

# POTTSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

## HOWARD S. FERNSLER ACADEMIC CENTER

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June 18, 2020

Dear Pottsville Area Families,

The 2019-20 school year certainly presented us with challenges and obstacles that we never could have anticipated. Our teachers and staff stepped up to the challenge and quickly adapted to delivering instruction virtually. We are so proud of the perseverance our students demonstrated during this time, and would like to congratulate the graduating class of 2020.

Along with schools across the United States, Pottsville Area is preparing for the impacts of COVID-19 to safely re-opening our schools for the 2020-21 school year. The administrative team met on Monday, June 8, 2020 to review preliminary guidance from the Pennsylvania Department of Education, and identify an inclusive team of school personnel to provide comprehensive guidance as members of the Pandemic Team.

Educator and administrative team members met on Monday, June 15, 2020, to begin the formal process of creating the state-mandated Health and Safety Plan required to resume in-person instruction. The team will convene regularly until the plan adequately meets the safety and educational needs of our school community. In addition to the educational component of the plan, Pottsville Area is examining cleaning and health protocols, under the direction of CDC and PA DOH, to ensure our facilities provide students and staff with a healthy and safe environment.

In the very near future, you will receive a survey to share your input on the safe re-opening of our schools. We respectfully request that you take the time to complete the survey and assist us in creating a plan to best meet the needs of our school community. Your feedback is imperative to a successful planning process.

Due to the complexities and unknown factors presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, Pottsville Area intends to examine all facets of providing our students with a safe and effective learning environment, and will not rush into decisions without thorough research and review of expert recommendations. The Health and Safety Plan will be carefully developed and shared with our school community, including regular communication and updates throughout the process.

We are confident, through the collaborative efforts of Pottsville Area personnel and school community, that our students will be provided with effective learning opportunities in a safe and healthy setting. Your ongoing support is greatly appreciated. The success of our district relies on the continued cooperation of all members of our school community. Please check our district website, email, and social media accounts for additional information and updates.

Sincerely,

PASD Health and Safety Planning Committee

Tradition • Integrity  Dedication • Excellence

We are an equal rights and opportunity school district