



## POTTSGROVE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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1301 Kauffman Road  
Pottstown, PA 19464-2398  
Phone: (610) 327-2277

November 11, 2020

Dear Pottsgrove Community, Staff, and Students:

We want to thank each and every member of the Pottsgrove Community for being incredibly supportive of our staff and students during these first nine weeks of school. The adherence to our Health and Safety Plan has been a collective effort and the reason we have been able to provide choices for our families regarding their preferred mode of instruction for the 2020-2021 school year. At our Board of School Directors meeting last evening, **the Board approved returning to a hybrid learning platform beginning, Monday, November 30<sup>th</sup>.**

This week, we participated in a joint meeting between the PA Department of Education (PDE), the PA Department of Health (DoH), the Montgomery County Office of Public Health (OPH), and superintendents representing all of the Montgomery County Schools. The purpose of the meeting was for the Department of Health and the Pennsylvania Department of Education to communicate with superintendents the most recent COVID-19 statistics for Montgomery County.

As you may be aware, the Department of Health provides weekly updates to PA residents via COVID-19 Early Warning System Dashboard regarding the spread of COVID-19. Based on this weekly data, counties are designated as being in one of three levels of community transmission (low, moderate, or substantial). The level of community transmission is based on two statistics, incidence rate per 100,000 residents and the percent positivity. Based on these levels, PDE makes instructional model recommendations for school districts. On Monday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, PDE updated the community transmission table for the week ending November 6<sup>th</sup>, which designated Montgomery County as being on the substantial level.

While we have had cases of COVID in the Pottsgrove community, there has been no indication of any transmission of the virus in the school setting, while our district transmission rates remain in the “moderate” level for the week ending November 5<sup>th</sup>. Due to the safety protocols that are in place and our staff’s strict adherence to our plan, we are confident that our schools can move to a hybrid platform at month’s end. However, should the date for a hybrid return need to change due to guidance from the Montgomery County Office of Public Health, we will notify our community as soon as possible. We would only remain in a 100% virtual model only as long as absolutely necessary. It is our goal to keep schools open as much as possible this year.

The District will maintain the vigilant practice of the effective mitigation efforts including frequent cleaning and disinfection of the buildings, use of face coverings, social/physical distancing, and the monitoring of student health. In addition, we have the necessary reserve of cleaning supplies and personal protective equipment for the upcoming months of school. District leadership will continue to remain in close and frequent contact with the Montgomery County Office of Public Health for ongoing updates.

We would like to thank each of you for the part you are actively taking to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in our community. We ask that you continue to reinforce the importance of face coverings and hand washing with your students. In addition, please continue to monitor yourself closely for COVID-19 symptoms, that include, but are not limited to, fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and/or diarrhea. If you begin to experience any of these symptoms, please stay home.

Thank you again for all you do for our students each and every day.

Sincerely,

William R. Shirk, Jr. Ed.D.