

August 31, 2020

Dear Members of the PSD Community,

This afternoon, Governor Raimondo announced that based on the metrics established for the safe reopening of schools, most districts throughout Rhode Island, including Portsmouth, can begin to welcome students and staff back into school buildings for the start of the school year. Today I am announcing that for Portsmouth our safest reopening pathway will be our [partial/hybrid scenario](#). This plan, and the procedures that will be enacted at each school, will allow us to ensure at least six foot distance in all classrooms, proper ventilation for instructional areas, and keep hallways and other areas free of congestion. Please note that our RIDE/RIDOH facilities walkthroughs are scheduled for this Friday, September 4th. We have followed the updated guidance closely throughout the summer but if any adjustments to our plan are needed I will communicate that information out as soon as possible. While full in-person learning remains our goal, this plan represents the safest scenario for us at this time. We will be assessing, evaluating, and adjusting our plans based on our reopening and will continue to do so throughout the school year.

As you can see, we will be phasing in this partial return over a three week period. This will allow us to ensure that the procedures we have established for a safe return are able to be properly implemented. As students return under this phased-in approach this will also enable us to work out any final details needed in relation to transportation, distance learning, and health and safety precautions. As we work through this phased-in return, all PSD students will start with at least distance learning on September 14th. And, as previously communicated, any families that would prefer full distance learning have that option through this [form](#).

More information related to all of this will be shared out from our schools and at our building reopening forums this week. Here is the schedule and links for those forums:

PMS - September 1st at 6:00pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84706699510?pwd=RIZaZS9jTkIzczdOOFZk1KeDE4Zz09>

PHS - September 2nd at 6:00pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85366354838?pwd=S1QxZEZ2OXpTUkJTRVFWb0hLbUIMUT09>

Hathaway - September 3rd at 5:30pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82501662323?pwd=N1N2dlBnaW5GSVNZcnBiSDQxL3lHQ09>

Melville - September 3rd at 7:00pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85673280883?pwd=UFAvYk5MYUEwTIU2bzdwHhMNDUvUT09>

I am looking forward to welcoming all of our students, staff, and families back for a safe return to the 2020-21 school year.

Sincerely,



Tom Kenworthy
Superintendent

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