

Dear Hurricane Families,

Last week the Cuyahoga County Board of Health (CCBH) released additional guidance and recommendations for school districts throughout Cuyahoga County, which recommends that area schools begin the upcoming academic year by operating 100% remotely due to elevated health risks posed by the coronavirus pandemic. The CCBH also advises that schools temporarily discontinue extracurricular and athletic activities while remaining in a period of remote instruction. Our reopening to in-person learning will ultimately depend on health conditions being permissible for students and staff to safely return to in-person learning.

I am writing to you today to notify you that our district will start **completely remote** for the 2020-2021 school year. We will begin the school year with students on August 31, 2020 with a staggered Orientation Week Schedule for students. Remote instruction will begin on Tuesday, September 8, 2020. We will remain in the all remote model until health data signals that conditions have improved to a point where we can safely have students return to in-person learning. Families will receive information in the coming weeks from building principals regarding the student orientation activities, food distribution and other essential services needed to start the school year. Below you will find additional information for the start of the year:

Remote Learning -

Since we are starting entirely online, parents no longer need to choose whether they want to start online or face-to-face. When it is safe to return to a face-to-face environment, we will once again send a survey for you to commit if you want your child to stay online or attend face-to-face. If you have already made the commitment to remote learning then you need to do nothing at this time.

Extracurricular/Co-curricular Opportunities -

Clubs and activities are vitally important to the social and emotional health of our students. In many cases, these activities can continue seamlessly due to our ability to engage students in an online environment. Our school district offers students many extra/co-curricular opportunities for students across all grade-levels. Our plan is to continue to offer as many of those opportunities as possible. We will continue to evaluate how our students will participate in these activities virtually as we get closer to the start of the year.

Athletics -

I recognize that extracurricular activities and athletics are an essential part of a student's growth and development. As we have demonstrated this summer, we can continue to offer these activities while providing appropriate physical distancing and following safety protocols. At this time students will be able to continue these activities during summer practices. Following the CCBH recommendation, all extra-curricular activities and athletics will “pause” in-person activities during our remote learning period. Coaches and advisors will continue to engage students virtually during this time. **If needed, we are able, and willing to re-evaluate this recommendation prior to the start of remote instruction should we receive additional information from the Ohio High School Athletic Association or the CCBH regarding extra-curricular activities and athletics.**

Our Steps Moving Forward -

Should there be continued health recommendations or mandates that require a temporary delay in resuming in-person instruction, students would continue in the virtual environment. Additionally, should the school district receive information that allows us to return to in-person learning sooner, we will make decisions in 4-week increments to allow for this opportunity.

The school district will reevaluate the reopening status on or before September 25th to provide time for family planning. Families will be given appropriate notice should our reopening status change to in-person learning or should we determine that online instruction will need to continue past this date.

I am well aware that these decisions will come with mixed emotions. As the district's new Superintendent, I want nothing more than for our students to return to our buildings this fall. This is not an easy decision but based on the current health recommendation from the CCBH, I believe it is the right decision for the safety of our students and staff.

Again, thank you for your patience as we continue to work through these matters with the guidance of our families, staff, the state and local health authorities.

Respectfully,

Dr. Theodore Caleris
Superintendent/Chief Executive Officer
Brooklyn City Schools