



August 22, 2020

Good Afternoon Moshannon Valley Students, Families, and Staff,

I want to thank the families, staff members, and students for their patience and support this summer as we prepare to reopen school next week after an unprecedented 164 days since students were last at school. We are excited about the return to school and wanted to provide the latest updated information, and all items outlined in this letter are available on the District website.

School Reopening

Moshannon Valley's blended reopening plan will have **all students who have selected in-person instruction to return to school on Wednesday, August 26th, and attend 5 days a week.** As of this communication, about 75% of students plan to return to in-person instruction five days a week. The remaining 25% of students have selected an alternative program of either the MV Educere Cyber program, another cyber program, or homeschooling. Those students will attend their selected cyber program 5 days a week. This blended approach has permitted the district to provide for classrooms, and other locations, that meet social distancing requirements to accommodate the in-person students return five days a week.

Closure Matrix

There appears to be some confusion with the 50% attendance model. The Closure Matrix only comes into effect when the District has confirmed cases in the District with students and/or staff members - **which at the time of this communication there are no cases reported for students or staff members.** The Matrix determines closure, it does not necessary determine which phase of blended learning is being utilized. Any changes to the daily attendance model will be provided to families directly from the school district in a messenger phone call and email.

Cyber Instruction Clarification

Many families have expressed questions to administrators and School Board Members about the District's complete Cyber Program and outside Cyber Charter Schools and the fees associated with those programs. All Cyber Charter school fees are ultimately paid for by taxpayer dollars, and there is a significant difference in prices. Moshannon Valley's Educere Cyber program, which is by far a much higher quality cyber program, costs significantly less than outside cyber programs. Currently, Moshannon Valley will educate roughly 110 students in the MoValley Educere Cyber Program at an expense of roughly \$175,000. We will also pay roughly \$340,000 to educate 23 students in outside cyber programs. There is no state or federal reimbursement to the District for those cyber programs so our taxpayers will pay the costs for all of those programs.

PIAA

On Friday, August 21, 2020, the PIAA announced that fall sports are scheduled to continue and regular practices for all sports except football begin on Monday, August 24. Football

will begin its heat acclimation week on August 24, and full practice on August 31. If additional information is released, we will provide it to all families.

Flexibility on the First Day few Days of School

While we are returning to school on August 26th, we are asking that families remain flexible for potential changes in the first few days. With new transportation schedules, ever-changing guidelines from the state, and as we review what systems we have in place, we will continue to work to adapt with the changing environment at school. In doing so, we will provide regular communication to all families via the ***District's Messenger Phone System and District Email*** for any changes that transpire. We will work to keep our families informed as we return to 5-day instruction.

Lunches

We have had several families contact the school district with questions about food service. The Food Service Department has provided some additional information that is attached and on the website and can be found by selecting "Departments" then "Cafeteria" and selecting the red "Important Cafeteria News" heading.

I want to continue to recognize all the efforts from school board members, to teachers, to families, to administrators, in preparing for the school year, which starts in just a few days. We will continue to keep the school community members updated as new information is received. Please know that the health and safety of all students and staff are the first priority.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Superintendent's office at 814-378-7609 or check the district website at www.movalley.org.

Sincerely,

John W. Zesiger, Ed.D.
Superintendent of School