



NEWLOTHROP AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

July 27, 2020

Dear Students, Parents, Staff, & Community Members,

I want to provide an update on the survey sent out this past Friday and the next steps in the process of our district's reopening plan.

Thank you to all of those who participated in the parent survey. If you have not done so, please go to our website or Facebook page to review the overview of our reopening plan; then complete the survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RHX27NF>.

As of today, we have had 219 respondents complete the survey. Of those respondents, 80.82% (177 respondents) want their child(ren) to have face-to-face in-person learning when we start the school year. The other 19.18% (42 respondents) want their child(ren) to have online learning. Please complete the survey by Friday, July 31st, so we can get a picture of what parents want for their child's education for the start of the school year. The first day of school is scheduled for Aug. 20th for DK-12 students.

The next step in this process of developing and finalizing our reopening plan is to meet with selected staff, parents, and students on August 4th. We will be discussing the daily logistics, including spacing, cleaning, lunch for K-12 students, our communication/learning platforms, etc.

Also, we are researching the appropriate learning platform for online learners and how we as NLAPS can support those students during the first trimester (Grades K-6) and semester (Grades 7-12). We will be choosing this platform by the end of the week; however we are monitoring current legislative bills and Michigan Department of Education (MDE) that could affect our funding for online learners, including daily attendance rate, and will online learning count as instructional hours, etc.

The NLAPS Reopening Plan is scheduled to be approved at our Special Board Meeting on Tuesday, August 11th to meet State compliance, and it will be posted on website the following day. I truly appreciate all of the students, parents, and staff that participated in the community forum we hosted last week. As everyone knows, this is a fluid situation and getting input from various groups is vitally important to developing the best plan going forward for our students and staff in regards to their safety and education/working environment. As an example of the fluidity, our county's superintendents will be meeting this week to discuss the potential of starting the school year with distance learning provided by NLAPS staff through September 30th; I will keep the community updated.

Please continue to follow our Facebook page and check our website for updates. We will also be communicating through Schoolmessenger when we do so.

I also appreciate the support over the last several weeks and conversations I have had with students, parents, and staff. We all know these are unprecedented times, but I truly believe if we work together we will be able to provide our students with the education they deserve.

Sincerely,

Anthony Berthiaume

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Superintendent

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