



School District
of
Borough of Morrisville

District Office
550 West Palmer Street
Morrisville, PA 19067-2195
Phone (215) 736-5374
Fax (215) 736-3958

Jason B. Harris
Superintendent of Schools

Robert Bruchak
Business Administrator

August 3, 2020

Dear Morrisville Community,

The past three weeks have been filled with planning and discussions related to the reopening of schools in September. This planning has been undertaken by our Pandemic Task Force, consisting of School Board Directors, Administrators, Teachers, Paraprofessionals, and Parents who together met to discuss the required plan to reopen school in September. Some of the options for reopening which the Task Force has reviewed are as follows:

Option A-Full 5 day/week in person

Option B-Hybrid: groups of students on different days to meet distancing guidelines, paired with virtual learning for when students are not on campus.
(With Option A or B: fully Virtual options for those who opt out of the above)

Option C: Full virtual instruction (provided by Morrisville Teachers) for all students for at least a portion of the year.

After examining all guidance and how it can be implemented in our District, the recommendation of the Task Force is that we reopen school virtually for all students through the end of the first semester (February 2, 2021, or sooner if possible). Their recommendation will be going to the Board of School Directors for consideration at a special meeting to be held on Thursday, August 6 at 7:00pm. At this meeting, the board will consider the recommendation, and the adoption of the health and safety plan, which would be required to have any type of instruction in the building. The board can choose to adopt the recommendations or make any changes it wishes at this meeting.

In order to give our teachers the time to prepare to deliver an improved and more consistent instruction to our students than in the spring, we are asking the Board to consider this decision now rather than make something happen quickly at the end of the summer.

While this recommendation may be disappointing for some, teachers and administrators are designing limited outdoor activities for small groups of students to come to school and interact (distanced) with their peers on some level, while also interacting with teachers and staff. Please note that daily attendance and participation in virtual instruction will be required, and the work assigned will be graded and count toward promotion to the next level.

This recommendation does not come lightly. When making these decisions, the Board and Administration are continuously guided by the health and safety needs of our school community. We also navigate new guidance and information as it develops in order to support our mission of educating students in all areas. In its deliberations, the Task Force considered the following:

- Prioritizing the health and safety of our students, staff, families, and community.
- Reducing the risk of exposure and illness for students and staff.
- Maximizing the time necessary to plan for an improved and more meaningful educational experience including a 1:1 Chromebook deployment.
- Prioritizing academic rigor, engaging activities, connectivity between students, families, and faculty; social-emotional learning, and technological support, all in a structured virtual learning environment.
- Planning for the ability to transition safely back to in-person instruction, as permitted and able to do so.
- Development of a consistent and structured instructional schedule.
- Enhanced family engagement and support in a virtual environment.

Additionally, in an abundance of caution for the health and safety of our student-athletes, coaches, and families, the Task Force has recommended the postponement/cancellation of all interscholastic athletic activities, games, and practices for the Fall 2020 season. In the event that PDE or PIAA change the Fall season, we will revisit participation in athletic competition.

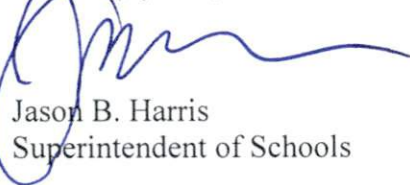
Regarding Special Education, our District remains committed to providing eligible students with supports and services in their IEP's. Case managers assigned to students will be contacting parents via telephone to schedule meetings to discuss if revisions are necessary for your child's IEP while we continue with the virtual instruction during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Parents who received letters in the spring regarding the status of an initial evaluation to determine eligibility for special education services or a reevaluation, will be receiving a letter soon regarding the department's plan to proceed with the assessments and the safety protocols that will be implemented during those evaluations.

Questions or concerns regarding Special Education supports and services may contact the Special Education Office at [215-736-5926](tel:215-736-5926). You are encouraged to leave a message and someone will return your call as quickly as possible to provide you with information.

I am sure that you are aware that this is a constantly changing scenario, and patience and grace need to be applied in every situation. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact me via email or telephone, Jharris@mv.org, or at 215-736-5374.

Sincerely yours,



Jason B. Harris
Superintendent of Schools