
Township of Union Public Schools

Gregory A. Tatum
Superintendent

August 19, 2020

Dear Township of Union School Community:

As you may be aware, the state department updated the protocols for schools to open safely for the upcoming school year. These additional standards, along with the number of teachers who have requested a leave of absence, have created additional challenges that the district must address. Therefore, we have made the difficult decision to begin the start of the 2020-2021 school year with a remote learning program for all Township of Union Public School students. While I understand this decision can create a challenge for many of our township families, this is based, as always, on the safety and well-being of all our staff and students so we may properly implement the safety protocols established by the state.

So you may plan accordingly, I will re-assess the district's needs and communicate to everyone by October 15th the determination as to if we can continue with the previously surveyed plan of a hybrid and virtual model by November 1st. Please note, anyone who did not respond to the survey will be considered for the in-person hybrid model.

As outlined in the district's reopening plan, this Fall our students can expect a richer virtual learning experience than in the Spring. Our teachers have been participating in professional development workshops to further their knowledge of the digital platforms the district offers. I have conducted several meetings with the principals and they will facilitate a schedule for their buildings that meets the criteria for the district's remote learning expectations. I encourage you to communicate with your building principal, as the first line in the chain of command, to address concerns regarding your student's educational program once the school year begins.

In order to further prepare for the transition to a remote learning program, we determined the need to push back the start of school to Wednesday, September 9th. This will allow us to meet with staff regarding expectations and continue the distribution of devices to our students.

Currently, we will be offering a 1:1 device for students in grades 2-12. Once we receive the devices, each student in grades K-1 will be issued an individual laptop. In the interim, students in grades pre-k – grade 1 will receive educational packets to support learning at home.

Additional information on meal services will be provided in the upcoming week.

Thank you for your patience and understanding while we navigate this new normal.

Sincerely,



Gregory Tatum
Superintendent