



Upper Township School District

525 Perry Road • Petersburg, NJ 08270
Phone (609) 628-3500 • Fax (609) 628-2002
www.upperschools.org

August 1, 2020

Dear Families:

After much debate, deliberation, constructive banter and hours of analysis, I am pleased to release the “UTSD Return to Learn Plan” for the 2020-2021 school year.

As previously discussed, this plan is predicated upon the conditions and constraints as of this moment in time. If and when circumstances require us to implement another iteration of the plan, the District remains prepared to address all situations and will communicate those modifications in a timely manner.

The included plan provides you with the necessary information for you to make a final, informed decision that will be in effect from the beginning of school through December 31, 2020. With this in mind, it is becoming more likely that public schools may be starting the year in an All-Virtual environment.

To assist you in better understanding the plan, it is very important that you review the following before and after you access the document contained at the end of this correspondence:

1. Students will be placed on three different teams: Eagles, Phillies, Ospreys.
 - a. Eagles and Phillies are the students participating in the “Blended Model” of instruction; receiving their education in school AND at home.
 - b. Ospreys are the students participating in the “All-Virtual Model” of instruction; receiving their e-learning education at home.
 - c. Eagles and Phillies will be placed and scheduled based upon HOME ADDRESS. This process will allow us to best handle any potential outbreak AND provide some assistance to our families; ensuring that ALL siblings will be attending in-person school on the same days.

2. The first day of school for ALL students is Thursday, September 10.
 - a. The Phillies will attend In-person School on September 10 and 11.
 - b. The Eagles will be participating in Remote School on September 10 and 11.
 - c. The Ospreys will begin their E-Learning School on September 10 and participate every day thereafter.



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- d. Because there are NO academic, social, physical or emotional differences or distinctions between the Eagles and Phillies, NO requests to be placed on one team or the other will be considered; nor will any requests be given a written reply.
 - e. Specific arrangements will be made for our students who have qualified for academic support services, advanced classes in 8th grade math or science and all other documented accommodations and modifications; which may require changes in transportation.
 - f. Student schedules will NOT be completed before August 31, 2020. Once all schedules have been created and verified, additional information will be distributed.
3. Prior to September 1, 2020, additional information will be distributed explaining the schedules and protocols for device distribution, face coverings, teacher meet-n-greets and anything else you will need to know. It is anticipated that students will meet their teachers sometime between September 1 and September 9, 2020.
 4. Additional information regarding Remote School and E-Learning School will be forwarded sometime before the start of the school year. While the District will do everything humanly possible to ensure that all 3 models deliver high-quality instruction with equity and fidelity, there will be differences between each framework.
 5. Once the screening mechanism, procedures and protocols have been established, tested and verified, additional information will be forwarded prior to the start of the school year.
 6. We anticipate that a typical bus run will have approximately 15-25 riders. Regardless of the actual number, ALL riders will be required to wear a face covering.
 7. Class sizes will range from 8-12 students per class; enabling us to social distance and minimize the risk of infection.
 8. Face coverings are MANDATORY for ALL staff and students with the following exceptions:
 - a. During designated, supervised breaks.
 - b. In situations when wearing a face covering places an individual with a documented underlying health condition at a greater health risk.



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- c. PK/K students are expected to wear face coverings; however, we acknowledge the challenges that are associated with students of this age.
9. After reviewing this letter and the attached plan, [\(CLICK HERE\)](#) to complete the form that will remain in effect from the beginning of school through December 31, 2020. Please complete this form by 12 pm, Monday, August 3, 2020.

On behalf of the BOE, the administration and all of our dedicated staff, I thank you for your continued support, understanding and cooperation as we all prepare for what will be the most unique school year of our lives. To that end, just know that whatever comes our way and as a direct result of our shared commitment to ALL children, our staff and students will exceed EVERY expectation!

Have a terrific weekend, stay safe and healthy, and remember to complete the form by Monday.

Sincerely,

Mr. Palmieri ☺



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UTSD “Return to Learn”

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Eagles (In-Person)	Eagles (In-Person)	Eagles Phillies Ospreys (E-Learning)	Phillies (In-Person)	Phillies (In-Person)
Phillies (Remote)	Phillies (Remote)		Eagles (Remote)	Eagles (Remote)
Ospreys (E-Learning)	Ospreys (E-Learning)		Ospreys (E-Learning)	Ospreys (E-Learning)

Daily Health Screening



ALL students will be screened at home and all staff before entry into the buildings. Specific procedures will be released prior to the start of school.

Face Coverings



ALL students and staff will be wearing face coverings except for designated, supervised breaks. Accommodations will be made for specific circumstances.

Transportation

ALL students will be required to wear a face covering while riding any school bus. Changes in procedures will be implemented to maximize the reduction of cross-contamination.



Social Distancing

To the greatest extent possible, ALL students and staff will be practicing social distancing protocols. To that end, all physical contact and the use of shared supplies and materials will be mitigated.



Healthy Hygiene



ALL students and staff will be practicing healthy hygiene throughout the day; including routine, scheduled hand-washing/sanitizing sessions. PPE will be available for any student or staff in need.

Daily Cleaning



Routine cleaning/disinfecting of high-contact surfaces will remain compliant with CDC guidelines. HVAC systems will be configured to maximize the reduction of cross-contamination.

First day of school for students: **Thursday, Sept. 10**

In-Person Learning: Hybrid-students will receive traditional instruction at school.
Remote Learning: Hybrid-students will receive remote instruction at home.
E-Learning: All-virtual students will receive remote instruction at home.