

August 7, 2020

Dear Families,

I hope you are well, and did not sustain too much damage in our recent tropical storm.

I am writing to you as we approach the upcoming school year, to let you know the status of school opening in the fall for Fields Memorial School. This has been a very challenging time, with new rules and executive orders changing sometimes more than once a day. It is my sincere goal to support our educators, students and families as we reopen our schools safely.

I have listened carefully to the CDC and DPH recommendations, along with the Governor and CSDE. Keeping you and our students healthy is our number one priority. Therefore, we will be opening our schools in the hybrid model. In the next few weeks, we will be setting up Zoom meetings to address any questions or concerns that you may have. We have enclosed an initial FAQ to start our conversations. Our first Zoom meeting will be held Thursday, August 13th, at 6:00pm. Log In information will be available on the school website and Parent Square.

These are some of reasons this decision was made:

- It minimizes exposure should anyone become ill with COVID;
- It allows for a slow start for students who have not been in school for almost six months;
- It allows for relationship building in smaller groups - teacher/ student and student/student;
- It allows for a thorough cleaning between cohorts;
- It allows for time to learn new processes and procedures;
- It allows for more seating space for students on buses;
- It allows for a smooth transition into full reopening;
- And lastly, it is less costly to open in the hybrid model.

We will reassess this decision at the end of September, as our goal is to return to full time instruction in our school. If all goes well, we will consider a full reopening some time in October.

The specific details of the hybrid model will be forthcoming, but our cohorts will be split alphabetically by families into two cohorts, A and B. In the event that a family has students with two different last names, we will reference the older student's last name to determine to which cohort the family is assigned. Cohort A - last names beginning with A-L; Cohort B - last names beginning with M-Z. Thank you all for your patience and endurance as parents and educators over the past few months. We know how difficult this time has been, and stand ready to support you to the best of our ability. In the meantime, I hope that you enjoy the end of summer, and look forward to welcoming your children back to Fields Memorial School in person!

Sincerely,  
Ruth Levy