



--sent 10/7/20--

LPS Families,

We hope this message finds you doing well! With the fall season in full swing, we want to provide you with an update on the start of the school year and on-going scenario planning associated with our *LPS Return to Learn* plan.

Amidst navigating the many challenges posed by COVID-19, we have had a great start to the school year. We are grateful to our students, teachers, and families who have assisted in meeting the needs of nearly 13,000 learners attending school face-to-face, virtually, or through our flexible learning model. We commend our entire LPS community for everything accomplished over the last several months. Many questioned our ability to sustain face-to-face classes for more than a couple of weeks. We credit our team for spending countless hours developing our *Return to Learn* plans, ensuring precautions are in place to keep our students and staff safe and healthy, and anticipating issues through continuous scenario planning. We greatly appreciate the many expressions of thanks and encouragement we have received as this has proven to be incredibly difficult work.

The end of our academic first quarter in Liberty Public Schools is Tuesday, October 27, 2020. Our Innovation and Learning Department has developed a survey for students, staff, and families that is designed to garner feedback across our schools and community. The surveys for each stakeholder group can be accessed at the links provided below.

[Parent Survey](#)

[Student Survey](#)

[Teacher Survey](#)

The surveys will provide valuable information as we plan for the remainder of this semester and school year. Also, families desiring to change learning modes (Face-to-Face/Virtual) for their child(ren), may do so in preparation for the second quarter, which will begin on Wednesday, October 28, 2020. Changes in learning mode may be made by contacting your child's home school. LPS will make every effort to accommodate these requests as they are received.

We remain in close contact with officials from the Clay County Public Health Center and Kansas City Health Department. As you have likely noticed through our regular communications to families, COVID-19 is present within our school community. We have remained committed to adhering to the protocols set forth by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other health agencies that include the use of PPE (face coverings), social distancing, and good hand hygiene. We commend our students, staff, and families for your efforts in following these protocols. We are confident that following these protocols has allowed us to remain in school. While we look forward to having more in-person learning at our secondary schools as soon as possible, our Board of Education and administrative team will

continue to work closely with health officials to move forward when it is safe to do so. We will utilize the survey feedback received from students, staff, and families, along with information provided by health officials, to adjust our Return to Learn plan as necessary. Additional opportunities to solicit feedback will be scheduled during the second quarter to inform decisions. Be looking for more information in the weeks to come.

We have worked to develop a learner-centered culture that is in tune with the varying academic and social-emotional needs of each of our learners. In our current environment, we know that some are thriving amidst a pandemic, some students have discovered they prefer virtual learning, and others are eager for when things can return to normal. While we believe each individual learner is unique, and their specific needs are different, we believe strongly in the relationship between student and teacher. It remains our desire to return to more Face-to-Face learning as long as it is safe for all to do so.

In closing, we cannot thank you enough for your continued partnership as we work through this unique time together. We understand that some decisions we make aren't the decision of preference for all students and families. Please know, though, that we remain committed to making decisions that are in the best interest of student and staff safety throughout LPS.

As always, don't hesitate to connect with us here at the District Administration Center or your child's home school. Thank you for your partnership, and be well!

Dr. M. Jeremy Tucker
Superintendent - Liberty Public Schools