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Superintendent

July 31, 2020

Henry County Schools Community Members,

This letter was supposed to be the anticipatory letter to a new school year that was to start on Monday with families readying backpacks, students climbing on buses, and teachers and administrators greeting familiar and new faces to school buildings. This letter was supposed to be the exciting letter for all the newness our community was about to experience from all corners and on all campuses across this county. This letter was supposed to be the official “Welcome Back!” letter that has accompanied so many school years before.

I say supposed to be because Monday, August 3 was supposed to be our first day of school.

However, we have a new start date planned and a new school year that still awaits 43,000 students and their families thanks to the incredible work of over 6,000 confident and caring employees in our school district.

This unprecedented start to the school year will not derail our ambitious pursuit that we are on together. While the winds have shifted our sails, our destination remains the same. We still plan to be the fastest-improving and highest-achieving school district in Metro-Atlanta. The other portion of our ambitious pursuit, the part about being known for our connectivity to students, families, and the community while also believing in student capability, is all still there and more important than ever.

We know this isn’t the way you wanted to start your school year, especially for those students marking such milestones like our kindergarteners, 6th graders, 8th graders, and seniors. This wasn’t how you were supposed to mark your grand entrance to these important moments in your school career. But no matter what, we will make these moments as memorable as we possibly can to ensure that your year is a positive one.

Over the next two weeks, there will be more and more information being shared as we get closer to our new start date, and we will continue to refine our on-campus return plans for when that moment is possible. You can still find answers on our website to many of your questions, and our Return-to-School Playbook will continue to be updated with information as necessary. While the timeline to return to on-campus learning remains unclear, a return to campus is one of our goals and one we very much look forward to accomplishing soon. In the meantime, we are confident that the Henry County Schools remote learning environment will be a positive model for the state and nation thanks to the tireless efforts of so many professionals who care deeply about you and your children.

Thank you for your trust. Thank you for your involvement. Thank you for your support of our schools and this great community in which we serve.

Sincerely,

Mary Elizabeth Davis