



August 14, 2020

Dear DPS Families and Friends,

After meeting with local health officials and our school board president, our district has made the decision to return to school on September 2 with the hybrid instructional learning model (Level 2), rather than a full-time face-to-face learning model.

As sent out previously, we have been preparing all summer for a full face-to-face return of students to school. These preparations have resulted in the identification of three levels:

- **Reentry Level 1: New Normal Operations** -- DPS's schools will reopen with all students attending school fulltime and schools implementing reasonable procedures in accordance with health guidance. It is anticipated that Level 1 may generally coincide with ND Risk Levels **Blue** and **Green**.
- **Reentry Level 2: Learning With Caution** – DPS will shift to a hybrid schedule with students attending school on alternate days so some students are learning part-time in school and some students are learning part-time at home. Based on conditions, hybrid schedules could be implemented in a single school, within a cluster of schools or districtwide. It is anticipated that Level 2 may generally coincide with ND Risk Levels **Yellow** and **Orange**.
- **Reentry Level 3: Learn at Home & Stay Safe** – In extreme conditions, which could include a local or state stay-at-home order, **DPS will close schools and shift to remote learning for all students**. It is anticipated that Level 3 may generally coincide with ND Risk Level **Red**.

Due to the continued rise in COVID-19 numbers in Stark County, we are attempting to reduce populations in our school by 50% throughout the week to keep our students and staff safe and healthy. We fully understand and recognize the challenges this will have on our parents, faculty and community and wanted to give notice as soon as possible to help you better prepare.

Although we all hoped to return to school with our Level 1 plan, we must now return to school in our Level 2 (hybrid) plan. Level 2 consists of all Level 1 procedures, as well as an enhanced social distancing requirement resulting in approximately 50% of the students attending school at a time.

- **Students with A-K last names:**
 - attending school on Mondays/Wednesdays, and every other Friday
- **Students with L-Z last names:**
 - attending Tuesdays/Thursdays and every other Friday.

Based on current conditions, hybrid schedules will be implemented districtwide.

DPS's Reopening Plan includes recommendations from health officials, and reasonable procedures to try to mitigate risks and minimize the spread of COVID-19. The school board will finalize the plan on August 24.

As a reminder, students will have three options for returning to school in September. The options include the following:

1. Students return to school face-to-face following our Level 1, Level 2, or Level 3 reopening plans
2. Students choose full-time online learning taught by DPS certified teachers
3. Parents withdraw their students from public education and pursue alternate options such as private school or homeschooling

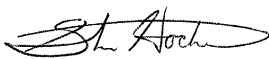
Our Reopening Plan is still a living document and will be updated in accordance with new guidance from the Governor's office, the State Department of Public Instruction, the North Dakota High School Activities Association and local health officials.

We continue to ask for your help on:

- Please ensure you have access to a thermometer at home for student/employee health screening practices.
- Ensure your contact information in PowerSchool is up to date.
- Stay up to date on your student's vaccinations. The North Dakota Department of Health reported a decrease in the number of vaccinations administered during COVID-19. You can find more information about which vaccines are required for school at health.nd.gov/immunize.
- Please continue to use safety precautions.

We appreciate your continued patience as we work towards a plan that protects the health and safety of students and faculty. If you have questions or concerns regarding the Reopening Plan, please contact your local school building or the Central Administration Office and continue to check your email and visit our website for more information.

Sincerely,



Dr. Shon Hocker
Superintendent
Dickinson Public Schools