



--sent 10/22/20--

LPS Staff and Families,

As we near the end of the first quarter and wrap-up parent teacher conference week, we want to express our gratitude to our entire Liberty Public Schools community for a successful start to the 2020-2021 school year. It has undoubtedly been one of the most challenging starts in our District's history as we have navigated health department guidelines, opened our elementary classrooms five days a week, developed Liberty Virtual School for 2,500 students, and designed hybrid learning models for our middle and high school students. We could not be where we are today without your ideas, feedback, and support along the way.

Over the last several months, we have been committed to soliciting your input to inform our *Return to Learn* plans and adjust our practices along the way. Most recently, over 7,000 students, teachers, and families responded to our fall LPS survey. Survey findings were shared earlier this week at our October Board of Education meeting, and summaries of each can be accessed below:

[Student Survey Summary](#)

[Teacher Survey Summary](#)

[Parent Survey Summary](#)

Our administrative team is already working through the feedback received to guide our next steps in the weeks and months ahead. We have seen several themes emerge from the many comments that were provided. They include:

- A strong appreciation for our LPS staff for what has been accomplished thus far
- A desire for secondary students to have more face-to-face learning opportunities
- Social/emotional challenges of students amidst a pandemic
- A request for patience and grace for students adjusting to online platforms and assignments

Throughout the first quarter, we have allowed students to move between face-to-face and virtual learning modes and will continue to do so in meeting each student's learning needs. We shared with our Board of Education that we are in the process of scenario planning how best to increase face-to-face learning opportunities for our middle and high school students. This will likely occur gradually as we navigate the staffing challenges of supporting both face-to-face and virtual learning modalities. Opportunities to give feedback, as these plans evolve, will be provided, and any revisions to our LPS Return to Learn plan will be communicated to keep students, teachers, and families informed. ***For the remainder of the first semester, we will continue with our current elementary, middle, and high school learning models and look for opportunities to***

*increase face-to-face learning for secondary students as we transition into the second semester, so long as it is safe to do so.* We appreciate our partnership with the Kansas City Health Department and the Clay County Public Health Center as we navigate the complexities associated with COVID-19.

There is certainly a lot of work to be done in the coming weeks and months. We continue to navigate the many challenges placed upon our leadership team, staff, students, and families. We cannot lose sight of the many accomplishments that have been made since closing schools last spring and how far we have come. It is truly a testament to our community and care for one another. I hope that you enjoy the long weekend and all that the changing of the seasons bring.

Be well!

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