Dear Parents and Guardians,

Though the school year just ended, work to plan for the needs of Fox Chapel Area School District’s students for 2020-2021 is underway through the launch of the Return-to-School Coalition. Because of the unknown nature of the reopening of Pennsylvania and its schools, it is important to plan proactively for the future.

The Return-to-School Coalition comprises various stakeholders in the district, including parents, students, administrators, teachers, staff members, community representatives, and experts in the following workgroups: Facilities, Athletics, and Extracurriculars; Safety, Health Services, and Wellness; Instruction; Special Education; and Technology and Communications. The goal of these stakeholder groups is to harness the members’ representative talents and voices in the planning process.

Each workgroup will meet multiple times and follow a four-stage process: Identify the Knowns and Unknowns; Build Scenarios; Recognize Consistencies and Prioritize; and Communicate.

Teams will plan for the following scenarios:

- Fox Chapel Area schools being permitted to reopen with no restrictions;
- Fox Chapel Area schools permitted to reopen with strict social-distancing guidelines, resulting in structural changes, such as alternate schedules;
- Fox Chapel Area schools not being permitted to reopen, necessitating a fully online instructional model or families uncomfortable sending students to school even if buildings are reopened; and
- Changing conditions surrounding COVID-19 and the need to shift the instructional plan throughout the school year due to changing requirements.

It’s important for parents to know that the Return-to-School Coalition planning process is focused on planning for adaptation and change, not perfection, because it is impossible to predict what exactly the coming months will look like for our schools.

We take our responsibility to protect the health, safety, and welfare of our entire school community very seriously. We will be following guidance and requirements from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the state Department of Health, the Office of the Governor, and the Pennsylvania Department of Education. We expect to update parents on a biweekly basis as our work continues throughout the summer.

Sincerely,

Mary Catherine Reljac, Ed.D.
Fox Chapel Area School District Superintendent-Elect