



## **Back-to-School Reopening Plan for 2020-2021 School Year**

August 20, 2020

Dear CHSD Community,

On Monday, August 17<sup>th</sup> the Chartiers-Houston School Board of Directors approved the District's Calendar for the 2020-2021 school year. Please see the following:

- Group A students attend school on Thursday, August 27<sup>th</sup>, to meet their teachers, to be assigned materials and to discuss online classroom expectations.
- Group B students attend school on Friday, August 28<sup>th</sup>, to meet their teachers, to be assigned materials and to discuss online classroom expectations.
- All students who elected to begin the school year online will receive information in the way of Phone Alerts and E-Blasts.
- One of the most important moments in any school year is the first day of school when a child and a teacher meet and begin to forge a relationship. It is for this reason that we wanted to start the beginning of the school year with the different groups on back to back days. We will deep clean the buildings on Thursday Night to prepare for the different group of students on Friday.

We will continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation and re-evaluate the district's plan during the October School Board Meeting.

It is important to mention that earlier this week; the Pennsylvania Department of Education released new requirements regarding masks. Unfortunately, school districts were unaware of this change until we received an email with the new guidance from Pennsylvania's Department of Health and Department of Education. The changes in the Department of Health requirements are that schools may allow students to remove face coverings when students are:

- Eating or drinking when spaced at least 6 feet apart; or
- When wearing a face covering creates an unsafe condition in which to operate equipment or execute a task; or
- At least 6 feet apart during "face-covering breaks" to last no longer than 10 minutes

Mask breaks can be provided at the discretion of the supervising teacher, for example, once everyone is seated with 6 feet of separation and there will be no movement around the classroom the teacher can offer time for students to take a “mask break”.

We understand and appreciate the challenges opening the school year creates for working families, concerns around mental health, lack of social interaction, and ability for students to learn online.

We look forward to a time when we can look back together and are grateful for our continuing collaboration and ongoing achievements and when some of the current ideas are used in the future to help the education and support of our students.

Finally, we need to be united in the goal to resume an education plan that brings everyone together safely inside our school buildings. In the meantime, we will continue to monitor conditions pertaining to safety, staffing, and educational effectiveness as we move into the new school year.

Thank you again for your support and patience during this very difficult time.

Sincerely,

CHSD Administration