



TOMS RIVER REGIONAL SCHOOLS

DAVID M. HEALY

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

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August 17, 2020

To our Toms River Regional Schools staff and community:

As you've likely heard, we've made the difficult but, we believe, correct decision to begin the 2020-2021 school year with an all-remote learning model. The reasons for this decision are many and were [covered](#) extensively during multiple [board meetings](#) this past week.

I'm aware you may have questions, and our team will be working to answer them in the coming days. Additional information and direction will be provided directly to our staff members later this week. Please stay connected with us-- check your email, our [website](#), and our [social](#) media [channels](#) for updates. In the meantime, here is where we stand at the moment.

We plan to integrate an [enhanced virtual learning model](#) this fall. Our professional learning days scheduled for early September will offer many learning opportunities for staff members directly aligned with the expectations for virtual teaching. The enhanced structure will maximize the use of tools that enable live teaching, small group and one-on-one instruction, and opportunities for student collaboration.

Some special education students will be returning for in-person instruction on a limited basis. Special Education Plan [Phase 1](#), which is published on our website, outlines this plan. Additionally, parents of students receiving special services are strongly encouraged to participate in a [virtual meeting](#) being held 5 p.m. Aug. 18.

We've targeted Nov. 9-- the Monday following fall break-- as a projected date to hopefully reintroduce in-person instruction as described in the blended learning plan released earlier this summer. This date is obviously subject to change; students could return sooner or later depending on a number of health and logistical factors.

Finally, please know our team is working tirelessly to both solidify our enhanced virtual learning model and prepare for our #TRSafeReturn. Our reopening subcommittee is comprised of departments and individual experts who represent every major facet of a safe return including our district's medical director, MaryAnn McCabe, MD; Facilities Manager Peter Tomko specializing in OSHA compliance and environmental policy; legal counsel; board members; parent representatives from each school; and operations personnel. Our leadership team also continues to consult with state and local health officials; our maintenance, facilities, and technology teams; the Ocean County YMCA and food services; and educational leaders throughout the county and state. This is a group effort, and we are fully committed to ensuring that this is the best possible situation for everyone-- our students, staff, and families-- considering the circumstances.



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Though we are indeed confident that the decision to begin the year remotely is the right one, I'm also aware it leaves many of us disappointed. We all yearn for some return to normalcy, and this decision seems to delay that. Still, we must do what's best and what's right for our students and staff. I genuinely thank you for your patience and understanding during this uncertain summer, and I encourage you to stay tuned as more information emerges. #WeAreTRschools

Sincerely,

David M. Healy
Superintendent of Schools