



OXFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

“Sailing Towards Success”

June 7, 2020

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

I hope you enjoyed this warm June weekend. As we wind down remote learning and close out the school year on Monday, June 15th, I wanted to update you on what I know at this time about school reopening in the fall. Last week the Commissioner indicated that we should expect schools to have a **blended model for learning in the fall**. What this means is that students will have a mix of remote learning (RL) and face to face (F2F) classroom learning. For example, one model of blended learning could be where 50% of students would be in school for a week (F2F) while the other 50% would engage in remote learning (RL). The following week, the model would be flipped. Another model could combine F2F and RL in alternating days such as Mon./Wed. (F2F), Tues./Th. (RL) and Fri. (alternating). These are but two of the many models that could be used to limit student capacity as a means to better meet health and safety guidelines. I cannot tell you what model, one of these or another, will be in place this fall as the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) is expected to release the plan in mid-June. However, what I do know is that the DESE will provide districts with a very prescriptive plan where 85-90% of it will be mandated by DESE.

In addition, as part of its plan for school districts, DESE will be including specific guidance on social distancing, hygiene protocols, staffing and operations, personal protective equipment, and bus transportation, to name a few. After the plan is released, our “re-entry planning team” will begin working on the logistics for fall reopening. You can expect to receive a number of email notifications after school is out and throughout the summer with specific plan information as well as district-wide and building changes and guidelines.

I recognize the challenge that any blended learning plan will place on parents/guardians this fall as many of you (as we) were hopeful that your child/ren would be returning full-time to classrooms. However, returning to schools in the fall will entail a “**new normal**” for students and staff. Also, as you have read, any resurgence in COVID-19 in late fall could result in the Governor shutting schools down again. I anticipate that we will be requesting that you complete a survey. It will be quite brief and include such topics as if you plan on sending your child/ren back to school in the fall and whether your child will use school transportation.

In addition, as remote learning will be continuing in the fall, we are not going to collect any devices issued to students. We ask that you keep the device in a safe spot protected from any potential damage. Further, at the elementary level, we are hopeful to purchase some supplementary reading and mathematics software to be made available to elementary students in order to continue summer work on specific concepts and skills. Elementary principals will send you the details.

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The Oxford Public School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, homelessness, pregnancy, pregnancy-related conditions, or limited English proficiency.

Finally, while we have all been going through a pandemic the likes of which we never envisioned, we have also been witness to another great American tragedy with the events in Minneapolis. Just as there are lessons to be learned from the COVID-19 pandemic, there are also lessons to be learned from Minneapolis which will impact the social and emotional well-being not only of adults, but also our children. Equitable school climate where we deepen awareness of race, gender, ethnicity, and socioeconomic issues, to name a few, is central to providing a healthy and supportive school environment where all students can thrive. As a community of learners, all of us must promote beliefs and values that foster acceptance, inclusivity, and tolerance.

With warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kristine E. Nash Ed.D.".

Kristine E. Nash Ed.D.
Acting Superintendent of Schools