KEVIN S. PEART, ED.D.Superintendent

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May 18, 2021

Dear L-S Parents and Guardians,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued health and safety efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to the collective determination of our students, staff, and community, we have not had to close any schools this year due to COVID-related issues. This has taken a tremendous amount of hard work and support from everyone involved. Our students, staff, and community are to be commended and should be proud of this success.

In coordination with the COVID-19 Vaccine Joint Task Force, Governor Wolf recently announced that most (but not all) of the COVID-19 mitigation orders will be lifted in Pennsylvania as of midnight on Monday, May 31. On May 15, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) also updated its Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools through Phased Prevention, recommending that schools continue to use current COVID-19 prevention strategies for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year, "including universal and correct use of masks and physical distancing." The PA Department of Education (PDE) put out a new FAQ titled Updates to COVID-19 Mitigation Orders and Gathering Limits for school districts and, along with the PA Department of Health (PA DOH), provided communication to school districts "recommending that school entities continue to follow their current mitigation strategies."

Given that our mitigation strategies have proven to be successful in keeping our students safe and our schools open, and that a limited number of days remain in the school year, we will stay the course with our current mitigation strategies to conclude the 2020-2021 school year. The District's previously approved Health and Safety Plan incorporates all of the recommended CDC, PA DOH, and PDE safety protocols and mitigation efforts referenced above.

Thank you again for your continued patience and support of our students and staff. We look forward to celebrating the Class of 2021 in the coming weeks. Details regarding the recognition of our senior class may be found on the <u>District website</u>. I am confident that we WILL have a successful conclusion to the school year with the common understanding that . . .

Kids come first.

We ARE L-S.

We ARE family.

We are ALL in this together!

I wish each of you a safe and healthy finish to the school year!

Sincerely,

Kevin S. Peart, Ed.D. Superintendent