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July 10, 2020

SLSD Parents and Guardians,

The Southern Lehigh School District Staff continues to work on an evolving set of plans to ensure that the District can safely open and allow students and staff to return to our five school buildings amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Our Board of School Directors approved the Southern Lehigh Return to Play Athletics Plan on June 22 and student-athletes have engaged in various training programs on campus for the first time since the March 13 school closure. We share the excitement of our students in this ability to reunite them with their coaches and teammates as they attempt to build as normal of an experience as possible while following the protocol set forth through our continued collaboration with the St. Luke's University Health Network's Athletic Training Program.

Meanwhile, all 12-month staff is returning to onsite work in each of the Southern Lehigh School District buildings. As a reminder, should you need to visit one of our buildings during the summer, it is recommended that you call ahead and make an appointment to ensure that all needed services are able to be completed. Face coverings are required when inside all SLSD buildings per the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Health's Universal Face Covering Order.

The Pennsylvania Department of Education has mandated that all school districts draft a Health and Safety Plan to be presented to the Board of School Directors for review and approval prior to the return of any in-person instructional activities. A team of SLSD staff continues to develop this plan while reviewing the abundance of changing guidance received from the Department of Education, health and safety organizations, and other community partners with expertise within the areas required for these plans.

Also informing the creation of the Southern Lehigh School District Health and Safety Plan are the survey results from our parents/guardian survey and the staff survey completed in June and through community participation in our Return to School Task Force Meetings.



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To date, we have completed one Return to School Task Force Session with another scheduled for Monday, 7/13/20 at 7 PM via Zoom. More information about login procedures and question/comment procedures can be found on the District website. Our first session had over 400 participants and well over 100 questions were fielded. We look forward to continuing the partnership with various stakeholders as we finalize these plans.

In both the Green or Yellow Phase COVID-19 classification, the Southern Lehigh School District is planning to open our schools in August with safety and social distancing guidelines in place that will be outlined in the final SLSD Health and Safety Plan. However, should Lehigh County return to the Red Phase classification, Southern Lehigh will in kind transition to an online learning instructional procedure as the only option. In both Green and Yellow phases, online learning will be an option for students whose families choose for the child(ren) to receive remote instruction because of existing health/safety concerns.

Following the approval by the Board of School Directors, the details of the Southern Lehigh School District Health and Safety Plan will be shared with the community, setting the parameters for students and staff to return to school while simultaneously striving to prevent a resurgence of the virus. Additionally, the District will at that time also push out surveys to the community to help obtain more concrete information about individual student plans for the fall specific to the type of instructional program they will be pursuing and the need for school district provided transportation.

The return to school will require a partnership amongst all Spartans. The entire school community will need to follow the recommended hygiene practices and social distancing measures. In anticipation of returning to school in the fall, we strongly encourage that your family considers the following:

- **Face Coverings** – Per the Universal Masking Order from the Pennsylvania Department of Health, all students and staff will be required to wear a face-covering for the duration of the school day. Cloth face coverings are acceptable for students and staff.



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- **Symptom Screening** – Staff and students will be expected to complete COVID-19 symptom screening each morning prior to attending school. This screening includes the completion of a temperature check. Families would need a thermometer to complete these daily screenings. Steps like daily symptom screening are pivotal in ensuring the health and welfare of all students and staff.

Thank you for the ongoing support as we continue to plan for the 2020-2021 school year. The Southern Lehigh School District is committed to providing a safe and flexible educational program for our students while taking recommended guidelines seriously as we strive to protect the health and safety of our staff, students, and the community at large.

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