

Dear Glenbrook Community,

I hope the end of the school year finds you and your family well and ready to find some relaxation over the summer. Our leadership team has worked jointly with our teaching staff to prepare for what the start of the 2020-21 school year might look like. While we all want to return to face-to-face classroom instruction, our first priority continues to be the safety of our students and staff. To that end, we continue to follow the guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), which are ever-changing as the situation evolves.

At a special meeting on Monday night, the Board of Education reviewed and discussed a tentative outline of a plan for our return to learning this fall. The administration presented its best options and ideas, based on what is known at this time. It is important to note that this outline is grounded in the assumption that students will be required to adhere to the Restore Illinois Phase 4 guidelines. In addition, this plan will continue to evolve as we receive additional guidance from authorities and feedback from students, parents, and staff.

To guide our decisions in the development of the 2020-21 learning plan, a series of guiding principles were developed and include:

- Maintain the health and safety of all students and staff;
- Provide meaningful and engaging academic experiences for all students;
- Address the social and emotional needs of all students;
- Provide consistency and stability for all students and staff; and
- Provide continuous professional learning opportunities for staff that address learning needs unique to this time.
- From an instructional perspective, we believe that providing a consistent and stable learning environment is a critical element for student success. Until we are able to fully return, our approach is to provide students with an E-Learning experience that mirrors as much of a normal school day as possible. We also acknowledge that there are times when our students need access to face-to-face interactions and services within the school building.

Taking these elements into consideration, we have developed a unique learning experience that we have termed, "Enriched E-Learning with a Gradual Return Model." In the current version of this plan, all students will begin with E-Learning on August 19. This will include a return to traditional academic expectations including:

- Attendance
- Grading
- Required live synchronous class sessions
- Assessments
- Elimination of midweek remote learning planning days
- Synchronous online classes will be required and will follow a schedule, mirroring a school day. After Labor Day, face-to-face services will be available to students, in a variety of formats, and may include academic support, counseling, case management, and related services. From there, the situation will be closely monitored as we try to gradually begin bringing small groups of students into the facilities.

This model provides a consistent, predictable experience for both our students and instructional staff. It allows us to establish a routine that is adaptable, flexible, and can easily transition between face-to-face instruction to E-Learning, should a case or surge of COVID-19 occur in the communities.

Even with as much as we know at this time, there are still many unknowns and changes are happening every day. We will be the first to say that we don't have all of the answers, and have many questions centering around maintaining the arts, activities, and athletics which make our student experience so enriching. We still have operational and logistical matters to sort out as additional health and safety guidelines emerge. In the meantime, we will continue to build out our E-Learning plans to ensure robust and challenging academic coursework.

We are committed to navigating this together, with our teachers, staff, parents, students, and communities. Throughout the summer and especially as we near our start date in August, we will be in constant communication with our families via email, as there is news to share.

I remain proud of students, teachers, staff, and families who adapted quickly this spring and maintained such powerful grace, resilience, and patience throughout this time.

Be well and enjoy the summer.

With Glenbrook Pride,

Dr. Charles Johns
Superintendent