Dear CDSD Parents/Guardians,

I write to inform you that the Central Dauphin School District will be transitioning to full remote learning (K-12) beginning Tuesday, December 1, 2020.

BACKGROUND

As we have previously shared with the community, the past several weeks have seen the COVID-19 spread in our community continue to increase. The Pennsylvania Department of Health has reported that Dauphin County is in the substantial level of community transmission, and the incidence rate has persistently risen over a multi-week period. Friday, the DOH reported that the County's incidence rate per 100,000 residents has grown to 254.8 and the PCR Percent Positivity (Most Recent 7 Days) has climbed to 10.7%.

Along with the increase in community spread, we have seen a rise in the number of active positive cases in our schools. Although the number of active positive cases still remains low relative to the number of students and staff across our 19 buildings, there has been a recent rise in the number of cases.

Not only does each positive case impact the affected individual's health, it also impacts the lives of others as well as the learning environment in our school buildings.

With each positive case, numerous students and staff are required to quarantine due to their close contact with the affected individual. This has, in turn, created staffing challenges across the District and the District's desire to avoid continued disruption has resulted in some school buildings already shifting to remote learning.

PIVOT TO REMOTE LEARNING

The District has reviewed the DOH guidance regarding appropriate instructional models, and has consulted with our medical professionals and the DOH epidemiologist regarding the recently updated data relating to our community and our schools.

Given the totality of the circumstances, and out of an abundance of caution, the District will be shifting all school buildings to remote learning effective Tuesday, December 1, 2020. The District will remain in remote learning through December and will reevaluate the appropriate instructional model during the winter break.

Working remotely is part of the District's overall safety plan and will provide the District with the ability to provide continuity of instruction for our students. This will ensure that the District can seamlessly deliver our curriculum in a manner that will minimize the potential for close contacts with others and reduce the possibility of community spread. Because of the current impact of COVID-19 on our community and in our buildings, we believe that remote learning is the best option for our students at this time.

<u>STAY CONNECTED WITH THE DISTRICT</u>

The District is working hard to stay connected with students as we move into the remote learning model. We hope that you will stay connected with us. Our teachers will be regularly engaging with students and will provide the support they need to succeed.

The District will be offering students *Grab-and-Go* food service, and will be using drive-thru pick-up similar to what we used earlier in the year. The District will also continue to offer free COVID-19 testing to our students and staff. The District is setting up drive-thru centers at our buildings so that students can obtain cost-free, prompt test results if they exhibit symptoms of the virus. More information will be forthcoming.

We understand that moving to remote learning will have an impact on every family in the District, and we are giving advanced notice of this change so that families have time to prepare. The health and safety of our students, staff and community, is our top priority, and making this shift will allow us to continue to protect them while ensuring consistency in instruction to all of our students.

Your child's principal will be connecting with you in the coming days to provide more information about the move to remote learning. Please remain in contact with your principal so that, together, we can ensure the success of every child!

Norman J. Miller, Ed.D.

Superintendent

Central Dauphin School District