



Office of the Superintendent

October 16, 2020

Dear SCPS Families and Staff,

I want to again thank all of you for your on-going partnership and support as we continue our journey navigating a teaching and learning environment during a pandemic health crisis. I have heard from many of you since my last letter, and I have had an opportunity to visit many classrooms in both the virtual and on-site learning environments. Our priorities of both safety for all and providing a quality learning experience for your child during this challenging time remains unwavering. I want to give a special thank you to all the teachers and others who are providing direct instruction and support to our students.

Last week, we launched our kindergarten pilot program at five elementary schools. This pilot has been well received by students and parents, as well as our teachers and staff. I look forward to [continuing with our Return to School plan](#), and seeing our K-5 students in our schools the week of October 26.

To help us prepare for the elementary hybrid return, I encourage you to review the following items:

- Know your student's assignment for either Schedule Group A or Group B. To determine which group your child is in, follow these instructions:
 - [Log into ParentVue](#). (Please contact your student's school for an access code to ParentVue if you do not have one.)
 - If you have more than one SCPS student, select the student you wish to view from the top left.
 - Select 'Student Info' from the tabs on the left.
 - When the 'Student Info' screen is displayed, scroll down to the 'Other Data Info' section where you will find your child's 'Student Schedule Group'
- Plan for transportation. Make sure your children ride the bus only on the days they are designated to ride the bus as Schedule Group A or B.
- Review our Return to School video series. [All of the videos are on our website](#), and [on our YouTube channel](#).
- Get your flu shots, and remember to keep your children home if they are sick.

In addition to our K-5 return, the Computer Integrated Manufacturing (CIM) and Engineering Design and Development (EDD) Capstone Courses, which are part of the Engineering and Technology STAT Program, will begin face-to-face instruction one day a week on Wednesday, October 21 at North Stafford High School following the schedule below:

- Mr. Letcher's Group A students will attend on Wednesdays
- Mr. Evan's Group A students will attend on Thursdays
- Mr. Letcher's and Mr. Evan's Group B students will attend on Fridays

These two courses are meeting face-to-face due to the required number of competencies needing hands-on application with dedicated course equipment. Should you have any questions, [contact Mr. Ivan Aranha at North Stafford High School](#).

The school board's approved Return to School Plan has the middle and high school hybrid plan to begin for the second semester (early February) if the health conditions support this decision. We will continue to offer a 100% virtual option for students. More information will be provided in December and January.

[Virginia's Return to School Plan occurs over three phases](#) that progressively increase the in-person instruction options with strict social distancing measures in place for both buildings and school buses. Stafford County Public Schools is currently in Phase III of the recovery plan. Here are the highlights, as well as additional actions taken by SCPS to ensure the safety of your students:

- Instruction will shift to include more in-person instruction for students. Remote instruction will supplement in-person instruction.
- Families should screen their students daily for symptoms of illness and keep their children home if they are sick.
- Staff will complete a COVID-19 Questionnaire prior to reporting to work and stay home if they are sick or have symptoms.
- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water or an approved hand sanitizer
- Social distancing measures are implemented on buses and buildings, including:
 - 6 foot separation whenever possible.
 - [Cloth face coverings are worn as required by the SCPS school board policy.](#)
 - Large school gatherings are not encouraged and limited to 250 people per the large group gathering limitation in Phase III of Forward Virginia.
 - Restrictions on mixing groups of students that include adjusting schedules, transitions, recess options, and instruction to accomplish social distancing.
- Athletics conditioning and extracurricular activities have expanded with mitigation measures in place. (10-foot distance with conditioning, health screenings, and temperature checks prior to participation).

As your partner in education, I want you to know that we are taking all measures necessary to ensure the health and safety of our students. Our school system has the appropriate health mitigation measures in place in all our facilities to minimize the COVID-19 spread but we need your help to reduce the spread in our Stafford County community. I cannot encourage you enough to please practice all recommended safety measures in your daily activities. We monitor the regional and local COVID-19 data on a daily basis and regularly, a health team meets to discuss the data trends. Stafford County, like many places in our state and country, are seeing recent community trends that clearly indicate that the COVID-19 virus is far from over and positive cases are currently increasing. As I have said often, if we see a significant (14 day positive trend) increase of positive COVID-19 cases reaching the highest level of concern, I will not hesitate to reevaluate and if necessary adjust our Return to School Plan. [I remind you that on the homepage](#) and [coronavirus information pages on our website](#) we have both the CDC/VDH coronavirus data dashboards and our school system data dashboard.

On Tuesday, October 20, families will have access to a Canvas "observer code" for their students. Instructions for creating a code for each student are available [in this document](#) and on the [SCPS Family Outreach Training Portal](#). If you need technical assistance, please email the helpdesk at helpdesk@staffordschools.net or call 571.699.0720.

As a reminder, SCPS is closed November 25-27 for the Thanksgiving holiday. As such, the X/Y middle and high school schedule will be adjusted as follows:

- Monday, November 23, will be a synchronous instructional Y-day.
- Tuesday, November 24, will be a synchronous instructional X-day.
- All 4x4 classes will meet synchronously on both Monday and Tuesday.

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My next letter to parents and staff will be sent on November 13th. I encourage you to continue asking questions and providing comments to your child's principal, and to remember if you have issues pertaining to your child's instruction the teacher is the best person to address this topic. Please don't forget to complete the survey you recently received and send back by October 21st. Again thank you for your partnership and I recognize the hard work and sacrifices all of you are making. I am also very proud of the positive changes I have seen and have been told about since our school year began. We will always seek continuous improvement and your patience and understanding goes a long way. I wish everyone a very safe and relaxing weekend.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott R. Kizner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Scott" and last name "Kizner" clearly distinguishable.

Scott R. Kizner, Ph.D.
Superintendent