

July 30, 2020

Dear Families,

This is an email I truly hoped I would not have to send. Over the last weeks and months, we as a District have been preparing for the opening of the 2020-21 school year, making sure that we keep student and staff safety at the forefront of our work while we also plan to continue to provide high levels of learning and social-emotional wellness for ALL students.

We know there is no substitute for the positive impact our staff has on and with students when they are working together in person, and vice versa! However, given the concerns I shared with you in my recent Skylert and presented to the Board of Education Tuesday night, there are a number of roadblocks making this incredibly difficult to safely realize.

As local, state, and national metrics show a resurgence of the COVID-19 virus and instability associated with its spread, we continue to seek scientific and medical professional input into our decisions. As recently as last Friday, in communication with the Lake County Health Department and its Executive Director, we learned about updated guidance regarding quarantining protocols, social distancing expectations, contact tracing practices, and the processes for students and staff that present with any one of the COVID-19 symptoms.

Along with all the other recommendations, guidance, and mandates dictating the parameters under which we are able to return to in-person learning, we have determined that doing so to start the 2020-2021 school year would be substantially disrupted and unstable.

At this point, per my email to staff and families last evening, Gavin District 37 is going to begin the 2020-2021 school year 100% remote, with a commitment to revisit this by September 30, 2020 to review data, report on our progress, and determine if we are at a place where we feel that we can safely offer to bring students back on site in our Blended/Hybrid Learning model.

Our Full Remote Learning model will focus on providing synchronous (real-time) learning, high-quality learning experiences, social-emotional support, opportunities for relationships and connections to be forged, grading and feedback on work, and student support. We plan to take what was learned during the Spring and the feedback that so many provided to inform this

improved experience for us all. I will continue to update you on our Fall plans and the details about Remote Learning.

In trying to provide our community with a resource for childcare during the Full Remote and, when safe to implement, our Blended/Hybrid Learning model, we have partnered with Innovation Learning to provide care and support students from Central and South using the staff of Innovation Learning onsite at Central. A flyer is attached full of details and the steps for registration.

Again, we want nothing more than to have our students ALL back on site learning with us. When it is safe to do so, we will move toward making this happen. Thank you so much for partnering with us in this journey, as I know this decision creates many significant challenges for our families. What I can promise you is that we will help in any way we can and are, as always, focused on *Maximizing the Full Potential of Each Child by Supporting the Heart and Challenging the Mind*.

With commitment to our students, families, and staff,

Julie Brua,

Superintendent, Gavin D37