

# DOWNE TOWNSHIP ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



August 18, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

On August 12, 2020, Governor Murphy announced that, if needed, schools may open with 100% full- remote learning for all students if the district is not able to meet all of the required mandates from the Department of Education as detailed in their guidance document titled "The Road Back: Restart and Recovery Plan for Education." At this time, Cumberland County is considered at "moderate risk" for COVID-19 based on information from the Department of Health. We have decided to err on the side of caution as the health and safety of our students and staff is our primary concern. After much consultation with the County Office of Education, the local Department of Health, and other Cumberland County Superintendents, I am writing to inform you that we have decided to move to full-remote learning for the start of school on September 3, 2020 and will remain remote until at least October 13, 2020. At that time, we will assess the situation and determine if all measures can be put into place to safely bring students back following our original hybrid plan. Please keep all of the information that was mailed to you on hand as it will be needed when we open for in-person/hybrid learning as originally communicated. We wanted to inform parents and staff of this decision as soon as possible so there is time to make arrangements for September.

This is not a decision that was made lightly. Our Reopening Committee has worked very hard to create a plan that we feel is safe for our students. However, since this process is ever-changing and schools around the country are all trying to put a plan in place, we have been faced with some unforeseen challenges which are preventing us from being able to bring our students back safely by September 3, 2020. To date, we have not yet received the items we need to put the required safety measures in place and will not receive these items before school starts. We do not want to risk anyone getting sick due to this issue; therefore, the decision for full-remote learning has been put into action.

As you know, this situation is unpredictable and unprecedented. We will continue to keep you informed as we continue to work through these new challenges together. Thank you for your understanding and continued support as we work to keep our students and staff safe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sherri Miller". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Sherri Miller