



Kristin Schell
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August 17, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Despite the fact that we have a comprehensive reopening plan, the saga to reopen our beloved Commercial Township School continues.

As you know, last week the Governor dialed back on his initial requirement that all schools had to provide some form of in-person instruction which made it possible for schools to start remote. That announcement sparked follow-up meetings and a careful review of additional guidance documents. While I share decisions with you and “own” them, too, I want you to know that this critical decision was made neither unilaterally nor solely by the administration. Many key individuals were consulted, and the following groups were directly involved in making the best decision for CTS in this very complex situation:

- Cumberland County Association of School Administrators
- Cumberland County Department of Health
- CTS’s Reopening Committee

This letter is to inform you that CTS will start the 20-21 school year remotely for all students. The first day of Virtual School for all students is Tuesday, Sept. 8. Students who responded on the survey to come in-person for hybrid instruction will return to the brick and mortar school on Tuesday, Oct. 13. The reason for delaying students’ in-person return is because we are still awaiting some critical PPE supplies needed specifically for our students.

This decision results in the following loose ends to tie up before we virtually welcome students back:

- Informing students of their teacher
- Distributing Chromebooks to those who need them
- Food distribution plan and information for families
- All day child care option
- Orientation for Virtual School
- Virtual School “bell schedule”

Additionally, I know many families have purchased school supplies and uniforms. They will still be needed, and that effort was not for nothing. Students will be expected to “get ready” for school Monday - Friday (including wearing a school uniform) and arrive on time @ 8:45 in their virtual classroom. More information related to all bulleted items will be forthcoming over the course of this week and early next week.

The "*Road Back*" has been complicated to say the least. I hope our families find comfort in the fact that every conversation and meeting related to this latest change of plans started with lamenting how we all wish for 'Before 2020' - so we could all be back in person.

Until then, we will continue to support each other and, as adults, we need to check in on each other, too. As always, please do not hesitate to reach out as needed.

Truly yours,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "KSchell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kristin Schell