parents, guidance from the Pennsylvania Department of Education, information from the PIAA regarding fall athletics, and resources from both the Pennsylvania Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The page will go live this weekend, and we will be sharing and posting the link to the page. You will also be able to click on the red COVID-19 button at the top of the School's main web page.



In addition, we are interested in obtaining feedback from parents about different aspects of the pandemic situation and its impact on school operations. We will also be sharing the link to this survey over the weekend, and we encourage all of our parents to share their thoughts.

As always, don't hesitate to reach out to us via e-mail over the summer if you have specific questions or if we can be of assistance. We hope you and your family enjoy the summer. As always, please stay safe and stay healthy!

Jim

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