

August 11, 2020

Dear Combs Families:

I want to sincerely thank you for your patience as we work with our community and public health partners to determine a date for the return of in-person instruction. Last night, the Combs Governing Board voted (3-2) to have **schools reopen for in-person learning beginning on Monday, August 17, 2020**. This difficult decision comes after the release of the data benchmarks from the Arizona Department of Health Services, as well as tremendous feedback from families in the District who expressed a strong need for their children to return to the classroom.

We know that the decision made last night generates emotion on both sides, and it is important to note that families will still continue to have a choice in the format of the education that their child will receive. This year's instructional model has been designed around the notion of parent choice, and will allow students who feel comfortable returning in-person to do so, and learn simultaneously with those who choose to remain virtual. We know some families will elect to continue virtual learning all year long, and that this too will result in less children being on campus, enabling enhanced safety measures such as social distancing to take place.

Over the next couple days, you will receive additional communication regarding the transition back to in-person learning. Some of the key info that will be shared includes:

- Confirming your desired learning option (virtual vs. in-person) starting August 17
- How will this affect the virtual learning schedule
- How to sign the parent waiver for in-person return
- Safety measures and precautions that must be followed by those who return in-person

As always, I encourage families to visit www.jocombs.org/returntoschool/ for the the latest updates and communication regarding the District's safe and healthy return to school. Also available on this web page is our Pandemic Response Plan, which all families who intend to return in-person should review at length in order to ensure compliance with our proactive health measures.

I know that our current circumstances are challenging, and that emotions are running high as our families and staff agonize over making the right decisions for our students. Regardless of where you may stand on these issues, I implore you to show one another kindness and empathy, as we are all working toward the goal of providing the very best education for your child every day. These are unprecedented times and through a strong family and school partnership we will meet our goal. Together we are stronger.

Sincerely,



Dr. Gregory A. Wyman
Superintendent