Dear Parents and Students:

As we have completed our first month of the school year, I recognize and sincerely appreciate the time and energy put forth by families to manage students' remote connections to their classrooms. Our situation is not ideal, and your partnership will continue to be a key component of success in the upcoming weeks.

At last night's meeting, the District 211 Board of Education discussed the next possible opportunity for our students to have in-person access to school via the Hybrid Scenario. A Hybrid Scenario includes a rotational schedule with a percentage of students physically attending school each day while the remainder of students attend school remotely each day. The option for students to remain fully remote every day would still be available in the Hybrid Scenario.

The potential implementation of a Hybrid Scenario could happen as early as the week of October 26 with the following indicators and procedures in place:

- The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) Health Metrics for School
 Determination for suburban Cook County, including additional attention to
 our District 211 boundaries should remain at minimal and moderate COVID19 transmission-level indicators. The details for these metrics can be found
 on the IDPH website here.
- The most current safety protocols of the IDPH and the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) for the protection of all students attending school and employees remain in place and can be found here. These safety protocols mitigate the spread of disease and thus decrease the chances of large-scale quarantines of students and staff which may impede the continuation of inperson classes.
- The plan to potentially implement a Hybrid Scenario is based on the current IDPH and ISBE information and is subject to modification based on updated guidance.

In mid-August, the IDPH and ISBE clarified their position on individuals remaining six feet apart in school when in classrooms and common areas. In order to achieve six-foot distancing in the classroom, an accurate maximum number of daily students is needed by each school. At the end of next week, parents/guardians will receive information about how to declare if their child will remain remotely connected to school through December 18 (end of first semester) or if their child will physically attend in-person school on designated days under the Hybrid Scenario. The parent's declaration will be a definitive selection that cannot be changed. Transportation will be available for eligible students attending in-person

school. Over the next week, please consider this decision, as we need to account for every student. This decision exclusively relates to morning classroom sessions. A student who remains remote through December 18 will still have the opportunity to attend in-person activities, athletics, and afternoon academic support opportunities at the school.

Current in-person opportunities are accessible through activities, athletic team contact days for all teams, six fall sports, and academic support appointments. Transportation is available for each of these opportunities and safety protocols are in place as defined by the IDPH, ISBE, and Illinois High School Association (IHSA). Students who have not already engaged in these opportunities and are interested, can find information here.

Please continue to review the information on the <u>Back to School 2020-2021</u> webpage and the <u>2020-2021 School Year Student-Parent Resources</u> webpage over the next week. These webpages provide details regarding safety protocols, transportation, frequently asked questions, potential Hybrid schedules by school, etc. In addition to the regular updates that are posted to these webpages, here is a direct link to the <u>2020-2021 School Year Update to the Board of Education</u> that was presented at last evening's meeting.

District 211 remains committed to continuing to offer additional in-person instructional opportunities. Thank you again for your continued partnership during this school year and please watch for an additional communication at the end of next week.

Sincerely,

Lisa Small Superintendent

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