

Dear APS Community,

As we continue to make the final adjustments to what school will look like in the fall, I wanted to remind parents that our draft plan includes both a face-to-face option and a virtual option. The Board of Education will be presented with the plan on August 10th.

Next week we will be distributing information on how to sign your child up for face-to-face or virtual. This will be done through both an online format and paper form if you do not have access to the internet. School staff will call and confirm for anyone that does not submit a choice. The plan currently has face-to-face and virtual being offered for the entire school year. The hope is that families will commit a trimester at a time for their option. We understand that circumstances will come up over the course of the year that might warrant a change in placement, and we will work closely with you and the building principal on what options are available and best for the student.

Questions have arisen on if students can attend virtual classes, but also attend athletic or extra-curricular programs. The current plan would allow students to participate in extra-curriculars while taking classes that are online from the APS program. If you were to enroll in another online program outside of APS you would not be allowed to participate in APS extra-curricular programs.

We are currently working on a Frequently Asked Questions Page for parents that will be updated after the Board of Education approves the Return to Learn Plan for APS. Those questions and answers can be found at: <https://www.adrianmaples.org/back-to-school/>. This site also contains other important information related to back to school programming.

When looking at the cases of COVID-19 in school aged children in Lenawee County, the highest percentages of students in the county are elementary aged. This has prompted us to require masks for all students in grades K-12 to be worn in the classrooms and throughout the day. We understand that wearing a mask all day will be difficult for students and staff, but it is our intent to keep our APS community safe and we will be teaching our students the importance of wearing a mask, while also building in "mask breaks" so students get a chance to be outside and get fresh air and take a break while social distancing from others. We will also be taking the temperatures of all students at the start of the school day as an extra added precaution to keep both staff and students safe.

Our plan for both face-to-face and virtual was built based on the survey results from parents. In order for us to get more ideal enrollment that will allow for social distancing we need to reduce numbers of students in the building by a third. We need parents to strongly consider virtual learning as an option so we can get reduce numbers of students in the building and in classrooms so we can get the numbers needed for social distancing. This would put us at about 800-1000 students online district-wide.

We are using the Lenawee County Health Department's [Return to School Tool Kit](#) for guidance related to student and staff exposure to COVID-19. This document has been reviewed with all superintendents across the county and provides answers to many questions you may have about re-opening and what would happen if there was a case in your child's classroom or school.

More information to come, but I wanted to share the progress we have been making so families can plan.

Go Maples!!!

Bob Behnke - Superintendent