



February 23, 2021

Dear Arlington Junior High and High School,

I would like to thank our students, our staff, our families, and our entire community for the patience and understanding that have been shown since COVID started! We have been in a challenging learning environment for almost one full year, but we now have optimism that we are reaching the end of that challenge! As we move back to full-time, full-capacity learning, there are some things we need to consider as we put final plans in place.

First, it is important to update you on the NEW date for our return to full-time, full-capacity learning. After much consideration and discussion by the administration, we will be returning to 5-day instruction on Wednesday, March 3. I understand this decision will be welcomed by some of you, while causing frustration to others. As we all have learned through COVID, there are a number of societal issues that are a source of disagreement for so many of us. The education of our children is one of them. While I am sorry that I cannot meet every family's specific wishes for our return-to-school plan, I do believe that our plan is best for our students and our school community as a whole.

Second, it is important to stress our intentions for all students in grades 7-12 to return to in-person learning on Wednesday, March 3. In fact, we will automatically opt-in all students in grades 7-12 to this attendance model. The challenges of synchronous instruction to both virtual and in-person students are too overwhelming for a full-time, full-capacity learning environment. For any parent who has concerns with their child returning to in-person learning, please contact me by Friday, February 26, to discuss options for virtual instruction. Our desire is that decisions made now for in-person or virtual learning will be kept in place for the rest of the school year, with extremely limited opportunities to transition between attendance models after Wednesday, March 3.

Finally, I want to stress that safety measures will continue, as much as is possible. The proper wearing of masks over the mouth and nose will continue to be required for all students, staff, and guests to the school. Hand-washing and/or the use of hand sanitizer will continue to be encouraged. While social distancing will be required when possible, there are unfortunately situations in which that will not be possible. Due to the number of students and the size of certain areas, such as the cafeteria and some classrooms, social distancing guidelines will not be attainable. This may result in additional students being quarantined in the event of any positive cases, but we will address those scenarios as needed.

On behalf of the teachers and staff at Arlington Junior High and High School, I look forward to having all our students return to in-person learning on a daily basis, starting Wednesday, March 3!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nate Sorg', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Nate Sorg, Principal