

ANSONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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January 6, 2021

Dear Ansonia Public Schools Families:

I hope you found some peace and quality time with your family during the Holiday Recess. I am writing today to bring you up to date on our reopening plans, which will remain subject to change based on COVID-positive cases in our community.

As you know, our district is operating in a remote model through Friday, Jan. 15, 2021. All classes and programs are CLOSED on Monday, Jan. 18, for the Martin Luther King Jr. Day holiday. Starting on TUESDAY, JAN. 19, we will REOPEN our schools in a hybrid model, similar to how we operated when school began in September 2020. Cohort A students will return to in-person instruction on Jan. 19-20, while Cohort B students will return to in-person instruction on Jan. 21-22. The following week, Cohort A students will be in-person on Monday and Tuesday, while Cohort B students will be in-person on Thursday and Friday. The other days of the week will be remote learning.

Our hope – contingent upon the positivity rate in Ansonia – is to RETURN to in-person classes on MONDAY, FEB. 1, 2021. We will hold classes in person all days *except* Wednesdays through March 12, 2021. Starting March 15, we will return to FULL, in-person, five days a week. I hope that many parents are happy with this news! In December 2020, we received 1,130 responses to our Parent Survey, and 70% of respondents indicated that they wanted their children to return to in-person. We heard you, and we can't wait to see your children again, back in their classrooms.

To achieve this goal, we need your help. As we prepare for this transition back to full in-person classes, please continue to social distance, wear masks in public, and wash hands thoroughly and frequently. In addition, we are asking you to complete one more online Parent Preference Survey, indicating whether you will be sending your child back to school or whether you will opt out for the remainder of the school year. We are also asking about whether your child will be using bus transportation.

In the coming week, principals will be sharing their own welcome back messages with any additional information you will need to know. All appropriate mitigation measures will continue to maintain safety at school, which includes mask wearing, social distancing, and the ongoing cleaning of touchpoints and bathrooms throughout the day.

As we have done all year, we will continue to monitor the current positivity rate in our community. Thank you for your help, understanding and patience. We join you in hoping that the New Year will return us to a sense of normalcy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dr. Joseph DiBacco". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Joseph DiBacco, Superintendent of Schools