

June 26, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are so excited to begin the 2020-2021 school year! We know many challenges lie ahead, and we look forward to working through those with you and providing a safe and instructionally sound plan for reopening Athens City Schools.

There will be many details to share in the next few weeks. Here are some important things to know:

- School will start on August 17 with 2 options:
 - **Traditional** (face to face)
 - **Remote** (students work online from home and teachers regularly check-in and provide virtual instruction) *This is not a commitment for the entire school year. We will establish checkpoints where families can choose to return to traditional learning. Full-time remote instruction will require a greater daily time commitment than was experienced during the last quarter of 2019-2020.

Note: For students who choose traditional learning, a **Blended** opportunity will also be in place. This will enable students to transition between traditional and remote and back again, which will be crucial if we need to close a classroom or a school for cleaning and disinfecting and/or if your child needs to stay home for an extended amount of time.

- We will continue to work with families to determine individual needs.
- We all must work together to help ensure safety by following guidance from the ADPH and CDC. We ask that parents check student temperatures and do not send them to school if 100.4 or greater. Parents should monitor for symptoms daily, including cough, congestion, shortness of breath, or gastrointestinal symptoms. Any positives should be kept home from school. Our attendance policy will be revised and shared at a later date.
- Bus services will continue. Students must not enter a bus if exhibiting symptoms as noted above. Additional safety measures will be in place.

Safety comes first! As information from public health leadership changes, our procedures may need to change.

I know you have many questions, and my goal is to provide answers as accurately and timely as possible so you can confidently make the best decision for your family. A Google Form is located on the ACS website to collect frequently asked questions. To submit a question, please visit acs-k12.org/backtoschoolFAQ

We will ask families to decide if remote learning will be desired **by July 24**. A process to sign up will be forthcoming from your child's school.

Sincerely,

Beth Patton

Beth Patton, Interim Superintendent
Athens City Schools