



CONEMAUGH TOWNSHIP AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
A National Blue Ribbon School
Nicole M. Dull, Principal



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Dear Parent/Guardian:

I hope this letter finds you and your family doing well. I wish to extend a sincere thank you to everyone as we have progressed through the recent period of remote education. The partnership allowed our students, teachers, staff, parents and administration to work together as a cohesive unit to educate our children. We will continue to utilize that team approach to support our students through the second half of the school year. Our administration has been working diligently in an effort to develop a plan that would get our children back to school in a safe manner. This letter is to inform you that the Conemaugh Township Board of School Directors have voted to return elementary students to **in-person instruction as of Tuesday, January 19th, 2021**. In order to do that in the most safe and effective manner possible, there are a number of facets that have been identified below:

- Face Coverings- The Governor's order for face coverings remains in place. Appropriate face coverings are to be properly worn (covering nose and mouth) at all times while on the bus, in the halls and in the classrooms. Face coverings do not include chin-resting shields or mesh masks. Classroom relief of wearing face coverings will be provided by staff members during scheduled hourly breaks. Face coverings will be worn in the cafeteria, except when actively eating.
- The only exceptions to wearing face coverings are those who provide a doctor's excuse which specifically identifies that a child is exempt due to a health-related complication.
- Lunch and breakfast seating has been expanded to include the use of the gymnasium as additional space for students to eat. This will allow us to space students out with at least two empty seats between them.
- Due to limited indoor space during scheduled recess times, we will be utilizing outdoor recess whenever possible. Parents are asked to send students to school with appropriate attire that includes a hat and gloves.
- If a child or someone in their immediate home has tested positive for COVID or come in contact with a COVID positive case, it is imperative that you notify the office and quarantine procedures be followed. Controlling the spread is an important part of this return.

If you choose for your child to remain on remote learning, please note that it will mirror the in-person education that the student body transitions to as of January 19th. Remote learners will be synchronous, participating in live lessons in real-time from 9:00 am to 3:10 pm with the assistance of an adult at home, and have a break for lunch and recess. They will pick up materials on Monday mornings between 8:30 and 8:50 am, participate via Zoom/Google Meet, and submit assigned work by 9:00 pm daily. Asynchronous learning through recorded lessons will not be a part of this model. **If remote learning is the choice you would like to make for your child's education, it is a nine-week commitment and the decision should be made by calling the school office at (814)479-4080 by noon on Wednesday, January 13th.** This will allow our teachers, staff and administration ample time to plan for our remote learners.

The work our teachers and staff have accomplished over the past six months is exemplary. They have performed their regular job duties and tackled additional teaching responsibilities that have included special area classes so that class sizes could remain at a manageable and socially distanced level. With the combination of remote and in-person learners, we want them to focus on those needs as a priority and specials schedules will be revamped to afford them that opportunity. In order to meet the needs of our learners and teachers, we will adopt a new specials schedule that will be distributed to students when we return to school next week.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any further questions or concerns. We look forward to continued dialogue and teamwork as we continue to educate our children.

Sincerely,

Nicole M. Dull

Nicole M. Dull
Elementary School Principal