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Greeting Parents and Guardians:

First of all, I would like to thank everyone who completed the survey concerning virtual and face-to-face learning. We value your opinion and try very hard to accommodate all stakeholders. According to the survey, the majority of our parents prefer that their child(ren) remain in a face-to-face environment. While we agree that in-person learning is the ideal learning scenario, this public health crisis prohibits that. It is clear that the Coronavirus (COVID-19) is spreading at a rapid rate. We have spent the past few weeks researching and monitoring the changes in our area regarding the number of positive cases. The district team and I have also been in numerous discussions with various education officials, superintendents from surrounding counties, and the Randolph County Health Department (RCHD).

According to RCHD, Randolph County is classified as a “Hot Zone”, meaning that there is a high transmission rate in the community. In light of this alarming status report, the district team feels that it is imperative that we move to a virtual learning format starting August 23, 2021 until September 7, 2021. At that time, we will assess the status of the community spread and decide which learning model will be offered to our students. Starting on September 7, 2021, if the COVID-19 positivity rate has decreased, the two options of virtual learning and face-to-face instruction, will be given to parents. The virtual/face-to-face instruction will last only for the first nine weeks. Our desire is to have all students back in the traditional school setting for the second nine weeks of school.

In order to successfully move to a total virtual learning environment, there are things that we must put in place. Please visit your child(ren) school’s website tomorrow, August 20, 2021, to obtain information concerning the distribution of devices, class schedules, and other vital information.

As a final thought, during these very stressful times, it's important that we work closely together. The district is working incredibly hard to ensure the safety of our students, staff and the community. We are all in this together. I thank you for your patience as we work collaboratively to make the best decisions for our students.

Kind regards,

Tangela Madge

Tangela Madge, Ed.D.