

LYNN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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*Patrick A. Tutwiler, PhD
Superintendent of Schools*

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Dear Lynn Public Schools Community,

All, it is my sincere hope that this letter finds you and your loved ones well. These are strange and uncertain times, I hope that you are finding comfort in time spent with family. As you might imagine, this summer is like no other. Several teams are deeply engaged in planning and preparation for reconnecting in reengaging with our beloved students this fall. The plans are still evolving along with the release of guidelines from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). There are still pieces of the guidance that have yet to be released. Accordingly, DESE has asked school districts to hold on releasing plans until early August. This approach will lessen confusion and will allow districts to communicate a plan based on the latest and best information.

While the formal plan is still under construction, there are elements of reopening on which there has been significant movement. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Completion of space analysis in all schools to build a framework and plan for physical distancing according to the guidelines.
- First round of purchase of personal protective equipment, including but not limited to masks, hand sanitizer, and face shields.
- Completion of air quality and ventilation analysis in all schools

Further, we evolved toward a stronger ability to provide robust learning and connection leveraging technology. We purchased 11,000 devices for students, which, along with the existing supply, allows us a 1:1 device-to-student ratio for grades 3-12. We are maximizing a grant opportunity to close the gap for devices for students in grades k-2. This in addition to the purchase of Schoology, our new Learning Management System, will allow for flexibility in multiple modes of instruction next year. No matter the scenario, we are better equipped to provide a rich, continuous learning experience for our students.

By now, we are all-too-familiar with scenarios where there are many questions and only a handful of answers. Nonetheless, the extent to which we stay together and in communication can only lead to better outcomes. Toward that end, I have planned two virtual town halls for LPS families. The first will focus on the health and safety features of our reopening plan. The second will focus on teaching and learning. This is an opportunity to communicate specifics of reopening planning, but also to hear your concerns and, to the extent possible, respond to your questions. The sessions are as follows:

Health and Safety - Thursday, August 6th 6pm
Teaching and Learning - Monday, August 10, 6pm

In order to accommodate a large group, I will be using a platform called Stream Yard. You will be able to participate via chat in this session. Links to the sessions are forthcoming. Whether or not you are able to attend, I welcome any thoughts, concerns, or ideas to be sent to LPSreopening-families@lynnschools.org. I am genuinely interested in your thoughts.

Yours in partnership,

Patrick Tutwiler, PhD
Superintendent