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Superintendent

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Dear Parents,

Carteret Public Schools is set to reopen for our Hybrid Students on Tuesday, October 13th, 2020. In the meantime, our teachers have been providing instruction remotely aiming to address student learning needs.

The last few weeks some families may have experienced technological difficulties. This may have been due to the upgrades in the Zoom platform and the new Google Chromebook devices. Please note, this was not a problem we could have foreseen. These were private company decisions that impacted the way our technology works. I am happy to state, however, the two companies are now developing solutions to address the problem. More importantly, our district has remedied most issues. We recognize remote learning has been challenging for many and we thank you for your continued patience. Be reminded our technology support is available to assist, as needed (732-541-8960 ext. 6100, ext. 6101, ext. 6102, ext. 6103).

Cohort Information

As we move closer to October 13, it is important everyone plans and cooperates to ensure a smooth transition. For those families who chose hybrid, your child has been placed in a cohort / group. Your child's cohort (A, B, V) will be posted in Real-time and emailed in a letter to you. (Students receiving Special Services may be in Cohorts C & D. This program will continue and will remain unchanged). As explained previously, Cohort A will attend school in-person on Mondays and Wednesdays. Cohort B will attend school Tuesdays and Thursdays. Fridays will be virtual for all students, so that our facilities can be cleaned and sanitized by our custodial staff. Students in the fully Virtual group will participate via on-line learning, every day.

Schedule

Our schedule will indicate direct on-line learning with a teacher Monday- Friday for grade 4-12. Younger grades will differ slightly, with less screen-time. Your Principal will provide more detailed information.

Request to Change Survey Response

Many of you have reached out regarding changes to your original survey response. Please understand all of our planning has been based on survey data. Our original survey stated no changes would be made until January. However, we will be placing students on a waiting list if parents choose to request a change.

If possible, we will attempt a Phase 3 sometime in early November to allow more students in-person. Students with special learning needs will be considered a priority.

Before and Aftercare

Before & Aftercare services will be available for Hybrid elementary students. Your child may attend on their scheduled cohort days. Registration is now open. Please check the website for details.

Mandatory Daily Home Screenings

All parents will be asked to complete a one-time certification on the Parent Portal verifying they will conduct daily home screening. This means you will take your child's temperature and check for additional symptoms on a daily basis. This must be done to ensure the safety of all children and staff members.

PPE

It will be helpful to speak to your children about safety precautions such as PPE, social distancing and washing hands before they return to school. Be reminded all students are expected to wear a clean mask to school, daily. Please practice wearing a mask at home so the child can become accustomed. Face shields have been purchased for all students, as an added measure. Also note, water fountains will be closed. Be ready to provide your child a water bottle labeled with their name that they can refill at one of our sensor water-filling stations.

Visitors to School Buildings

Unfortunately, as a safety measure, visitors to school buildings will be limited. Please contact your child's school via phone or email if there is something you need. Most meetings will be conducted virtually, unless specified by the building principal. If a visitor is permitted in the building, a temperature check will be conducted by a security officer or another staff member.

Principal Re-Opening Orientation Meetings

Principals will offer orientation session to parents within the next couple of weeks to provide detailed information specific to their school. Some topics will include general safety precautions, entrance and dismissal, mask wearing, social distancing, breakfast and lunch, student schedules, changes in general procedures. Time will be allotted for questions.

In summary, these are important items every parent should plan for:

- Attend Principal Orientation
- Check email and/or Realtime for a letter indicating your child's assigned Cohort
- Have clean masks ready for your child, daily.
- Conduct home screenings of each child, daily.
- Provide a labeled water bottle, daily.
- Always check the District website for updates.

We'll see you on October 13th!

Respectfully,
R. Díaz