

DISTRICT 202 COMMUNITY COLUMN

By Dr. Lane Abrell
Superintendent of Schools

July 2020

Dear District 202 Families, Staff and Community,

Thank you.

Rather than my regular column, this is a short, but sincere letter to thank all our families, staff and community for the support, patience and understanding you have already given, and for what you will give in the coming weeks and months as we start the new school year.

As you know, District 202 will start the year on August 31st with Remote Learning.

Families will start to get much more detailed information soon from their home schools, but for now, this is what you need to know:

We fully intend to resume in-person classes when it is safe to do so. We will reassess the status of the pandemic after four weeks and decide whether and when students and staff will return.

If so, we will follow local, state, and national guidelines, rules, and recommendations to ensure the health and safety of everyone in our schools.

For example, we will minimize the number of students in classrooms and on buses through strategic scheduling, provide hand sanitizer, require masks be worn at all times, etc.

We are open to the possibility of having our most at-risk students (special education, preschool, ELL, etc.) return earlier, because they need and will benefit from more direct adult support.

All 6th-12th graders will get district laptops. We will finalize our plans in the next 10 days to provide laptops to 4th and 5th graders.

Perhaps most importantly, administration and teachers have worked incredibly hard since last spring to bolster our Remote Learning system with more and better lesson plans, resources, and professional development. We recognize our first pass at remote learning last spring did not go as well as we had hoped or intended, and we are determined to not let that happen again.

To that end, I especially thank our teachers who have publicly committed themselves to delivering the best possible teaching and learning during this incredibly challenging time. They know, as we do, that our students deserve nothing less.

We know how confusing, frustrating, and even frightening this situation is for everyone involved. We understand that the decision to start the school year with remote learning will create significant hardship for many of our families.

However, protecting our students' and staff members' health during a time of incredible uncertainty and shifting understanding is always our top priority.

It would be great for our students to return to school in person tomorrow. It will be even better if they can come to school tomorrow, and every day after that, relatively certain that they will be well enough to learn, grow and succeed.

Again, thank you for hanging in with us so far. I ask only that you continue to hang in with us a little longer.

Finally, though I have said this countless times, it seems truer now than ever:
Together, we will prepare all our students for the future.

Please visit the “Return ‘20” page on our district website and all 30 of our school website for the most current information.

Dr. Lane Abrell
Superintendent of Schools
Plainfield Community Consolidated School District 202