

LYNN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

James Leo McGuinness Administration Building – 100 Bennett Street, Lynn, MA 01905
Tel. (781) 593-1680 ~ Fax. (781) 477-7487



Patrick A. Tutwiler, PhD
Superintendent of Schools

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Dear Lynn Public Schools Community,

As we worked over three months to formulate a reopening plan, we have focused on three key considerations: ensuring the safety of our students and staff in alignment with federal and state guidelines, gathering input from all of the constituencies in our community, and creating the best possible conditions for excellent teaching and learning under the current circumstances. Along with the daily efforts of Lynn Public Schools principals and central office staff, the Reopening Advisory Committee, comprised of a diverse group of community stakeholders, collaborated to provide significant input into each of the three plans we were directed to create by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. The creation of these three plans allow us to be prepared for any of the scenarios considered. I am deeply grateful for the tireless efforts of all who contributed to the plans, and for the detailed feedback and information we received from families, students, and staff who completed the surveys we distributed.

As we near the start of the school year, I have decided to propose a start to the year in the remote learning modality, while providing opportunities for in-person learning for students with special needs, and with an optional in-person orientation for all students. The details of this plan are outlined in the Roadmap to Reopening Safely, which we expect to post in the coming days. I want to share with you that I have approached this decision with feelings of humility and responsibility. I make no claims to be a medical professional. Instead, I have been fully committed to the following guiding principles and priorities:

- Physical and emotional safety and wellbeing of all members of the LPS community
- Equity and access
- Excellence in teaching and learning
- Communication

The context in which we find ourselves now has factored significantly into this decision. As Massachusetts began its phased reopening, the state has tracked multiple indicators of community spread. According to the Massachusetts Department of Health, the number COVID-19 cases in our state are trending upward. Making this decision now allows for us as a school district to focus our efforts on ensuring the best possible remote learning plan, and allows for families time for planning and preparation as well.

LPS has invested significant resources to improve upon the remote learning model we implemented this past spring. We will provide a device for every teacher and student. We have purchased an online learning platform (Schoology) that allows for more dynamic instruction and higher student engagement. Faculty are participating in ten days of professional development

before classes begin. With this plan, we can remain true to our guiding principles and provide a safe, meaningful and valuable educational experience for our students.

I cannot say that this year will be like any we have experienced before. The implementation of any of the three plans we have constructed would still include significant departures from the educational experience any of us have experienced in the past. I expect that many students, families and teachers feel some degree of loss or concern about these changes. Please know that as we move forward together, all decisions will be informed by our guiding principles of safety, equity, excellence and communication, as we respond to any differences this year presents to us.

At the same time, in some respects, this year is not a complete departure from past years. As always, we welcome all new and returning students to our schools with true excitement and with a deep belief in their talents and capabilities. As always, the educators of the Lynn Public Schools are inspired by our students and fully committed to their educational growth and achievement. As always, we pledge to work as partners with families to ensure our students' success. And as always, I remain honored to lead and serve the Lynn Public Schools Community, and grateful for the trust you place in us.

Please know that you can access [updates to our reopening](#) on our website. Information will be posted regularly. Additionally, I continue to welcome any thoughts, concerns, or ideas to be sent to LPSreopening-families@lynnschools.org.

Yours in partnership,

Patrick Tutwiler, PhD
Superintendent of Schools