Dear Fox Chapel Area Family,

We wanted to provide the latest update about Fox Chapel Area School District’s Return-to-School Coalition, as well as other matters concerning instruction for the 2020-2021 school year and travel guidance coinciding with this week’s start of athletics and extracurricular activities. As we’ve communicated before, at this time, the district is planning to offer both in-person instruction and a full online option taught by Fox Chapel Area teachers for the 2020-2021 school year so that families will have a choice based on their needs. We know this is an uncertain and anxious time, and we appreciate your patience as we create a plan to safely bring our students back into our schools and an instruction model that will be best for our online learners.

- The five workgroups in the Return-to-School Coalition are wrapping up their meetings. In the next few weeks, the district’s full administrative team will hear a summary of each group’s findings and will continue to plan for the return to school. The district will be releasing drafts of the Phased School Reopening Health and Safety Plan and of the Return to School Plan in July and will seek approval for these required plans from the Fox Chapel Area School Board in early August.

- Parents and guardians will receive a survey tomorrow asking for input regarding learning schedules, materials, and other information as we continue to plan for the upcoming school year. The survey will enable parents and guardians to provide feedback about their preference for instruction for the new school year, as well as other issues concerning the start of the 2020-2021 school year.

- The in-person instructional model is being planned to follow recommended safety guidelines such as regular cleaning/sanitization, room capacity, face coverings, transportation needs, etc.

- The full online instructional model is being planned to engage students, will be aligned to the Pennsylvania Core Standards, and will mirror the Fox Chapel Area School District curriculum.

- The district is also planning options to ensure continuity of education should students physically be unable to be in our school buildings.

- We will continue to update parents and guardians on the progress of the district’s Return-to-School Coalition and related matters on a weekly basis. To establish a consistent pattern for our parents and guardians, going forward, these updates will be sent on Wednesday evenings, and more frequently when necessary.

- The Fox Chapel Area School District asks that all families follow current travel guidance issued by the Pennsylvania Department of Health. If you have traveled or plan to travel
to an area where there are a high number of COVID-19 cases, it is recommended that you stay at home for 14 days upon returning to Pennsylvania. As of now, if you travel to the following states, you should quarantine for 14 days upon return: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nevada, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Utah. Please check for the latest Pennsylvania Department of Health travel guidance for updates in advance of any travel at https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Travelers.asp.

Please know that we continue to work diligently to evaluate all recommendations and guidance from the Allegheny County Health Department, the Pennsylvania Department of Health, and the Pennsylvania Department of Education as we plan for instruction for the 2020-2021 school year.

Thank you, again, for your cooperation and partnership as this very important work continues.

Sincerely,

Mary Catherine Reljac, Ed.D.
Superintendent