



May 11, 2020

Dear Upper Dublin Community,

Earlier today Pennsylvania Secretary of Education Pedro Rivera spoke at a State Education Hearing where he articulated that as officials prepare to open for the 2020-2021 school year, local health departments and the PA Department of Education will examine data to ensure the safety of students. Please [click here](#) to read more about Rivera's comments. In a previous communication, we stated that on a bi-weekly basis we will update our community on the steps we are taking to plan for the 2020-2021 school year. The purpose of this update is to share our current thinking and planning as it relates to next school year and to articulate the steps in which we continue to engage as we look forward to September 2020.

As we move through the next few weeks and continue collaborating with the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the Montgomery County Office of Public Health, we will add additional details to the plans we share. The recommendations provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention also serve as guidance for schools. It is important to remember that our planning is proactive; therefore, please know that no final decisions have been made about District operations moving forward. District operations will be directly dependent upon the conditions set forth by COVID-19 and the continued guidance of health officials.

Because the safety of our students and staff remains a priority for the District, we are preparing for a number of scenarios for next year given the uncertainty of COVID-19 and its effect on normal operations, both within the District and our greater community. As we know, the Governor has extended the current stay at home order until June 4, 2020, and our region remains in the "red phase." While September seems far away, before you know it, the new school year will be upon us. Therefore, as we plan for the remainder of this school year, we have identified a number of scenarios (there may be more) for next year as well:

- UDSD resumes normal operations; no restrictions in place
- UDSD resumes limited operation; restrictions - masks, social distancing, and other restrictions - remain in place

- UDSD resumes limited operations; reduced capacity in buildings, alternate schedules, hybrid schedules
- UDSD continues closures; continuity of education plan continues with both synchronous and asynchronous teaching and learning taking place

As a District, we have examined each part of the school day to draft procedures for ensuring the well-being of our students and staff. From coming to school each day to leaving school each day, we are establishing protective protocols. This work includes not only administrators but health professionals as well. In future updates, we will share specifics about each of the scenarios. To be clear, in all scenarios where students and staff return to school, direct and explicit instruction about COVID-19 prevention such as handwashing, covering sneezes/coughs, etc., will be provided K-12.

If we need to continue educating students virtually, our Continuity of Education Plan will go through a series of revisions to ensure that it supports our students and teachers in the pursuit of teaching and learning. Please [click here](#) to complete this brief feedback form by Friday, May 15, 2020. If you have more than one child, please complete the form once for each of your children. The feedback gathered from this brief survey will guide future feedback surveys, if needed, as well as revisions to the District's Continuity of Education Plan if we experience closures during the 2020-2021 school year.

While we are thinking about next year, we thought it would be prudent to address programs and class sizes, two issues that each summer become the subject of anxiety and rumors. Preparation for the 2020-2021 school year includes maintaining our academic programs and auditing standards to ensure that we provide appropriate instruction for all students. Additionally, we are committed to maintaining appropriate class sizes. As has been the District's practice, the following class-size caps will be in place. The vast majority of our classes and courses fall below the class-size caps.

- Grades K through 2: 22 students
- Grades 3 through 5: 24 students
- Grades 6 through 12: 28 students

While there are more questions than answers (at this time) as we think about next school year, the District remains committed to communication and transparency as we plan for 2020-2021. The next update with planning information will be sent to the community during the week of May 25, 2020. Until then, please know that work continues to ensure a smooth transition back to school for all of our students.

We hope that all of our students, families, and community members remain safe and healthy!

Sincerely,
Dr. Steve Yanni, Superintendent