

August 9, 2021

Dear New Brighton Area School District Families,

We hope that you and your family are safe, healthy and enjoying some outdoor activities during this beautiful summer. Please accept our continued thanks for your support through the 2020 – 2021 school year. At this time, we wanted to share with you our plans for the return of school and the 2021 – 2022 school year. We have updated and approved our Health and Safety plan based on the information provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), PA Department of Health (PADOH), and PA Department of Education (PDE). However, it is important to note that our plan has already been revised based on changes from the aforementioned entities and we will continue to monitor their guidance as well as the health statistics of our local community and will remain willing to adjust our plan accordingly.

The District recognizes that Covid-19 has caused stress, frustration, and uncertainty for all families. For some families, it has brought economic hardship, food insecurities, and worse. It is also clear that the need for continued flexibility will most likely not end in the near future. As we move forward in the decision making process our focus is on both educational needs and the basic needs of families and the community to have the security and structure that school provides. We hope you recognize that we are doing our best, we will remain flexible and capable of change as the data changes, and we will work to provide our students with a high-quality school experience.

For the 2021-2022 school year, the District plans a 5-day in-person return to school for students in Grades K-12. We intend to layer our mitigation efforts to maintain a safe and welcoming learning environment for our students as they return. Our goal is to return to our typical model as much as possible including those areas such as the cafeteria, recess, and activities. While we will layer our mitigation strategies, the District intends to begin the year strongly recommending that the entire school community consider wearing masks, especially those who are unvaccinated. We encourage you to review the [Infographic](#) on our website to review all of our plans.

The District recognizes that while this in-person return is beneficial for most of our students, it may not meet the needs of all families. Therefore, we will continue to operate a Full Virtual option to accommodate the needs of students who may not be returning to in-person learning at this time. This option is overseen by our District teachers, maintains a student's enrollment in our District, allows him/her to participate in all extracurricular activities and athletics, and receive a New Brighton Area School District diploma upon graduation. If your family is interested in our online learning option, please complete this [FORM](#) as soon as possible.

Once again, we thank you for your support in this process. We know that this will remain a fluid situation as we navigate our return and we will make decisions in the best interest of our entire school community. Your children, our students, are our most important priority.

Sincerely,

Joseph A. Guarino, Ed.D.
Superintendent