

June 25, 2020

Dear District 145 Families and Staff,

I hope you are all well and enjoying your summer break so far. As you may know, the State Board of Education released new guidance and direction for local school districts to return to school this fall if Illinois is able to remain in Phase 4 of the Governor's reopening plan. Schools received this guidance on the same day that the public did. As you might expect, this guidance is very complex and will take some time to fully sort out.

There are three basic key points for you to know:

1. In-person learning is the priority
2. Essential safety measures must be followed, including wearing masks, washing hands, etc.
3. Plans must anticipate the possibility of more remote learning if/as needed

The good news is, District 145 administration has been working on plans since April and so we are already confident that we will open safely and continue to be flexible for whatever should occur.

The survey sent out last week gave us some good information. We know that many families and staff have questions about coming back to school full-time because of safety concerns, the mask and PPE requirement, and other valid points involving the countless logistics involved in restarting school. Likewise, other families and staff are equally worried about returning to remote learning on a long-term basis. We very much want our students and staff back in school where we know the best teaching and learning will occur. We understand all of these concerns.

I want to assure you that we continue to work diligently to bring our students and staff back this fall safely and efficiently, in line with IDPH, ISBE, and state guidelines. We will share our plans as soon as possible to give everyone ample time to prepare and be ready for school to resume on August 19<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you as always for your ongoing support and understanding. Together we will continue to prepare learners for the future. We will continue to update the website and use our alert system.

Have a wonderful holiday and July with family,

Dr. Andrea Sala  
Superintendent of Schools