

Dear Parents/Guardians:

It is with great anticipation that I welcome you back to what should be an exciting school year in the Dunellen School District. Although we are opening the year in a continuing pandemic, we believe we have devised a plan that will provide our students with the best, most consistent, day-to-day education while also ensuring their health, the health of your families, and the health of our teachers and staff.

To do that, the Dunellen School District will open for students on Tuesday, September 8, in a 100% virtual format. We will stay in that format through the Thanksgiving Holiday. We plan to return on Monday, November 30, under the hybrid model that was approved by the Board of Education on July 30 and is posted on our district website. Our return, however, is contingent on the completion of construction at the high school and Faber School (which has undergone numerous delays), completion of repairs and upgrades to our HVAC and air circulation systems throughout the district, and the delivery of Personal Protection Equipment that will be given to all students and staff.

We acknowledge that, when school was suddenly shut down in March, our transition to remote learning was not as smooth as it could have been. Since then we have spent a great deal of time providing our teachers with workshops to enhance their comfort level working in the virtual world while also providing them with more tools to continue to make their lessons more creative and interactive. We understand that there is no replacement for in-person instruction, but we are confident that the structure and presentation of virtual learning will be more dynamic than it was last spring.

We, like you, look forward to the day when we can all return to our classrooms and go back to experiencing the social interactions that are so vital to a quality education. We are hopeful that day will come sooner rather than later. But until that day comes, all of us – teachers, instructional aides, support staff, and administrators – will do everything in our power to provide the best educational experience possible.

The opening of this school year is unlike any other in my lifetime. I understand the conditions are far from ideal but, if we all work together, I believe it can be a positive, enriching experience for our students. I also understand that these are uncertain and trying times but I believe more than ever that, if we all pull together in the same direction, we will get through these difficult times and be stronger as a result. If at any time you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me.

I wish you and your family health and safety. Be positive, be kind, and remain, as always, ***Dunellen Strong!***

Gene Mosley

Superintendent

