

## HARRINGTON PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT

August 15, 2020

Good Morning Community Members,

I want to make you aware of the most recent development concerning the reopening of the Harrington Park School on September 14th. As you know, we have been working on the extensive hybrid model outlined to you this past week. School districts have been challenged to open school throughout the county based on the Governor's executive order, as well as the NJDOE edict in the Road Map Back. As a district, we accepted this challenge, and in a matter of weeks with limited to no guidance from the Governor or the Department of Education, we were able to create a robust program for our children. This multi-age program addresses space, health, and educational goals while allowing our children to attend school daily to receive in-person learning from our professional educational staff. This model was developed on top of creating a choice based virtual program for the numerous families who chose to return to school virtually. I am incredibly grateful to the team for the enormous amount of time and energy spent developing these programs to create a safe and healthy environment for the students and staff of the Harrington Park School.

After the Governor's announcement on Wednesday and what we have learned from the Department of Education, a new set of criteria will be given to the districts concerning their ability to conduct in-person instruction. It should be noted that the requirements that were spoken about by the Governor and the Department of Education are not even in the hands of the districts yet, and we are only weeks away from opening school. I have talked to you about the instability and indecisiveness of our state government and the Department of Education, creating more confusion and creating an environment of uncertainty. As school leaders, we desperately try to make sure that we are giving you all of the information that we have available. Our frustration is that this information changes not just weekly, but on some occasions in real-time. As a district, we have met weekly with not only instructional staff leaders, but also our community leaders so that they all can be a part of helping to create a program that will be most beneficial for our children. We are also working extremely hard at creating a public-private partnership that will allow students to participate in enrichment-based classes outside of their regular educational programs. These exciting ideas will help our students succeed outside of the classroom, begin to bond with their learning groups, and begin to explore opportunities we might not be able to offer

in a regular classroom-based program. The cleaning crews have been hard at work cleaning and, in some places, rebuilding parts of the facility to help with the unique challenges we face with a PreK-8 district. The Health Office will be moved into the BOE Office to create a medical center with large spaces and multiple rooms for students and staff to be treated by our experienced team. Hands-free washing stations are being installed throughout the facility to reinforce the importance of the hygienic process. As we get closer to the district's opening, we will begin to educate our families in the two-step screening process that we will be using through the Runa system. This initial process and a staggered entry process will allow us to have our students and staff be screened again using multiple thermal imaging units, which will assist in our health screening process.

Due to the overwhelming response we have received regarding the entire virtual program, we will also be live streaming into classrooms for grades 3-8. We will be using a hybrid of material and asynchronous lessons from the K-2 teachers with live ELA & Math sessions with our certified virtual staff. Within the following week, you will also be receiving grade 4-8 programmatic information, to allow for families the ability to plan for the start of the school year. You will also receive a newly revised school calendar for the beginning of the 2020 school year. These changes and our ability to utilize a digital platform allows us to create a school calendar that matches the creativity of the multiple programs being used in the district. Student schedules will be available during the week of September 1st.

I have spoken to you about the monumental challenge this has been for the district and how this community has risen to the challenge. I wish I were able to give you more answers to many of your questions, but I again ask for your compassion and understanding as we plot through this new set of criteria and its impact on the district. I am confident that things will improve, and soon, we will be able to return to the Harrington Park School that we all know and love.

Take care of yourself and your family, stay healthy, and enjoy the beautiful summer weather.

Best,  
Dr. Adam D. Fried

***“Leading the Way”***  
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