



TEANECK COMMUNITY CHARTER SCHOOL

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August 17, 2020

Dear TCCS Community,

As you may be aware, Governor Murphy announced on August 12 that New Jersey districts would now be able to submit plans to open schools this fall in an “all virtual/remote” learning environment if they have concerns with meeting the safety standards outlined in their plan by their anticipated opening date. That evening, the Teaneck Public Schools Board of Education approved the revision of their reopening plan to open in an all virtual environment for their first marking period, as has been the action taken by many other NJ school districts and charter schools in the days since.

After looking at our supply chain, reviewing parent and teacher survey data, and consulting with various state educational associations and leadership groups, including my administrative team, our faculty representatives, and our stakeholder restart committee, we have decided to update our reopening plan to indicate that we will also open the school year in an all virtual environment. In this modification, Phase 1 will consist of remote instruction for all students for the first month of school. Phase 2 (hybrid in-person instruction) will begin on Monday, October 12 - provided that the state confirms that it is safe to do so.

While we stand by the safety standards that have been outlined in our plan, transportation challenges and supply chain issues (for personal protective equipment, social distancing signage, and building upgrades related to ventilation and plumbing) have made it clear that we need a little more time before we open for in-person instruction. As shared in my various presentations this summer, our goal has always been to proceed with the 2020-2021 opening of TCCS in the safest and most cautious manner possible, and this new development allows us to take advantage of an option that did not exist until now.

Beginning on September 8, all students will follow our revamped all virtual model and will be expected to meet online daily, in accordance with our significantly more rigorous and structured virtual instruction plan and schedule, which I outlined at my July 30 presentation. Throughout this phase, teachers and staff will have the opportunity to be in the building, as we use this additional time to prepare for hybrid instruction and fine tune and practice our safety, cleaning, and hygiene protocols. Basic details regarding virtual instruction are available at the end of the presentation slideshow, which is posted on the TCCS website.

At our August 24 Board of Trustees meeting, I will be sharing additional details about our Phase 1 virtual instruction plan and other important information regarding device distribution, training, and opportunities for students to meet their teachers in-person prior to the start of the school year.

I want to thank the entire community for your continued patience and grace in dealing with the constant changes that I’ve shared as our reopening plan has evolved throughout the summer. If any new developments arise, I will continue to keep you informed. Otherwise, I hope to see you on August 24.

Thanks and Best Regards,

Ralph Gallo
Lead Person / Director