



January 8, 2021

Dear SBCSC families,

Even with the power outages that shortened it, we're closing out a great first week back to school. I hope all of you enjoyed a restful and safe holiday season and join me in looking forward to the semester ahead. I want to share with you an important update about our plans for middle and high school students in the coming weeks. Following Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (Monday, January 18), our plan is for middle and high schoolers to resume hybrid, in-person learning on Tuesday, January 19, following the same model as was observed earlier in the year. Again, our middle and high schoolers will resume the schedule they had followed before we moved to full remote learning in November. Students in Group A will attend in person on Mondays and Tuesdays, with a district-wide eLearning day on Wednesdays, and Group B will attend in person on Thursdays and Fridays.

All Empowerment Zone schools (Navarre, Coquillard, Harrison, Warren, and Wilson) will return to Sheltered eLearning on Tuesday, January 19, 2021. All Empowerment Zone students who participated in the first phase of Sheltered eLearning are invited to return and parents of these students will receive a call from your child's teacher in the next two weeks confirming that you still want your child to engage in in-person learning beginning January 19. If you have questions regarding the Empowerment Zone's reopening schedule, please contact your child's school/principal.

As we prepare to welcome our secondary learners back into our classrooms, I want to express again my admiration for the hard work our teachers, principals, secretaries, bus drivers, maintenance staff, paraprofessionals, nurses, and building engineers have been putting forth in order to keep our classrooms and buildings clean, well ventilated, and safe for our students and staff. We can't wait to have all of our students back in the buildings, and I am grateful to all of you for making ours a welcoming and safe environment. Thank you for tackling a difficult week of teaching about a proud and lasting democracy. Thank you for your work in fostering informed citizens, global thinkers, and knowledgeable leaders capable of compromise, empathy, and understanding.

I've been thrilled to attend two Senior Swim nights: Riley and Washington's, respectively. Tonight, I'm heading to Clay High School to cheer on our Colonials as they compete against Jimtown in girls' basketball. Wishing our boys wrestling team at Riley the best of luck on Saturday as they host the invitational. I'm still working on the middle school Battle of the Books list: I'll finish *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* by Bryan Stevenson this weekend and am about to start *Roll with It* by Jamie Sumner.

Don't forget to join us on [YouTube live](#) for Monday's Board of School Trustees meeting. We'll be swearing in our new member Ms. Jeannette McCullough, and are looking forward to welcoming her. As always, please submit comments to BoardComments@sb.school.

Thank you for your hard work. Remember to wash your hands, wear your masks, and stay safe. Read a book, watch a classic film, or listen to an album.

Sincerely,



C. Todd Cummings, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools