

## LPS Update

### Friday, August 6, 2021

LPS Community,

I hope this update finds you and your family doing well and enjoying the final weeks of summer break. Our entire LPS team is excited to welcome nearly 13,000 learners back for the start of the 2021-2022 school year!

It was our sincere hope that our community was getting much closer to a *return to normalcy* following the many challenges that the pandemic brought to all of us last school year. As you likely know by now, we have seen a resurgence in COVID-19 cases in our communities in recent weeks. Our team has been in contact with local health officials throughout the past 18 months and has been committed to following guidance provided to us by those health leaders.

We understand that there are varying opinions among our District's stakeholders with regard to school mitigation protocols, which is understandable. As you may recall, following the conclusion of the 2020-2021 school year in May, and throughout this summer, we have shared that the top priority for us as we transition into the 2021-2022 school year is to **provide five days per week of in-person learning for our students choosing this mode of learning, and doing so in a healthy and safe environment**. While there have been very few easy decisions throughout the pandemic, we feel we have been consistent in our approach as we have placed trust and confidence in the hands of our public health professionals. We also feel confident that our approach has been effective, specifically throughout the '20-'21 school year, as we had minimal disruptions and were fortunate in that no schools were closed.

With now less than three weeks remaining before the start of the school year, we wanted to share with you additional details regarding our *Return to Learn* plan for the upcoming year. For those families returning to us this year, you will likely notice that our plan is extremely similar to last year's plan that was updated and implemented to complete the 2020-2021 school year. A few highlights of the plan include:

- Provide five days per week of in-person learning for students choosing this model of learning during the 2021-2022 school year.
- Provide the Liberty Virtual School option (grades K-12) for students/families choosing this model of learning during the 2021-2022 school year.
- Continue with recommended mitigation strategies from health officials and local mandates that provide us with the best opportunity to keep our classrooms and schools open this year. **LPS will require face coverings to be worn indoors by all students, staff, and visitors, regardless of vaccination status.** It is our hope by having these strategies in place, it will greatly reduce the number of quarantine situations for our students and staff.
- Allow for the various extra-curricular activities to continue with minimal disruptions this school year.
- Additional details are provided in our updated 2021-2022 Return to Learn Plan, which can be accessed by [clicking here](#). Also, our LPS Return to Learn website provides a tremendous amount of valuable information that you can access, including an updated *Frequently Asked Questions* document.

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We will be sharing additional *Return to Learn* details with you in the coming weeks leading up to the start of the 2021-2022 school year. Prior to closing, I also must continue to emphasize that this remains an extremely fluid situation as we receive updated information regularly. If/when mandates or recommendations change or are updated, we will re-evaluate our current situation and make decisions with the top priority being the health and safety of our students and staff. We are confident that our plan provides the best opportunities for our students and staff to THRIVE in the upcoming school year.

Thank you for your patience, flexibility, and grace. If you would have any questions regarding this back to school information, do not hesitate to reach out directly to your child's school or to our leadership team here at the District Administration Center.

Be well!

**Dr. M. Jeremy Tucker**  
Superintendent - Liberty Public Schools