



NORRISTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of School Directors
Administration Building
401 N. Whitehall Rd.
Norristown, PA 19403

Shae Ashe, President

Tuesday, July 28, 2020

Greetings NASD Families,

It is hard to believe that our school buildings have been closed since mid-March due to the pandemic. Our teachers and staff are eager to see your students smiling faces again, even behind a mask. On behalf of the Norristown Area School District Board of School Directors, we are proud of our administration team for working tirelessly to ensure the health and safety of our community is paramount when planning to reopen our schools. The collaborative effort brought us all to the table to agree on one thing: the health and safety of our school community is our top priority.

On July 17th, we released our preliminary plans for the upcoming school year to give parents three options to give parents the ability to choose one that meets their needs. That same day, school districts received our 16th set of guidelines to follow to ensure safety of our students and teachers are met. The latest guidelines from Montgomery County Office of Public Health, Pennsylvania Department of Health, Center for Disease Control, Pennsylvania Department of Education, and others countered each other. However, Norristown Area School District embraced these plans to the greatest extent possible, as recommended in these guidelines. However, we do not feel we should rush to bring children back into our schools on August 31st.

The Norristown Area School District administration and cabinet feel it is necessary to begin the school year with virtual school and delay in-person and hybrid learning until January 11th, 2021. This decision was made with full consideration of our community's needs. We understand that families need to return to work and have a safe place for their children to be during the day. However, we do not feel we should rush students back into the classroom until it is safe. Our students and staff should not be the petri dish of a killer virus as a result of a lack of leadership in the U.S. Department of Education.

We are also pleased that every student will have access to a district-issued chromebook and hotspots for families in need. Additional information will be shared over the next several weeks through ConnectEd calls/emails and letters will be mailed home to families. We look forward to kicking off a safe and exciting school year. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Shae Ashe
Board President