TEMPLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

July 13, 2020

Temple ISD Families,

This has certainly been an interesting time for all of us. Information around COVID-19 is everchanging, which effects the planning efforts of public schools. Although the reopening of school in August will be very complex due to many unknown variables, Temple ISD (TISD) will focus our planning efforts around guidance from the Texas Education Agency (TEA), the University Interscholastic League (UIL), state/local officials and our families.

As you know, TISD just closed our parent survey window which was open from June 22 to July 5. We received over 2,000 survey responses. I want to personally thank our parents for providing TISD with such valuable information. We will use this data to create processes and procedures for a safe return to the upcoming school year. An immediate example of our response to these parent survey results occurred at the most recent July 13th, board meeting. The Temple ISD Board of Trustees approved an emergency declaration to purchase 1,000 more Chromebooks and commit to an enhanced cleaning/disinfectants contract for the upcoming year. These items were in excess of $500,000.

Due to these results, and the most current guidance from state officials, TISD will be preparing for two start of school scenarios. The purpose of this letter is to inform our families on some of the decisions we have made at this time. Please know that there are more decisions forthcoming and we will communicate those as guidance becomes clearer and hopefully, less fluid.

First, I would like to discuss educational arrangement. Based off of our parent surveys, TISD will be providing students and families options for educational services. These options include a traditional, on-campus setting and a remote, home-based option. TISD will provide the opportunity for parents to indicate whether they want to return to school on-campus, understanding there will be extensive safety precautions in place, or remotely at home. I cannot think of a better person to make that decision for children, than our parents and guardians.

The application for families to choose their Fall option will open Wednesday, August 5th at 8am and close on Friday, August 7th at 5pm. You will receive the application through Skyward. We realize this is an

important decision for families, so we want to make sure families are prepared. Please log in to your Skyward Family Access account today to ensure you know the correct password. You will need this to answer the Options Application.

*Only the parent/guardian who is designated as the **primary contact** for the student within Skyward will be able to complete this application. We appreciate parents working together to provide information in the best interests of their child(ren) and families.*

If you do not know your Skyward Family Access login or password, select the "Forgot Login/Password" link on the Skyward Family Access login screen. If you still have issues, please email Sylvia Molina at Sylvia.molina@tisd.org or Melinda Stojanik at melinda.stojanik@tisd.org.

As a reminder, the application window closes August 7th at 5pm. Because of the complexities inherent in these options, **individuals must make a commitment for up to one full grading period**, which runs from August 19 through September 25. **If no option is made by a parent, the default will be to begin the school year with on-campus, traditional education.**

Understandably, there may be instances where a student needs to quickly default to remote learning due to COVID-19 related illness. If so, these needs will be accommodated to maintain the health and well-being of those impacted and to ensure the safety of those in the building. These will be decisions made by the school district based on symptoms or testing, and only require the student to participate in remote instruction for the time of self-isolation or quarantine. **At any time during the school year, decisions to participate in remote learning that are made by the parent (not the district) will require a minimum commitment for the remainder of the current grading period, plus the entire following grading period.**

Be mindful that as the situation with COVID-19 is constantly evolving, the guidance in this letter and our Back to School 2020 website (HERE) may be temporarily or indefinitely modified per directives/orders given by state and local officials.

Information for All Families to Consider Prior to Determining an Option

Summary of a Traditional, On-Campus Setting

- Full school day, Mon-Fri
- Positive COVID-19 cases will be isolated to localized, direct contact treatments and not result in whole school or district-wide closures

- Student(s) could transition to a remote, home-based option due to a positive COVID-19 case
- Face coverings required of staff for food handling, transportation and only recommended for other staff in large groups, common areas and passing periods (unless required by order)
- Face coverings (if required by order) for students in Grades 6-12; and optional for elementary students
- Teachers may require students over 10 years of age to wear face coverings while in their classrooms. In these cases, the student will be expected to either wear the district-issued cloth face covering or bring one of their own.
- Visitors & volunteers will not be permitted unless a formal appointment is made
- Daily screening procedures such as touchless temperature checks
- Required pick-up within one hour of parents being notified by the school nurse of a child's illness
- Bus services as normal, but windows are down temperature permitting
- Altered specials/electives/extra-curriculars based on conditions allowed and guidance from UIL
- Frequent handwashing and hand sanitizing (stations throughout the building and classrooms)
- It is recommended for students to bring their own water bottle
- Restroom usage limited and regulated
- Special program services offered as normal
- Possible reduction in student movement/transitions in buildings
- Limited sharing of school supplies
- More assigned seating and workstations
- Physical distancing in classrooms, as feasible
- Possible reduction in bus capacity due to number of remote learners
- Limited activities that require large gatherings

Summary of Remote, Home-Based Option

- Full school day, Mon-Fri
- Attendance will be taken daily to fulfill local and state requirements
- All instruction will either be delivered/facilitated online, with workbooks and/or packets
- Online instruction may be synchronous or asynchronous
- Assigned TISD teacher and district curriculum
- TISD teacher will communicate daily/weekly learning expectations in the district learning management system (See Saw/Google Classroom/Schoology, Edgenuity)
- Daily progress can be made through student learning plans as defined by the teacher in the learning management system
- Students will be expected to participate in district/state assessments to document student learning and growth as required by the State

- Students may be required to test onsite at an assessment center
- Scheduled instruction and interaction will be made available by the virtual teacher
- Students will turn in daily assignments to the teacher through the Learning Management System (See Saw, Google Classroom, Schoology, Edgenuity)
- Teachers will provide feedback to students and use district grading guidelines on all assignments
- Altered specials, extracurriculars and electives
- Student-issued device will only be provided through an extenuating circumstance provision
- Internet connection required
- Social-emotional support provided
- Special program services available
- Some electives will have on-campus requirements

As TISD receives additional guidance and requirements from the state of Texas, TEA and UIL we will begin finalizing our return to school plans. I want to encourage you to remain diligent in checking your email, our return to school website HERE, social media and our local media partners for further updates. In closing, we appreciate your input, patience and support. There are many variables to consider in our planning but rest assured TISD has a committed staff that stands ready to provide your child with the very best educational continuity as possible, while balancing a safe environment for all.

Regards,



Bobby Ott, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
Temple ISD